



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Royal Gorge Resource Area

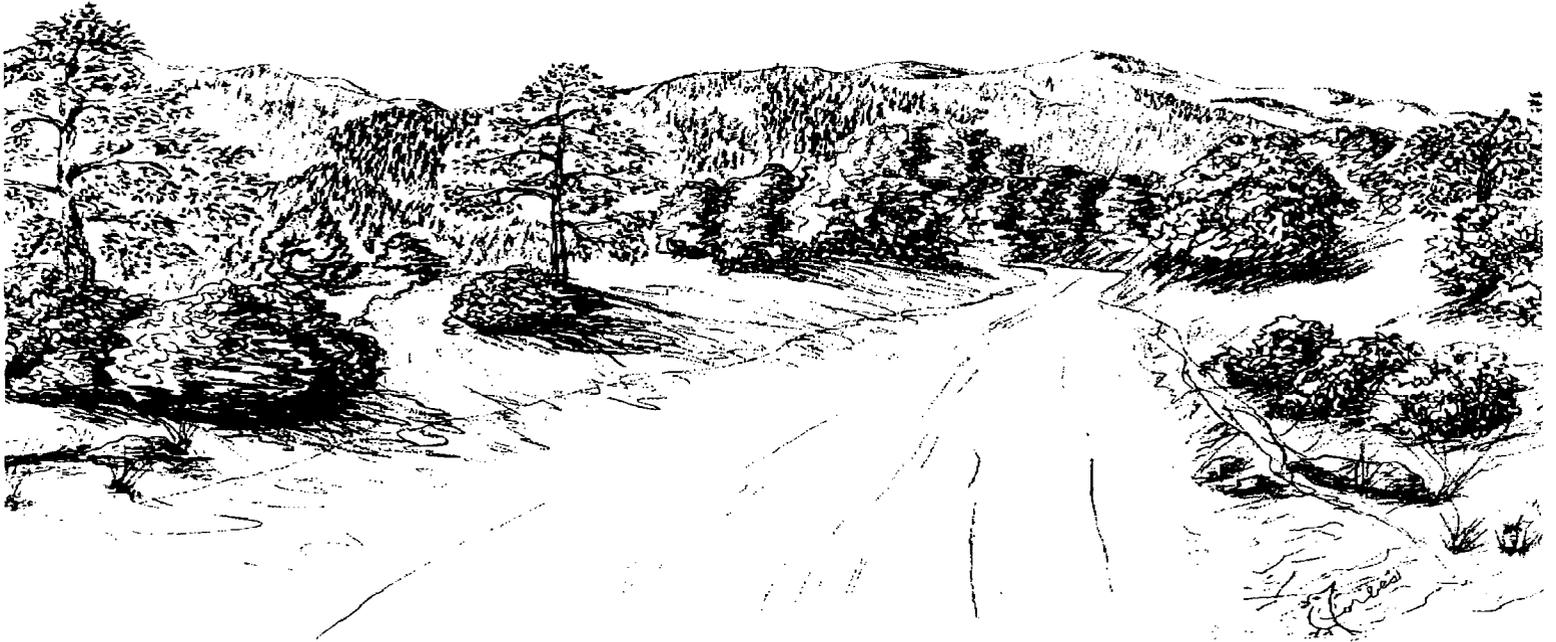
Cañon City District, Colorado

January 1995



ROYAL GORGE RESOURCE AREA

PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT





United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Royal Gorge Resource Area

P.O. Box 2200

Canon City, Colorado 81215-2200

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your information is the Proposed Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The proposed RMP/final EIS is a refinement of the Preferred Alternative in the Draft Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. Public comments were analyzed, and corrections and clarification of wording have been incorporated into this document. The proposed RMP and final EIS are published in an abbreviated format and are designed to be used in conjunction with the draft RMP/EIS, which was released in September 1993.

The plan is the proposed action of the Bureau of Land Management. With the exception of the wilderness study area recommendations, all parts of this proposed plan may be protested in accordance with the planning regulations, 43 CFR 1610.5-2 a. Protests must be received by close of business (4:30 p.m.) 30 days after Notice of Availability is issued in the Federal Register. See Chapter 1 of this document for more detailed information.

We want to thank all the individuals, groups, and agencies who were involved in our user input groups, who attended our public meetings, briefings, open houses, etc., and who took time to provide either oral or written comments on the draft RMP/EIS during the last several years. Certainly, without this meaningful input, the proposed plan and final environmental statement would not be as sound as we believe it is now.

Sincerely yours,

L. Mac Berta
Area Manager

Dedicated to the Responsible Management of Public Land and Resources - FOR THE PUBLIC

PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN and FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

for the ROYAL GORGE PLANNING AREA

Baca, Bent, Crowley, Chaffee, Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lake, Las Animas, Otero, Park, Prowers, Pueblo, and Teller Counties, Colorado

Draft () Final (X)

Lead Agency: The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

1. Type of Action: Administrative

2. For further information, contact: Dave Taliaferro, RMP Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Cañon City District, 3170 East Main, Cañon City, CO 81212; telephone (719) 275-0631.

3. Abstract: This document responds to public comments on the draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement. It incorporates all changes made to the draft RMP/EIS, and based on public comments and internal BLM review, refines and modifies the draft RMP/EIS Preferred Alternative. This proposed resource management plan and final environmental impact statement describes and analyzes management of BLM-administered lands and resources within the Royal Gorge Planning Area in Colorado. This document incorporates by reference the draft RMP/EIS, which was released in September 1993; the draft RMP/EIS must be used in conjunction with the proposed RMP and final EIS.

4. Any protest to this proposed plan and final environmental statement must be received by: Close of business

APRIL 26, 1995

PROPOSED
ROYAL GORGE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared by
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
Cañon City District Office
Royal Gorge Resource Area Office

Prepared by: L. Mac Berta
Area Manager, Royal Gorge Resource Area

12/12/94
Date

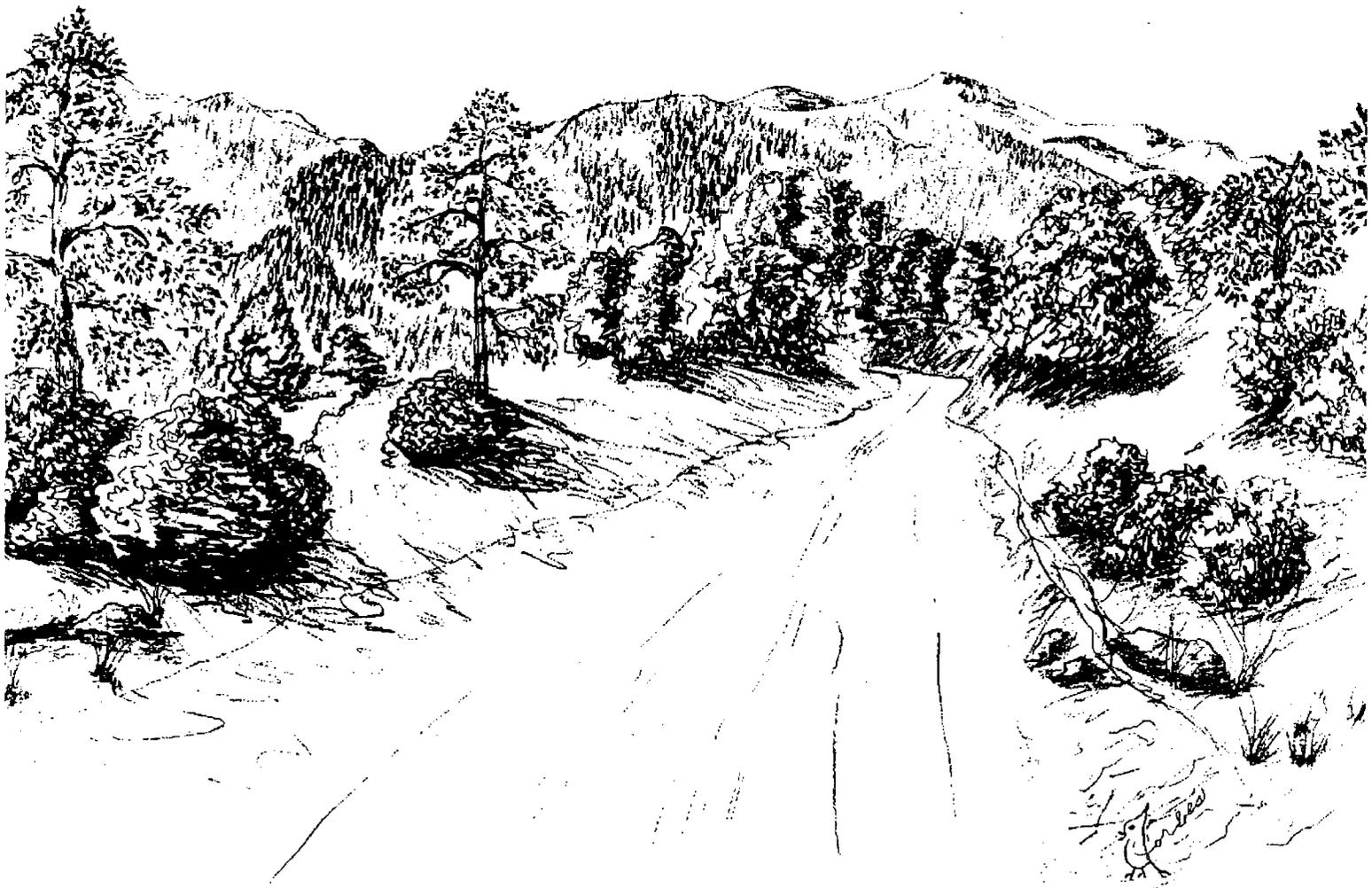
Recommended by: Donnie R. Sparks
District Manager, Cañon City

12/12/94
Date

Approved by: Bob Moore
State Director, Colorado

12/15/94
Date

SUMMARY



SUMMARY

The Royal Gorge Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) identifies future management of BLM-administered lands and minerals within the Royal Gorge Planning Area in southeastern Colorado. The proposed plan is a modified version of the Preferred Alternative presented in the draft RMP/EIS, published September 1993. See Chapter 3 - The Proposed Plan and Impacts for more details of the planned objective, allocation, and action decisions. A summary of this plan by the 10 eco-subregions within the resource area follows:

Arkansas River Eco-Subregion # 1: This 141,113-acre subregion has 124,876 acres of BLM-administered lands, 7,534 acres of private lands, and 8,703 acres of state lands. This riverine environment includes lands directly affected by the river and associated uses. The corridor runs from Leadville, Colorado, downriver to Pueblo Reservoir. Land use management will mostly involve;

- very limited disposal of lands with some acquisitions,
- extensive public access acquisition,
- special management for three ACECs (Mosquito Pass, Browns Canyon, and Arkansas Canyonlands),
- recommendation to Congress for designation of this corridor as a national recreation area,
- recommendation to revoke all Federal waterpower/ storage dam and reservoir withdrawals,
- recommendation for new protective withdrawals in this corridor,
- very limited opportunities for commercial mineral development,
- very limited opportunities for forest/woodland harvest,
- extensive enhancement of recreation opportunities,
- very limited opportunities for major rights-of-way,
- enhancement of regional tourism opportunities,
- enhancement of opportunities for riparian area management,
- enhancement of fishery and wildlife habitat management,
- some enhancement of historical and archaeological resource management,
- enhancement of opportunities to manage visual resources,
- limited livestock grazing management (seasonal and/or duration of use, stocking rates, elimination of use),

- very limited off-highway vehicle opportunities.

Collegiate/Sangre Eco-Subregion # 2 - This 90,143-acre subregion contains 56,376 acres of BLM-administered lands, 20,612 acres of private lands, and 13,155 acres of state lands. This upland environment includes lands along the valley floor and the foothills of the Collegiate/Sangre Mountains. Land use management will mostly involve;

- limited disposal of lands with some acquisitions,
- limited public access acquisition,
- special management on one ACEC (Droney Gulch),
- limited opportunities for mineral development,
- some enhancement of recreation management,
- some enhancement of vegetation management,
- some enhancement of special status plant/animal species,
- intensive wildlife habitat management,
- some opportunities for the enhancement of riparian area management,
- intensive livestock grazing management,
- some enhancement of opportunities to manage visual resources,
- limited rights-of-way management,
- limited forest and woodlands management,
- limited off-highway vehicle opportunities.

Badger Creek Eco-Subregion # 3 - This 90,146-acre subregion has 34,594 acres of BLM-administered lands, 18,742 acres of private lands, and 36,810 acres of state lands. This watershed environment includes lands directly affected by the creek and associated uses. Land use management will mostly involve;

- limited disposal of lands with some acquisitions,
- some public access acquisition and some transportation enhancement,
- limited opportunities for mineral development,
- enhancement of overall vegetation management,
- enhancement of archaeological resource management,
- some enhancement of special status plant/animal species,
- intensive wildlife habitat management,

Summary

- extensive opportunities for enhancement of riparian area management,
- limited livestock grazing management (seasonal and/or duration of use, stocking rates, elimination of use),
- limited rights-of-way management,
- limited forest and woodlands management,
- limited off-highway vehicle opportunities.

South Park Eco-Subregion # 4 - This 314,583-acre subregion has 57,794 acres of BLM-administered lands, 179,255 acres of private lands, and 77,534 acres of state lands. This large intermountain basin environment includes lands affected directly and indirectly by the South Platte River. Land use management will mostly involve;

- some disposal of lands with limited acquisitions,
- limited opportunities for mineral development,
- limited opportunities for waterpower/reservoir management,
- intensive wildlife habitat management,
- limited livestock grazing management (seasonal and/or duration of use, stocking rates, elimination of use),
- limited rights-of-way management,
- limited forest and woodlands management,
- limited off-highway vehicle opportunities.

Gold Belt Eco-Subregion # 5 - This 252,187-acre subregion contains 132,402 acres of BLM-administered lands, 93,759 acres of private lands, and 26,026 acres of state lands. This large front range area extends from the Florissant Fossil Beds National Mounument south to the Arkansas River. Land use management will mostly involve;

- very limited disposal of lands with some acquisitions,
- extensive public access acquisition and some transportation enhancement,
- special management on three ACECs (Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, and Beaver Creek),
- enhancement of regional tourism,
- limited opportunities for mineral development,
- limited opportunities for waterpower/reservoir management,
- extensive enhancement of recreation management,
- enhancement of special status plant/animal species,

- some enhancement of historical and paleontological resources,
- enhancement of riparian area management,
- enhancement of opportunities to manage visual resouces,
- extensive enhancement of protective withdrawals and land classifications,
- limited livestock grazing management (seasonal and/or duration of use, stocking rates, elimination of use),
- intensive fishery and wildlife habitat management,
- limited rights-of-way management,
- limited forest and woodlands management,
- limited off-highway vehicle opportunities.

Waugh Mountain/Tallahassee Creek Eco-Subregion # 6 - This 142,954-acre subregion has 70,146 acres of BLM-administered lands, 60,551 acres of private lands, and 12,257 acres of state lands. This remote uplands area environment is dominated by rugged piñon/juniper and oak. Land use management will mostly involve;

- disposal of some lands with some acquisitions,
- some access acquisition and transportation enhancement,
- limited opportunities for mineral development,
- some enhancement of recreation management,
- some enhancement of special status plant/animal species,
- some enhancement of vegetation management,
- enhancement of riparian area management,
- intensive livestock grazing management,
- intensive wildlife habitat management,
- limited rights-of-way management,
- limited forest and woodland management,
- limited off-highway vehicle opportunities,

Grape Creek Eco-Subregion # 7 - This 71,751-acre subregion has 48,205 acres of BLM-administered lands, 19,397 acres of private lands, and 4,149 acres of state lands. This watershed environment includes lands directly affected by the creek and associated uses. Land use management will mostly involve;

- very limited disposal of lands with some acquisitions,
- extensive access acquisition and some transportation enhancement,

- special management on one ACEC (Grape Creek),
- enhancement of regional tourism,
- enhancement of recreation management,
- limited opportunities for mineral development,
- limited opportunities for waterpower/reservoir management,
- enhancement of special status plant/animal species,
- enhancement of historical resource management,
- extensive opportunities for enhancement of riparian area management,
- limited livestock grazing management (seasonal and/or duration of use, stocking rates, elimination of use),
- intensive fishery and wildlife habitat management,
- limited rights-of-way management,
- limited forest and woodland management,
- limited off-highway vehicle opportunities.

Huerfano Eco-Subregion # 8 - This 151,215-acre subregion has 62,703 acres of BLM-administered lands, 74,301 acres of private lands, and 14,211 acres of state lands. This large intermountain remote upland basin environment includes lands along valley floors and the foothills of the Sangre/Greenhorn Mountains. Land use management will mostly involve;

- disposal of some lands with some acquisitions,
- some access acquisition and some transportation enhancement,
- limited opportunities for mineral development,
- enhanced opportunities for coal leasing,
- some enhancement of recreation management,
- some enhancement of special status plant/animal species,
- some enhancement of vegetation management,
- some enhancement of opportunities to manage visual resources,
- intensive livestock grazing management,
- intensive wildlife habitat management,
- limited rights-of-way management,
- limited forest and woodland management,

- limited off-highway vehicle opportunities.

Cucharas Canyon Eco-Subregion # 9 - This 5,499-acre subregion has 1,314 acres of BLM-administered lands, 2,894 acres of private lands, and 1,291 acres of state lands. This small eastern plains, fragile canyon environment includes lands on the canyon floor directly affected by the Cucharas River. Land use management will mostly involve;

- no disposal of lands with some acquisitions,
- access acquisition and some transportation enhancement,
- special management of one ACEC (Cucharas Canyon),
- no opportunities for mineral development,
- enhancement of historical and archaeological resource management,
- some enhancement of opportunities to manage visual resources,
- extensive enhancements of protective withdrawals and land classifications,
- very limited livestock grazing management (seasonal and/or duration of use, stocking rates, elimination of use),
- some enhancement of wildlife habitat management,
- extensive opportunities for enhancement of riparian area management,
- very limited rights-of-way management,
- closure to off-highway vehicle use.

Other Lands Eco-Subregion # 10 - This 2,171,876-acre subregion has 61,597 acres of BLM-administered lands, 1,263,305 acres of private lands, and 846,974 acres of state lands. This extensive plains area of southeastern Colorado is made up of the westernmost portion of the Great Plains Basin. Land use management will mostly involve;

- emphasis on land disposal,
- custodial grazing management,
- some enhancement of opportunities for mineral development,
- enhancement of opportunities for coal leasing,
- limited fishery/wildlife habitat management,
- enhanced rights-of-way management,
- limited off-highway vehicle opportunities.

ACRONYMS

ACEC--Area of critical environmental concern	IAP--Integrated activity plan
AMP--Allotment management plan	NEPA--National Environmental Protection Act
ARPA--Archaeological Resources Protection Act	NCA--National conservation area
ARRMP--Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan	NRA--National recreation area
AUM--Animal unit month	NRHP--National Register of Historic Places
BLM--Bureau of Land Management	NSO--No surface occupancy
CFR--Code of Federal Regulations	OHV--Off-highway vehicle
CMA--Cooperative management agreement	R&PP--Recreation and Public Purposes
CNAP--Colorado Natural Areas Program	RGPA--Royal Gorge Planning Area
CRMP--Cultural resource management plan	RGRA--Royal Gorge Resource Area
CSU--Controlled surface use	RMP--Resource management plan
DOW--Division of Wildlife	ROD--Record of decision
DPC - Desired plant community	ROS--Recreation opportunity spectrum
DPOR--Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation	ROW--Right-of-way
EA--Environmental assessment	SPG--Supplemental program guidance
EIS--Environmental impact statement	SPM--Semiprimitive motorized
EPA--Environmental Protection Agency	SPNM--Semiprimitive nonmotorized
ERMA--Extensive recreation management area	SRMA--Special recreation management area
ESA--Economic study area	USFS--United States Forest Service
FERC--Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	USFWS--United States Fish and Wildlife Service
FLPMA--Federal Land Policy Management Act	USGS--United States Geological Survey
FMP--Forest management plan	VRM--Visual resource management
FR--Federal Register	W&SR--Wild and scenic river
FRWR--Federal reserved water right	WHA--Wildlife habitat area
HMP--Habitat management plan	WSA--Wilderness study area
IMPG--Interim Management Policy and Guidelines	wtp--Willingness to pay

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Glossary

Disclaimer Policy

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management of the data for purposes not intended by BLM. Some transportation locations do not meet National Map Accuracy Standards, but are portrayed for planning purposes.

MAP LIST

Utility Corridors Map

Land Ownership Adjustment Map

Fluid Minerals Management Map

Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities Map

Locatable Minerals/Mineral Materials Management Map

Special Resources Management Location Map

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION



CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

This Royal Gorge Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have been prepared in accordance with planning regulations issued under the authority of the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act* of 1976 (FLPMA). This proposed RMP will replace and supercede all other land use plans in the planning area. Included within this document are the public comments on the draft RMP/EIS of September 1993, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) responses to these comments, changes to the draft RMP/EIS, proposed resource management plan, and final environmental impacts.

The proposed RMP identifies future management of lands and resources administered by BLM in the Royal Gorge Planning Area (RGPA). The RGPA consists of the southern half of the Royal Gorge Resource Area (RGRA) of the Cañon City District of BLM. The RGRA encompasses all of eastern Colorado east of the Continental Divide except the San Luis Valley. Within the planning area, BLM has administrative responsibility for the land and resource management on 653,000 surface acres and 2,300,000 subsurface mineral acres. Maps 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3 show the planning area.

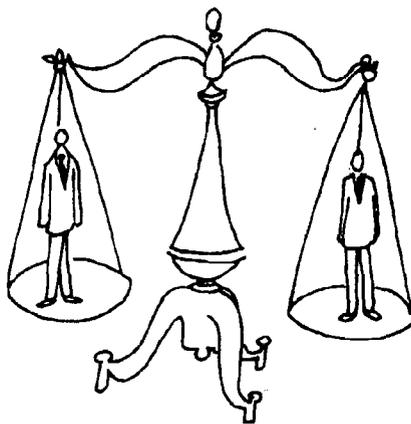
Relationship to the Draft RMP/ EIS Preferred Alternative

The proposed plan is very similar to the Preferred Alternative, which was analyzed within the draft RMP/EIS. Some changes were made in response to public comments. The

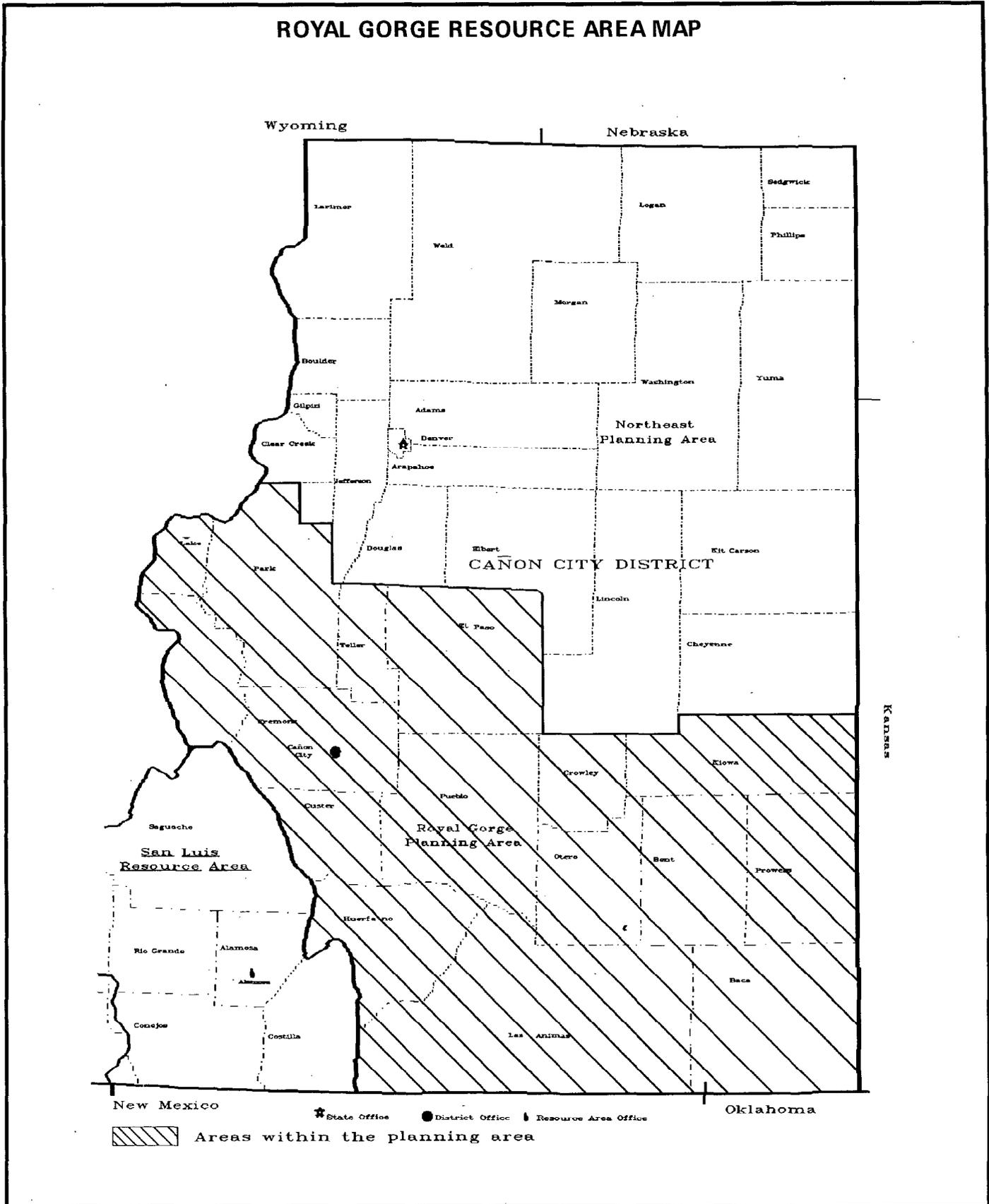
two major issues and one concern that precipitated these changes are:

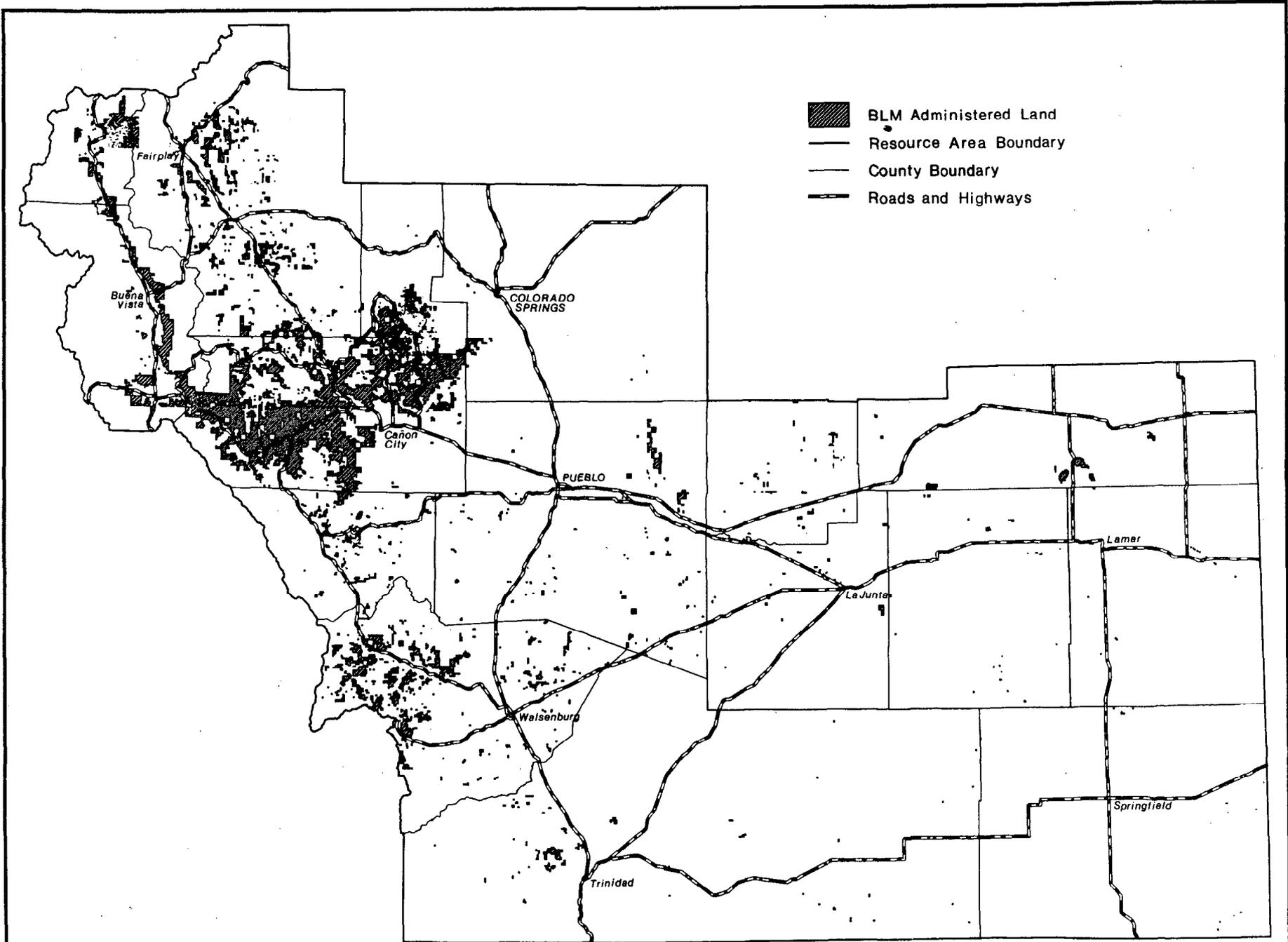
National Recreation Area/Wild and Scenic Rivers Designations - Many commentors expressed strong concern about BLM not recommending the Arkansas River Corridor for wild and scenic river (W&SR) designation, stating that the national recreation area (NRA) designation would not adequately protect the outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor. Many commentors also wanted the river corridor protected from potential future dams and stated that the W&SR designation would in all likelihood provide that protection, and the NRA would not protect the river from potential dam construction. Some expressed belief that the BLM concern with the "Federal reserved water right" potentially harming future cooperative relations with the water owners was unfounded. In responding to these comments, BLM considered various options:

1. A recommendation for W&SR designation as offered within the Conservation Alternative of the draft RMP with strong withdrawal revocation recommendations,
2. A recommendation for NRA designation as offered within the Preferred Alternative with partial withdrawal revocation recommendations, and
3. A recommendation with a mixture of each of the concepts. See BLM rationale in this chapter, responses in comments section, and Chapter 3 - Proposed Plan for more details.

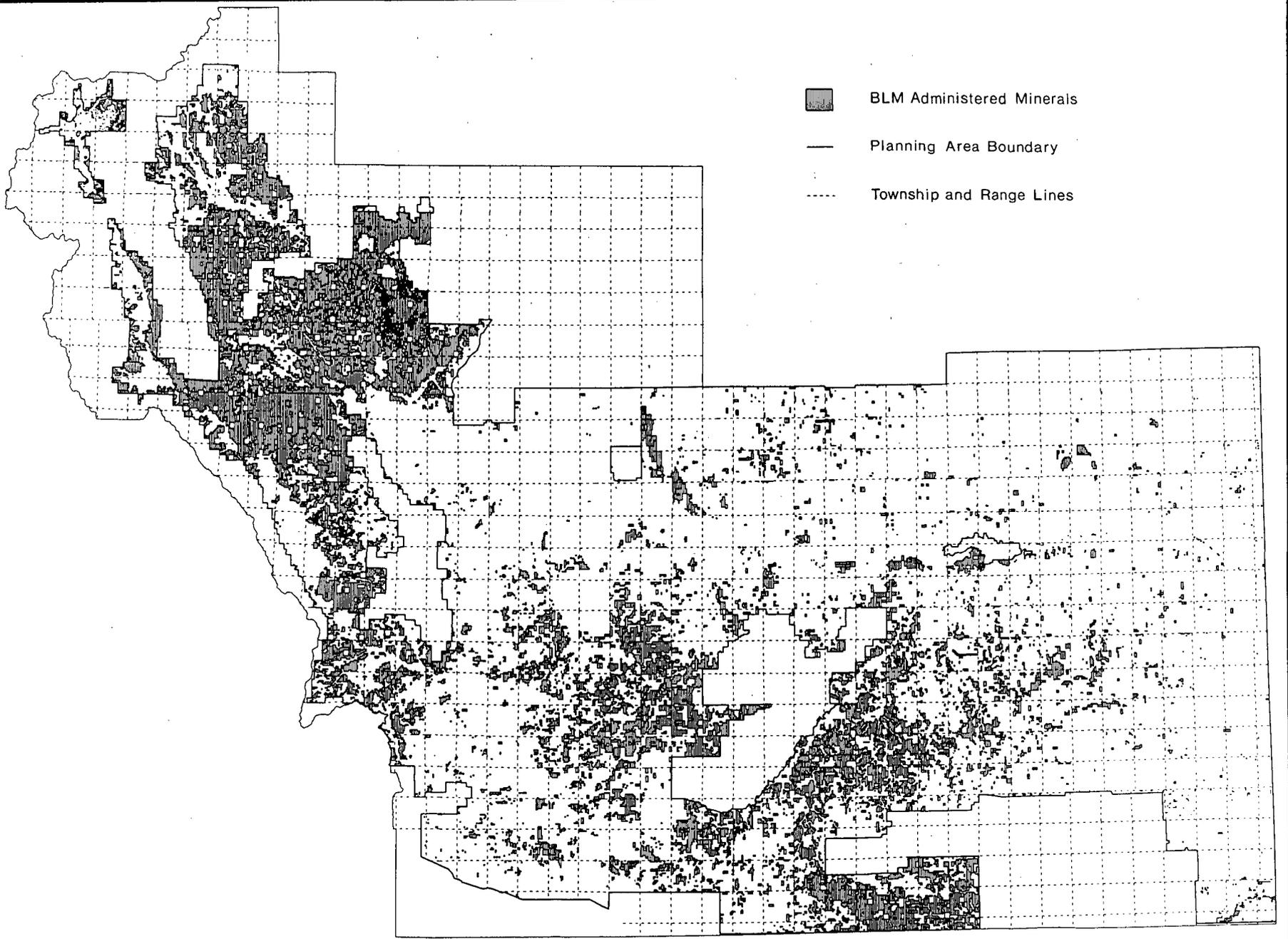


Map 1-1





Map 1-2 - BLM-ADMINISTERED LANDS



Map 1-3 - BLM-ADMINISTERED MINERALS

RATIONALE FOR NRA/W&SR DESIGNATIONS

The Arkansas River

The Arkansas River is of vital importance to most residents of southeastern Colorado and for many other citizens across the entire nation. As the Wild and Scenic River Study Report indicates, the Arkansas River is perhaps the most significant whitewater recreational river in the United States. The Arkansas River is, however, not simply a river with important recreational values. It is also among the most intensively managed rivers in the country for the delivery of water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial purposes. The river warrants significant protection for both recreational and water values. Protection of the values present on the river is the issue here, not the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*.

The *National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* is encumbered by an issue that appears to be unresolvable in Colorado. Designation of a river as wild, scenic, or recreational under the existing Act includes specific implications for a Federal reserved water right (Sec. 13, c. *National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*). The right was intended to protect that amount of water necessary to preserve the "outstandingly remarkable" value for which a river received protection under the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*. BLM believes the Federal reserved water right issue could jeopardize current flow negotiations with water owners and ultimately prevent significant protection of the identified "outstandingly remarkable" values of the Arkansas River.

The Arkansas River is fully appropriated. There is no unappropriated water in the channel available to dedicate solely to recreation. In Colorado, water is regulated as a commodity, bought and sold on a market much like an automobile or other material item. An individual is entitled to use his property, water in this instance, as he determines is most appropriate. Delivery of water to the rights holder is regulated by the State Engineer's Office. The entire water rights system in Colorado is defined by Colorado Water Law and regulated through a special series of Colorado Water Courts. Sec. 13 of the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* clearly requires that whatever action is taken in Congress must comply with existing state water law.

The Federal reserved water right could only be accommodated through either purchase or condemnation of a currently appropriated right. The issue is further complicated because only water "native" (water that originates within the Arkansas River drainage) to the watershed is subject to the Federal reserved water right. Water that has been diverted from another drainage, such as the western slope of Colorado, is exempt from the Federal reserved water right by Colorado Water Law.

Whitewater boating on the Arkansas River exists because of two factors; high water from the spring runoff period and the addition to the river of western slope waters (non-native), generally after the spring runoff period. Spring runoff provides adequate water for boating every year. The boating season is lengthened by the addition of western slope water after spring runoff. As discussed previously, the western slope water is not "native" and is exempt from the Federal reserved water right.

Federal reserved water rights have been argued by both conservation and development interests for many, many years. The Federal reserved water right was the single largest obstacle in the 12-year battle for additional Colorado wilderness that culminated in the *1993 Colorado Wilderness Act*. It is significant that Federal reserved water rights are not even mentioned in the original *Wilderness Act*. The assumption that there may be implied Federal rights was enough to prevent meaningful progress. In the *1993 Wilderness Act*, the Federal reserved water right issue was not resolved, but merely avoided.

The *Wild and Scenic River Act* does mention Federal reserved water rights and presumably reserves some unidentified quantity of water to perpetuate the purposes of the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*.

Because the issue of a Federal reserved water right seems to be unresolvable in Colorado, based on the history of wilderness legislation and because the affected waters are either fully appropriated or not subject to the Federal reserved water right, it appears to BLM that designation under the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* is not a realistic option to provide needed protection to the Arkansas River. The last several years it has been demonstrated that more can be accomplished through communication and negotiation between those who own the water and those who wish to use it for recreation.

The issue of dam construction also complicates wild and scenic designation as protection for the Arkansas River. The proposed Elephant Rock Dam would be constructed on a site specifically reserved for the construction of a dam in 1894. The city of Colorado Springs potentially has prior existing rights to the damsite that predate any wild and scenic river action. Although the popular perception is that designation of the Arkansas as wild and scenic would prevent construction of Elephant Rock Dam, in reality, if Colorado Springs has prior and existing rights any portion of the river designated under the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* may have to accommodate that existing right and provide for future construction of the dam. A similar situation existed on the Cache La Poudre River, currently the only designated wild and scenic river in Colorado.

BLM believes that designation of a national recreation area *with specific protection for the river* is a better method to ensure protection for the river.

Protection could include:

BLM recommendation for revocation of all existing withdrawals (other than protective) within the identified Segments 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Installation of a protective withdrawal through the entire lengths of Segments 1, 2, 3, and 4 designed to:

- prevent future dam development
- maintain existing recreational values on Federal lands
- withdraw from mineral entry

Development of a management philosophy designed to foster cooperative management of river resources by all those affected.

BLM believes it possible to negotiate a regulated flow to maintain the "outstandingly remarkable" biological and recreational values with delivery downstream of appropriated water.

The Water Needs Assessment, a cooperative effort involving the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, is in progress. This effort is intended to provide useful information about resource needs, water use constraints, and management opportunities to planners and decision makers.

The information from this study will provide the basis for a negotiation between water rights owners and all river users, including the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, to achieve a negotiated and regulated flow on the Arkansas River.

Expansion of the boundaries from those in the wild and scenic river analysis to that of the NRA to more adequately accommodate the full spectrum of recreational opportunity available within the Arkansas River corridor.

Wild and scenic river designation would probably involve only one-fourth mile corridor discussed within the study report. Although the river is perhaps the most visible component of the recreational activity within the Arkansas River corridor, there is much more to the recreational potential of the area. The existing reservoirs, including Turquoise Lake, Twin Lakes, and a number of others, currently provide a significant proportion of the recreation opportunities in the area. These reservoir systems are intimately associated with the Arkansas River water management as well. An ecosystem based management objective for the area could/should logically include the entire spectrum of water based recreational activity and the impacts to water management.

BLM has instituted protective management over the entire river segment determined to be eligible and suitable under the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*. Protective management is designed to prevent degradation of the "outstandingly remarkable" values previously determined to be present. This management affects only Federal lands and exists until Congressional action occurs or for a maximum of 3 years after the record of decision (ROD) for the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan is signed.

Beaver Creek

Designation of Beaver Creek as a wild and scenic river is stalemated by the same requirement for a Federal reserved water right as the Arkansas River.

Beaver Creek is also fully appropriated. There is no unappropriated water in the channel to provide for a Federal right. There is a permanent flow of water through the Beaver Creek segments as a result of downstream development in the Penrose/Beaver Park area. BLM believes the permanent flow through the segment provides the water necessary for perpetuation of the "outstandingly remarkable" values in the area.

Beaver Creek is currently managed under the *Interim Management Policy* as a wilderness study area, and BLM has recommended that Congress designate Beaver Creek as wilderness. BLM believes that recommendation for wild and scenic river designation on this stream complicates the wilderness process with the specter of the Federal reserved water right. Because of that complication, Congressional action may be forestalled for both the wilderness and wild and scenic river designation processes. BLM has also provided protection to Beaver Creek in the form of an area of critical environmental concern that will be carried forth in the final resource management plan.

BLM believes that Beaver Creek is protected adequately under our final resource management plan. Designation as an area of critical environmental concern will ensure that future management is commensurate with the potential of the area. If wilderness designation occurs as BLM has recommended, the protection will be expanded to ensure the area permanently retains its current wild character.

Beaver Creek is currently under protective management, the result of determination that it was eligible and suitable for *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* protection. Protective management is designed to prevent degradation of the "outstandingly remarkable" values previously determined to be present. This management affects only Federal lands and exists until Congressional action occurs or for a maximum of 3 years after the record of decision (ROD) for the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan is signed.

Potential Use of the Ecosystem Management Methodology -

Many commentors expressed strong support for use of an ecosystem or ecological framework for land use planning. Various commentors, in addition, asked BLM to address biodiversity and large wildlife corridors across the planning area. Many believed the concepts were mentioned within our plan, however, BLM had not applied them to the management alternatives. Several commentors believed that even though the planning team was not directed to use the ecosystem approach in either our RMP\EIS scoping of issues process or our planning process guidelines, BLM should now start over using these methods. Some believed that just addressing the ecosystem issue in the RMP and using detailed ecosystem methodology during our implementation; i.e., ecosystem analysis within the 10 geographic reference area/eco-subregion integrated activity plans as proposed in Appendix D of the draft RMP were not sufficient.

In responding to these comments, BLM looked at various potential options:

1. Continuing with the proposed RMP and addressing the ecosystem concept the same as in the draft RMP,
2. Starting over and using ecological concepts in the development of the plan,
3. Continuing with the proposed RMP and expanding the discussion of these concepts and how they relate to the development of the integrated activity plans within the 10 eco-subregions

See the responses in the comments section and Chapter 3 - Proposed Plan for more details.

Low Level Flights - Several comments were received expressing concerns regarding impacts from low level flights. Some resources in the planning area may be affected more

than others by low level flights. The visual sightings and noise of low-flying jets (generally above 2,000 feet) over wilderness study areas (WSAs) may decrease the wilderness values and recreational experience within these areas.

Historically, a small number of wildfires occur in the resource area, which requires detection and suppression aircraft. Additionally, the district conducts annual WSA aerial surveillance flights. The Air National Guard and BLM need to continue coordination to avoid impacts on future fire and aviation missions and WSA flights in the planning area.

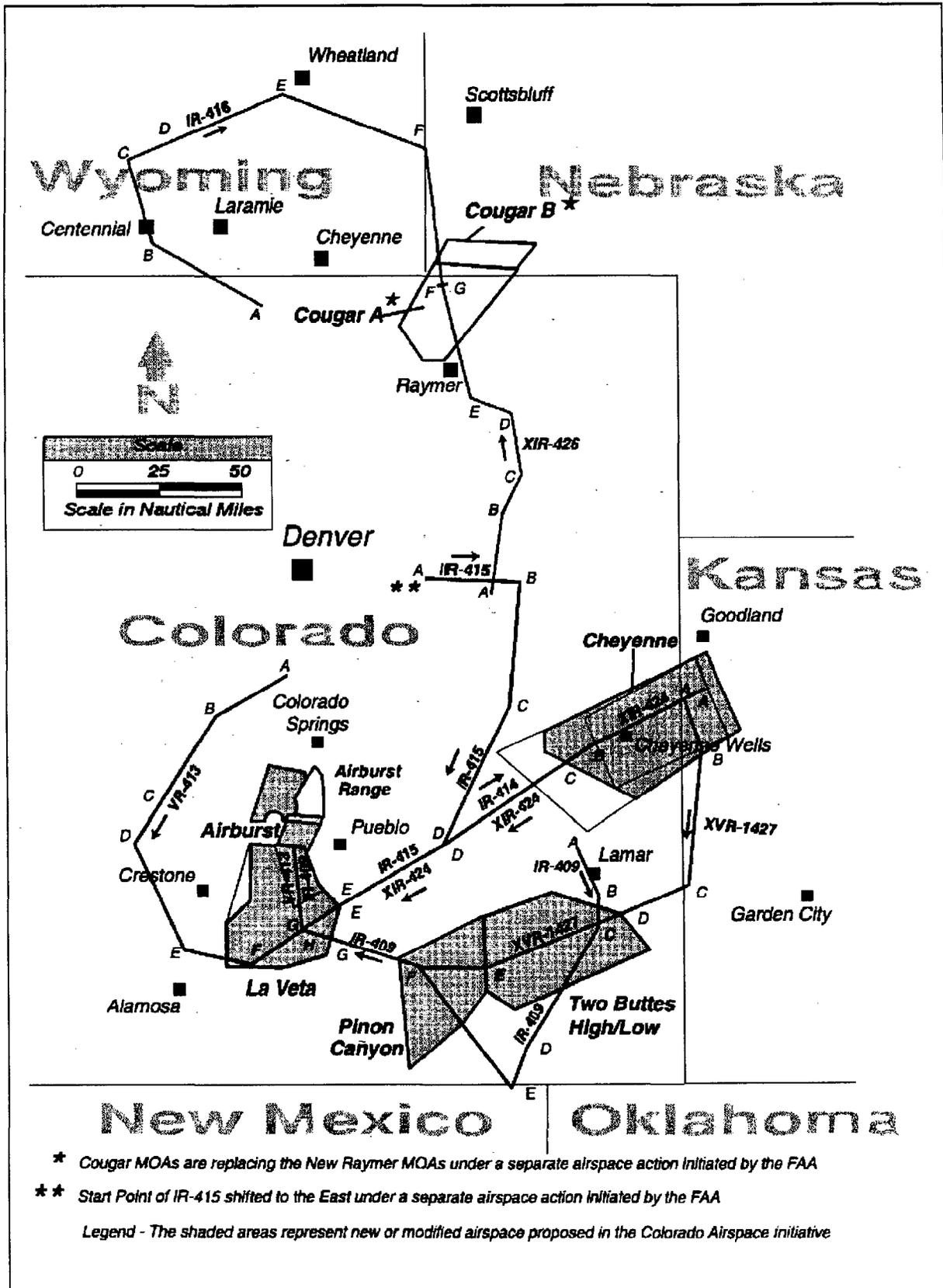
BLM manages habitat for wildlife on BLM-administered lands in close coordination with the Colorado Division of Wildlife since wildlife and their habitat need to be managed together. BLM-administered lands support several species of wildlife that could be disturbed by excessive noise, which may create and cause undue wildlife stress during critical survival periods.

The Gold Belt National Back Country Byway and Garden Park Fossil Area are both in the Airburst MOA. In addition, a portion of flight route VR-413 (see Figure 1) crosses the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area in the vicinity of Howard. Increases in the number of flights through this area may negatively affect the visitor's experience .

BLM has sent comments to the Colorado Air National Guard with the above concerns. They have stated their intent to avoid recreational and scenic areas whenever mission requirements and safety can be met. In addition they are working with local fish and wildlife officials to identify and minimize impacts on wildlife.

Although there may be impacts in the previous mentioned areas, BLM will need to continue working with the Colorado Air National Guard to mitigate these impacts in future management proposals.

Figure 1



Changes in the Draft RMP/EIS

Table 1-1 shows the changes and modifications made to the text and the maps of the draft RMP/EIS. Changes were made in response to public comments. This table does not include changes made in the Preferred Alternative, which has been rewritten as the proposed plan and is shown elsewhere in this document.

Protest Procedures

Any person, agency, or group who participated in the BLM planning process for this RMP/EIS and has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by approval of this proposed RMP may file a written protest with the Director of the BLM. Protests must be filed within the 30-day period after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes a Federal Register Notice of Receipt for this proposed RMP/final EIS.

Only those persons, agencies, or groups who participated in this planning process leading to this proposed RMP/final EIS may protest. If BLM records do not indicate your involvement in any stage of the preparation of this proposed RMP/final EIS, your protest will be dismissed without further review. A protesting party may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process. New issues raised during the protest period should be directed to the Royal Gorge Resource Area Manager for consideration in plan implementation, as potential future plan amendments, or as otherwise appropriate. The period for filing a plan protest begins on the date the EPA Notice of Availability of the final environmental impact statement is published in the Federal Register. The protest period lasts only 30 days total. There is no provision for any extensions of time. To be considered "timely," the protest must be postmarked no

later than the last day of the protest period. Although not a requirement, the protest should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. Protests must be filed in writing to:

Director 580
Chief, Planning and Environmental Coordination
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20240

In order to be considered complete, a protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the party filing the protest;
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested;
3. A statement of the part or parts of the Royal Gorge Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc., of the RMP/EIS;
4. A copy of all documents; i.e., letters, faxes, etc., addressing the issue or issues submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record;
5. A concise statement explaining why the decision of the BLM Colorado State Director is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of the protest. All relevant facts need to be documented. To the degree possible, reference or cite the planning document, other planning records, meeting minutes, correspondence, etc. A protest that only expresses disagreement with the Colorado State Director's proposed decision without the needed documentation will not be considered.



TABLE 1-1
Changes to the Draft RMP/EIS

Location of Change	Change
Chapter 1, page 1-10, column 1, 3rd paragraph	Remove entire third paragraph beginning "The Oil and Gas Geothermal Technical Reports . . ."
Chapter 1, page 1-11, Table 1-4, column 3, item 4	Change "Bents Fort National Historic Site" to "Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site"
Chapter 2, page 2-3, column 2, 4th paragraph, line 4	Change ". . . of 1977." to ". . . of 1994"
Chapter 2, page 2-13, column 2, 4th line, new sentence following ". . . Pueblo."	"All of these except Clear Creek, were built primarily to store transmountain water."
Chapter 2, page 2-13, Table 2-3, column 2, line 8	Change "Pueblo Water Board" to "City of Colorado Springs"
Chapter 2, page 2-13, Table 2-4, column 4, line 6	Change "129,43" to "129,430"
Chapter 2, page 2-13, Table 2-4, column 4, line 8	Change 14,100 to 151,432
Chapter 2, page 2-13, Table 2-4, column 4, line 9	Change 11,400 to 11,500
Chapter 2, page 2-13, Table 2-4, column 4, line 18	Change "357,00" to "357,000"
Chapter 2, page 2-13, Table 2-4, column 4, line 19	Change "114,50" to "114,500"
Chapter 2, page 2-13, Table 2-4	Add Sheaffer Reservoir
Chapter 2, page 2-14, column 2, 3rd paragraph to page 2-16, column 2, through last paragraph prior to "Water Quality."	Move paragraph 3 beginning with "Water rights in Colorado . . ." through three full paragraphs, page 2-16, beginning "Decisions will not . . ." to page 2-9, column 1 immediately following "Water Rights" heading.
Chapter 2, page 2-17, column 1, 1st full paragraph, line 10, new sentence following ". . . proposed."	Add "Perhaps the most comprehensive of these studies is the one currently being conducted by the USGS, which examines the effects of river operations on the quality of water in the river. This study is expected to be completed in 1999."
Chapter 2, page 2-28, column 1, Table 2-12, line 4	Change "Range Management 21,554" to "Range Management 221,554"
Chapter 2, page 2-28, column 1, Table 2-12, line 10	Delete "Wild Horse and Burro 407,147."
Chapter 2, page 2-28, column 1, Table 2-12, line 12	Change Total "1,707,196" to 1,300,049."
Chapter 2, page 2-30, column 1, 4th full paragraph, last sentence	Change "In Fremont County, . . . county land . . ." to "In Fremont County, . . . land in the county . . ."
Chapter 2, page 2-31, column 2, 3rd paragraph, last sentence	Change "Those in Category C either do not lend. . . ." to "Those in Category C either are not manageable because of land ownership patterns or lack the potential to improve under reasonable management."
Chapter 2, page 2-33, Table 2-15, footnote	Change last sentence "Grazing cannot exceed . . ." to "Heavy utilization (60 to 80 percent) can be tolerated by plants during the growing season if given 2 years rest following the growing season."
Chapter 2, page 2-34, column 2, 1st paragraph, line 1	Add "Improper" before "Livestock grazing."
Chapter 2, page 2-34 column 2, 1st paragraph, line 2	Change text to read ". . . construction, wildlife forage use, and. . ."
Chapter 2, page 2-34, column 2, 2nd paragraph, line 1	Change "Livestock grazing use causes the most extensive damage . . ." to "Livestock grazing is the most extensive use . . ."
Chapter 2, page 2-35, column 1, last paragraph, last sentence	Change "Ten AMPs have specific riparian objectives" to "Ten AMPs have specific riparian objectives on 341 acres of riparian areas."
Chapter 2, page 2-56, column 2, 2nd paragraph under Special Status Animal Species Management	Replace with "Three species, black-footed ferret, gray wolf, and the grizzly bear, have disappeared from their ranges in the planning area. BLM and Colorado Division of Wildlife have no plans to reintroduce these species to their former ranges unless intensive inventories determine habitat suitability. The lynx and wolverine are extremely rare in the planning area, but may occur in the extreme western part of Lake County."

Table 1-1 (Continued)

Location of Change	Change
Chapter 2, page 2-59, column 2, 1st full paragraph, line 5	Change "Bents Fort National Monument" to "Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site."
Chapter 2, page 2-60, column 1, line 5 from top of page	Add at end of fluids section following "... year." "The RFD will be monitored to ensure that assumptions and projections identified remain appropriate. Should these assumptions change, appropriate NEPA analysis will be completed."
Chapter 2, page 2-63, column 2, 3rd paragraph, line 2	Change "National Historic Districts" to "National Historic Landmark districts."
Chapter 2, page 2-64, column 1, 4th paragraph, line 5	Change "National Historic Districts" to "National Historic Landmark districts."
Chapter 2, page 2-65, column 1, 6th paragraph, first two sentences	Change to "Sec. 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act requires BLM to identify historic properties and, in consultation with SHPO, determine whether any such properties are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and what effects an undertaking will have on eligible properties. If an undertaking will adversely affect a historic property, BLM and SHPO will agree on an appropriate treatment plan specifying mitigation measures to be conducted. BLM will concurrently provide the treatment plan to the advisory council on historic preservation for review and approval. The approved treatment plan must be completed before the undertaking is allowed to proceed."
Chapter 2, page 2-65, column 2, 6th paragraph, line 3	Change "... specifies that site inventory, ..." to "... specifies that identification, ..."
Chapter 2, page 2-65, column 2, 6th paragraph, 1st sentence	Change "... which specifies that site inventory ... before a Federal undertaking may proceed" to "... which requires Federal entities to perform consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation."
Chapter 2, page 2-67, column 2, 2nd paragraph, last sentence under "Rights-of-Way Management"	Last sentence "For example ... prohibited in a wilderness area ..." change to "For example ... prohibited in a wilderness study area. ..."
Chapter 2, page 2-68, Table 2-33, column 4, line 11	Change "17,433" to "8,532."
Chapter 2, page 2-68, Table 2-33, column 4, line 12	Change "1,005" to "1,725."
Chapter 2, page 2-70, column 1, 5th paragraph	Replace with "Two parcels of land along the Arkansas River corridor patented to the city of La Junta (720 acres) have been reconveyed to the United States."
Chapter 2, page 2-71, column 1, Waterpower/Reservoir Resources, 2nd paragraph, line 3	Change text to read "... dependable supply. Analysis in the past has shown this control of the distribution"
Chapter 2, page 2-73, Table 2-34, after last line	Add: column 1, Mosquito Pass; column 2, 4,036; column 3, T&E plants/scenic; column 4, Yes.
Chapter 2, page 2-77, 2nd column, 3rd full paragraph, line 2, last word	Change "minimal" to "significant."
Chapter 2, page 2-82, column 2, Recreation Management, 3rd paragraph	Delete. (Information is duplicated on page 2-84.)
Chapter 2, page 2-85, column 2, 2nd paragraph from the bottom, last line.	Remove "Inc."
Chapter 2, page 2-86, 2nd paragraph, 2nd and 3rd sentences	Replace with "Commercial boating continues to increase each year. Private boating declined during several years with lower flows; i.e., 1991 and 1992. In 1993, however, private boating use increased sharply because of higher flows. The increase in commercial and private boating in 1993 was related to the type of experiences offered on the river."
Chapter 2, page 2-87, column 1, 12th paragraph, next to last line	Insert "criteria" following "management"

Table 1-1 (Continued)

Location of Change	Change
Chapter 3, page 3-16, Table 3-7, Resource Conservation - Alternative B, Allocations, paragraph 2, line 7	Remove "closed to coal leasing."
Chapter 3, page 3-16, Table 3-7, Resource Conservation - Alternative B, Allocations, paragraph 3, line 7	Change "limited seasonally for coal leasing and" to "limited seasonally for OHV use."
Chapter 3, page 3-29, Table 3-14, Resource Conservation - Alternative B, Objectives and Actions, lines 8 and 9	Remove "big game birthing and critical winter habitat and VRM Class II areas."
Chapter 3, page 3-29, Table 3-14, Resource Conservation - Alternative B, Allocations, line 6 and line 9	Remove "167 acres of big game birthing habitat" Change "23,788 acres of big game critical winter habitat" to "23,788 acres of big game winter habitat"
Chapter 3, page 3-29, Table 3-14, Preferred - Alternative D, Allocations	Change "Same as Alternative B, except" to "Same as Alternative B."
Chapter 3, page 3-29, Table 3-14 Resource Conservation - Alternative, Actions, line 4	Change "The fourth screen would be applied to screen out. . . ." to "The fourth screen would be applied at the time of leasing to screen out"
Chapter 3, page 3-42, Table 3-22, Allocations, Resource Conservation - Alternative B	Change "- suitable . . . (1,241 acres);" to "- suitable . . . (0 acres):" Change "- unsuitable . . . (6,753 acres)." to "- unsuitable . . . (7,994 acres)."
Chapter 3, page 3-54, Table 3-26, Allocations, Resource Conservation - Alternative B, line 5	Remove ". . . and unavailable for surface and underground development from coal mining; . . ."
Chapter 4, page 4-29, Coal Minerals Management, end of line 1	Add "Potential negative limitations of suitable coal leasing may occur within subdivisions because of removal of an unknown number of coal leasing acres, otherwise considered suitable for leasing."
Chapter 4, page 4-29, Table 4-12, Wildlife habitat	Remove entire line
Chapter 4, page 4-29, Table 4-12, Resource Conservation - Alternative B	Change "Coal leasing" to "Surface coal leasing"
Chapter 4, page 4-29, Table 4-12, Impact Conclusions	Remove all except last sentence. Add "Impacts would be the same under all alternatives."
Chapter 4, page 4-44, Table 4-20, third and fourth columns	Change "Resource Utilization - Alternative B" to "Resource Conservation - Alternative B" and "Resource Conservation - Alternative C" to "Resource Utilization - Alternative C."
Chapter 4, page 4-44, Table 4-20, National recreation areas, Resource Conservation - Alternative C	Change "Some existing withdrawals" to "All existing withdrawals. . . ."
Chapter 4, page 4-52, Table 4-24, Coal Minerals	Remove total line across table.
Appendix B, page B-3, Table B-3, Sources, line 1	Change ". . . revised July 1, 1990)." to ". . . revised January 31, 1994)."
Appendix B, page B-3, Table B-3, Sources, lines 2 and 3	Change ". . . revised July 1, 1989)." to ". . . revised January 31, 1994)."
Appendix C, page C-10, Table C-19	Add footnote to 2nd column "Unit b/" "AUM - animal unit month; AUs - animal units; HDs - hunter days; ADs - angler days; RDs - recreation days."
Appendix G, page G-14, column 1, 2nd full paragraph	Replace second full paragraph beginning with "The operator shall also . . ." with "A prework conference may be necessary to determine any project-specific requirements. One such requirement may be for the operator to provide weekly progress reports to BLM based on the expected scheduling and any timing or period of use limitation."

Table 1-1 (Continued)

Location of Change	Change
Appendix G, page G-16, column 2, 4th paragraph, last sentence	Replace "BLM will effectively . . ." with "BLM, with cooperation from other Federal and state agencies and in coordination with the operator, will develop appropriate mitigation to alleviate potential impacts to important populations/occurrences to the degree that existing development rights are not unduly hindered nor precluded."
Appendix G, page G-17, column 1, between 1st and 2nd paragraph	Add "Fluid mineral operations will be relocated, as required, up to 200 meters to protect developed recreation sites. All operations will be conducted to prevent unnecessary audio and visual disturbance to users of the recreation site without unduly hindering valid existing rights."
Appendix G, page G-28, column 1, Exploratory Wells, A. and E. column 2	Change "79" to "72"; change "158" to "144."
Appendix G, page G-28, column 2, Development Wells, line 3, last paragraph	Change ". . . RGRMP is 395 acres." to ". . . RGRMP is 381 acres."
Appendix I, page I-4, 3rd paragraph, line 2	Change "2-thickness" to "2-foot thickness."
Appendix I, page I-4, 4th paragraph, line 6	Change ". . . 1,800 tons per acre assumed, . . ." to ". . . 1,800 tons per acre-foot assumed, . . ." and ". . . 286 million available tons." to ". . . 286 million total available tons."
Appendix I, page I-4, 5th paragraph, line 1	Replace "Table I-1 shows only 32.4 million tons. . ." with "Based on the variable analysis within Table I-1, BLM will use approximately 32.4 million tons . . ."
Appendix I, page I-4, 5th paragraph, line 3	Change ". . . average of 1,800 tons per acre-foot. . ." to ". . . an assumed average of 1,800 tons per acre-foot. . ."
Appendix I, page I-8, 4th paragraph under Multiple Use Trade-offs	Change "The only areas . . . and VRM Class II areas" to read "The only areas identified . . . were subdivisions." Add "There are no big game birthing areas nor critical winter habitat."
Appendix I, page I-8, 1st paragraph, line 1 under Surface Owner Consultations	Change ". . . Trinidad Known Recoverable Resource Area . . ." to ". . . Trinidad Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area . . ."
Appendix I, page I-8, last paragraph under Multiple Use Trade-offs	Delete.
Appendix I, page I-8, Surface Owner Consultations, line one	Change "415,000" to "438,204."
Appendix I, page I-8, Surface Owner Consultations, after 2nd paragraph	Add "The area suitable for coal leasing for surface and underground mining and the area suitable for coal leasing for underground mining only are shown on Maps 4-8 and 4-9 in Chapter 4."
Appendix I, page I-9, Table I-2, Summary of Acres Eliminated from Further Consideration	Delete table.
Appendix I, page I-9, Coal Screen 4, line 1	Delete. Add "All subdivisions will be screened out of the suitable coal acres."
Appendix L, page L-12, column 1, lines 2 and 14	Change ". . . for the Beaver Park Water District" to ". . . for the Beaver Park Water, Inc. . . ." Also change ". . . (the Beaver Park Water District)" to ". . . (the Beaver Park Water, Inc. . . ."
Appendix J, page J-6, Table J-2	Add column 1, "Sheaffer Reservoir," column 2, "DR," column 3, "1020002-212," column 4, "T.28S., R.68W., Sec. 16."
Glossary, page GL-2, after 1st paragraph	Add "Developed Recreation Site. A site or area developed primarily to accommodate specific intensive use activities or groupings of activities such as camping, picnicking, boating, etc. These sites include permanent facilities; i.e., trails, rest rooms, interpretive facilities, and other facilities needed to accommodate the specific use intended at the site over the long term and require continued management commitment and maintenance."
Glossary, page GL-2, after 3rd paragraph	Add "Ecosystem Management. Integration of ecological, economic, and social principles to manage biological systems in a manner that safeguards long-term ecological sustainability."

Table 1-1 (Continued)

Location of Change	Change
Glossary, page GL-6, line 6	Change definition of Wetlands to read: "Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas."

CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS



CHAPTER 2 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Involvement in the Planning Process

Formal and informal efforts have been made to involve the public, groups, other Federal agencies, and appropriate state and local governments. All mandated public involvement was met or exceeded. Preparation of the draft document began in 1991, and the draft RMP/EIS was published in September 1993. A major effort was made to ensure the draft RMP/EIS was consistent with the land use planning of other agencies.

Development of the draft included a complex process of issue identification, data gathering, and other activities; i.e., various notices in the Federal Register, identification of the issues and management concerns addressed during the scoping process; development of resource and resource user information; media news releases; special mailings; interagency coordination and consultation; data input into a geographic resource information system; briefings to various city, county, and state government entities and groups; and preparation of the management situation analysis. The process also involved 14 open houses and 21 workshops with 11 different user input groups. A total of 762 comments was received from the beginning of the Royal Gorge planning process to the present time. The majority of comments was in the form of personal letters (267); public meeting/open house input (250), and other; i.e., telephone and personal contacts (112). Most of the comments received were from individuals (413) and 179 were received from user groups. Colorado residents were responsible for 713 comments (94 percent), 8 were from surrounding states, and 41 from all other states. Chaffee and Fremont Counties were responsible for 185 (24 percent) and 122 (16 percent) comments respectively; 498 comments were received from counties within the planning area; 214 from other Colorado counties, and 46 from counties outside Colorado. Over 500 copies of the published draft RMP/EIS were mailed in September 1993.

Records and files of this process, including all the letters received, hearings transcripts, and other public input data are available for viewing in the Royal Gorge Resource Area Office in Cañon City, Colorado. Also available for viewing in the area office are extensive geographical information system data, the management situation analysis, and other miscellaneous documentation of this broad public involvement process.

Availability of the Draft RMP/EIS

The Draft Royal Gorge RMP/EIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 1993. A notice of availability and an announcement of the public hearings schedule was published in the Federal Register, October 1, 1993, pages 51378 and 51379. The 90-day public comment period began October 1 and ended January 10, 1994.

News releases provided information for obtaining copies of the draft RMP/EIS; location of copies for review; locations, dates, and times of formal public hearings; and the address for submission of written comments. During the planning process, bulletins were mailed to the involved agencies, groups, and individuals. The draft was also available at the public hearings held in Denver, Buena Vista, and in Cañon City, Colorado.

Distribution of the Draft RMP/EIS

Approximately 780 copies of the draft RMP/EIS were distributed to Federal, state, and local governmental agencies, congressional and legislative offices, private interest groups, and organizations, academic and business institutions, and individuals. Distribution was by volume mailing; however, many copies were also distributed at public hearings and in response to written and verbal requests. Copies of the document were also available for public review and distribution in the BLM Royal Gorge Resource Area Office and Colorado State Office.

The following distribution list for the draft RMP/EIS includes the agencies, organizations, and individuals on the original mailing list as well as those who requested and were mailed copies after the initial mailing.

Federal Government

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Office of Compliance

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Office of Cultural Resource Preservation

The Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Dave Devondort)

The Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Dan Schaefer (Andree Krause, District Director)

Chapter 2

The Honorable Dan Schaefer, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable David Skaggs, Westminster, CO

The Honorable David Skaggs, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Hank Brown, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Hank Brown (David C. Vickers)

The Honorable Hank Brown, Pueblo, CO

The Honorable Joel Hefley (Ellen D. Cesarone)

The Honorable Joel Hefley U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Pat Schroeder (Benita Vinson)

The Honorable Pat Schroeder, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Romer, Office of the Governor

The Honorable Scott McInnis, Pueblo, CO

The Honorable Scott McInnis, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Wayne Allard, Fort Collins, CO

The Honorable Wayne Allard, U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Air Force Academy (Manager, Farish Memorial)

U.S. Department of Justice Land & Natural Resource Division (John Hill)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (James M. Townsend)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Compliance (Dr. Robert Stern)

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Kenneth W. Holt, M.S.E.H.)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Env. Review Coordinator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Federal Activities Management Information Unit

U.S. Federal Highway Administration (William C. Jones)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Leadville National Fish Hatchery

USAF Bolling Air Force Base Headquarters - US Levx

USAF/LEE V-CR (William Cox)

USDA - Forest Service, Arapahoe Roosevelt Supervisors Office (Lee Loupe)

USDA - Forest Service, Pike San Isabel Supervisors Office (Dick Roth)

USDA - Forest Service, Pike San Isabel Supervisors Office (Al Kane)

USDA - Forest Service, Leadville Ranger District (Les Russell)

USDA - Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region (Ray Olila)

USDA - Forest Service, Salida Ranger District (Charles Medina)

USDI - BLM Albuquerque District Office

USDI - BLM Anchorage District Office

USDI - BLM Arizona State Office

USDI - BLM Arizona Strip District Office

USDI - BLM Arctic District Office

USDI - BLM Bakersfield District Office

USDI - BLM Battle Mountain District Office

USDI - BLM Bishop Resource Area RMP Team Leader

USDI - BLM Boise District Office

USDI - BLM Burley District Office

USDI - BLM Burns District Office

USDI - BLM Burns District Office

USDI - BLM Butte District Office

USDI - BLM California Desert District

USDI - BLM California State Office

USDI - BLM Carson City District Office

USDI - BLM Casper District Office

USDI - BLM Cedar City District Office

USDI - BLM Coeur d'Alene District Office

USDI - BLM Colorado State Office

USDI - BLM Colorado State Office (Don Bruns)

USDI - BLM Coos Bay District Office

USDI - BLM Craig District Office

USDI - BLM Dickinson District Office

USDI - BLM Eastern States Office

USDI - BLM Elko District Office

USDI - BLM Ely District Office

USDI - BLM Eugene District Office

USDI - BLM Fairbanks District Office

USDI - BLM Glenallen District Office

USDI - BLM Glenwood Springs RA

USDI - BLM Grand Junction DO/RA

USDI - BLM Gunnison Basin Resource Area

USDI - BLM Gunnison Basin Resource Area Manager

USDI - BLM Idaho Falls District Office

USDI - BLM Idaho State Office

USDI - BLM Jackson District Office

USDI - BLM Klamath Falls Resource Area (Cathy Humphrey)

USDI - BLM Kobuk District Office

USDI - BLM Kremmling Resource Area

USDI - BLM Lakeview District Office

USDI - BLM Las Cruces District Office

USDI - BLM Las Vegas District Office

USDI - BLM Lewistown District Office

USDI - BLM Library D-533A

USDI - BLM Little Snake Resource Area

USDI - BLM Medford District Office

USDI - BLM Miles City District Office
 USDI - BLM Milwaukee District Office
 USDI - BLM Moab District Office
 USDI - BLM Montana State Office Granite Tower
 USDI - BLM Needles Resource Area (Steve Larson)
 USDI - BLM Nevada State Office
 USDI - BLM New Mexico State Office
 USDI - BLM Oregon State Office
 USDI - BLM Phoenix District Office
 USDI - BLM Prineville District Office
 USDI - BLM Rawlins District Office
 USDI - BLM Richfield District Office
 USDI - BLM Roseburg District Office
 USDI - BLM Roswell District Office
 USDI - BLM Safford District Office
 USDI - BLM Salem District Office
 USDI - BLM Salmon District Office
 USDI - BLM Salt Lake District Office
 USDI - BLM Shoshone District Office
 USDI - BLM Spokane District Office
 USDI - BLM Steese/White Mtns. DO
 USDI - BLM Susanville District Office
 USDI - BLM Taos Resource Area Manager
 USDI - BLM Tulsa District Office
 USDI - BLM Uncompahgre Basin Resource
 USDI - BLM Utah State Office CFS Financial Center
 USDI - BLM Vale District Office
 USDI - BLM Vernal District Office
 USDI - BLM Washington Office (406 L St) Div. of Planning & Envir. Coord.
 USDI - BLM White River Resource Area
 USDI - BLM Winnemucca District Office
 USDI - BLM Worland District Office
 USDI - BLM Wyoming State Office
 USDI - BLM Yuma District Office
 USDI - Bureau of Mines Alaska Field Operations
 USDI - Bureau of Mines Branch of Mineral Assessment
 USDI - Bureau of Mines (Jake Jansons)
 USDI - Bureau of Mines Office of Min. Data Analysis (MS-5000)
 USDI - Bureau of Reclamation (Robert Jesse)
 USDI - Bureau of Reclamation DFC (D-150)
 USDI - Bureau of Reclamation, Div. of Environmental Affairs
 USDI - Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado Region Regional Director
 USDI - Fish & Wildlife Service Chief, Div. of Environmental Coordination

USDI - Fish & Wildlife Service Natural Ecology Research Center (Bob Waltermile)

USDI - Fish & Wildlife Service Water Rights Branch (Cheryl Williss)

USDI - Geological Survey Environmental Affairs Program

USDI - Geological Survey Geologic Division

USDI - Minerals Management Service Offshore Environmental Assessment Division

USDI - National Park Service Rocky Mountain Regional Office Div. of Planning & Compliance

USDI - National Park Service (MIB 1210) Environmental Quality Division

USDI - Office of Regional Solicitor (Margot Zallen)

Western Area Power Admin. (Bill Melander)

State Government

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (Steve Reese)

Colorado Dept. of Transportation

Colorado Dept. of Transportation (Bill Willging)

Colorado Dept. of Transportation (Ken Conyers)

Colorado Dept. of Transportation, Office of Environmental Review & Analysis (Robin Geddy)

Colorado Dist. 1 Highway Commissioners (Howard B. Gelt)

Colorado Dist. 10 Highway Commissioners (Joseph "Tony" Fortino)

Colorado Dist. 11 Highway Commissioners (Donald Morrison)

Colorado Dist. 2 Highway Commissioners (Flodie Anderson)

Colorado Dist. 3 Highway Commissioners (Gary Reifs)

Colorado Dist. 4 Highway Commissioners (Pete Mirelez)

Colorado Dist. 5 Highway Commissioners (George Hall)

Colorado Dist. 7 Highway Commissioners (William H. "Bill" Cleary)

Colorado Dist. 9 Highway Commissioners (Peter King, Jr.)

Colorado District Engineer (R.P. Moston)

Colorado District Engineer (Douglas Rames)

Colorado District Engineer (Kenneth Conyers)

Colorado District Engineer (Al Shablo)

Colorado District Engineer (Phil Mcollough)

Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Stuart MacDonald)

Colorado Division of Parks and Recreation (Kent Wiley)

Colorado Division of Water Resources (Jeris A. Danielson)

Colorado Division of Water Resources (Steven J. Witte)

Colorado Division of Wildlife (Ron Velarde)

Colorado Division of Wildlife Denver Headquarters (Perry D. Olson)

Colorado Division of Wildlife Southeast Regional Office (Ronald P. Desilet)

Chapter 2

Colorado Geological Survey (John Rold)
Colorado Natural Areas Program Director
Colorado State Conservation Board (Dan Parker)
Colorado State Forest Service
Colorado State Forest Service District Forester (Woodland Park)
Colorado State Forest Service Salida District
Colorado State Historical Society State Hist. Preservation Officer
Colorado State Senate (Honorable Linda Powers)
Colorado State Soil Conservation Lower Arkansas River Watershed (Don Hardin)
Colorado State Soil Conservation Upper Arkansas Watershed (Jim Healey)
Colorado State Soil Conservation Custer County-Divide Soil Cons. District (Pam Holmberg)
Colorado State Soil Conservation El Paso County/Central Colo CSC Dist (Christine Boyd)
Colorado State Soil Conservation Fremont Soil Conservation District (Betty Chess)
Colorado State Soil Conservation Lake County Soil Conservation District (Rebecca Porco)
Colorado State Soil Conservation (Dr. Bernard Smith)
Colorado State Soil Conservation Teller-Park Soil Conservation District (Laurel Stephenson)
Colorado State Soil Conservation Turkey Creek Soil Conservation District (Carla Gutierrez)
Colorado State Soil Conservation Upper Arkansas Soil Conservation District (Cinnamon Hagen)
Colorado State Soil Conservation Upper Huerfano Soil Conservation District (Alice Giro)
Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Division
Lt. Governor Michael Callihan (Lt. Governor's Office)
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (Library)
University of Southern Colorado Belmont Campus Library (Dr. William Buckles)

Local Government

City of Buena Vista
City of Cañon City
City of Colorado Springs Dept. of Public Utilities (R.F. Kuharich)
City of Colorado Springs, Office of the Mayor
City of Fairplay
City of Florence
City of Fountain
City of LaJunta, City Manager's Office
City of Lamar Planning Director
City of Las Animas City Clerk
City of Leadville

City of Manitou Springs
City of Pueblo, City Manager
City of Pueblo Dept. of Planning & Development (Bill Zwick)
City of Rocky Ford, City Clerk
City of Salida
City of Silver Cliff
City of Springfield Office of Clerk
City of Trinidad, City Planner
City of Victor (Eddie N. Irwin)
City of Walsenburg, City Clerk
City of Walsh, Office of Clerk
City of Westcliffe
City of Woodland Park
Colorado Springs Dept. of Utilities Water Resources and Planning (Gary Bostrom)
County of Baca Administrator
County of Baca Commissioners' Office
County of Bent Planning Director
County of Chaffee Commissioners' Office
County of Chaffee Planning Director
County of Crowley Planning Director
County of Custer Planning Commission
County of El Paso Planning Director
County of Fremont Planning Department
County of Huerfano Planning Director
County of Kiowa Planning Director
County of Kiowa Office of Clerk
County of Lake Planning Director
County of Lake Board of Commissioners
County of Las Animas Planning Director (Michael A. Ossola)
County of Otero Planning Director
County of Park Commissioners' Office
County of Prowers Commissioners
County of Pueblo Department of Planning & Development (Joan Armstrong)
County of Teller Commissioners
County of Teller Planning Office
Huerfano/Las Animas Area COG
Lower Arkansas Valley COG
Pikes Peak Area COG
Pueblo Area COG
Pueblo Board of Waterworks (Bud O'Hara)
Town of LaVeta Town Clerk
Town of Ordway Town Clerk
Upper Arkansas Area COG (Buena Vista)
Upper Arkansas Area COG (Cañon City)

Individuals/Organizations

Acosta, L. Max
 Acree, John A.
 Adamic, Frank
 Adams, Charles A.
 Adkins, Bill
 Alcalay, Sharon
 Alesch, Rick
 Allen, Robert
 Amax Exploration
 Amax Gold
 American Copper and Nickel Company (John Ray)
 American Motorcycle Association
 American Rivers (Tom Cassidy)
 American Whitewater Affiliation (Rick Alesch)
 American Whitewater Affiliation (Richard J. Bowers)
 Amigos Bravos (Charlee Myers)
 Anders, Rebecca
 Anderson, Johnson, and Gianunzio (Jonathan Dehmlow)
 Angell, Elissa
 Anyzeski, Steve
 Arco Oil and Gas Company (Larry Nugent)
 Arco Oil and Gas Company (Elizabeth S. Bush)
 Arkansas Valley Audubon Society (Leon Bright)
 Arndt, Barbara and Paul L.
 Arnold, Bill
 Arnold, Landis
 Atlas Corp. (Richard R. Weaver)
 Baca County Soil Conservation District (Linda Hulse)
 Bachman, Jason
 Baker, Beverly and Tony
 Baker, Bill
 Baker, James
 Baldwin Resources, Inc. (Charles Baldwin)
 Barnes, Julie
 Barrett, William
 Bartheld, Jean
 Bartlett, Albert A.
 Basin Resources, Inc. (Ronald G. Thompson)
 Baxendale, Ron II
 Beber, Richard A.
 Beerup, Bruce
 Beezley, Michael J.
 Beichert, Mildred
 Belton, Terry
 Benson, Norman
 Bent Soil Conservation District (George Reyher)
 Berg, Julie
 Bergquist, Alfred & Susan
 Blake, Mary
 Blumenthal, Carol
 Bohin, Patrick
 Bomberg, Bryan C., M.D.
 Bowers, Bob
 Brady, Douglas
 Bright Minerals Development Company (M.J. Bright)
 Bristol, John
 Brooks, Jim
 Brown, Matt
 Brownell, Michael
 Brozek, Rhonda
 Bullington, Don and Paula
 Bultema, Marv
 Burmaster, Jenny
 Burton, Jim and Lisa
 Calco, Inc. (Ted H. Cleveland)
 Cañon City Chamber of Commerce
 Canterbury, Nancy and Chris
 Canterbury, Roy
 Canty, Patrick J.
 Canyon Resources (William Lynch)
 Carlson, Brian
 Carlucci, Robert
 Carmain, Jon F.
 Carter, Kenneth
 Central Colorado Soil Conservation District (Barbara Casados)
 Chaffee County Times
 Chess, Bud
 Chevron USA Inc. (Lisa Mercier)
 Cheyenne Soil Conservation District (Larry D. Smith)
 Christenson, April & David
 Christian, Martin
 Clark, Ralph E. III
 Clifton, Chas
 Close, John C.
 Cogan, Joe
 Colgate, Bill
 Collegiate Peaks Enduro Race (Michael R. Simpson)
 Colorado Archaeological Society (Susan Ooton)
 Colorado Assn. of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (Bill Hughes)
 Colorado Boat Owners' Task Force (Ron Drenneman)
 Colorado Cattleman's Assoc.

Chapter 2

Colorado Counties, Inc. (J.R. Moore)
Colorado Environmental Coalition
Colorado Environmental Coalition (Norm Mullen)
Colorado Historical Society Documentary Resources
Department
Colorado Interstate Gas Company (Roland Crow)
Colorado Mining Association
Colorado Motorcycle Dealers Association (Jerry Abboud)
Colorado Motorcycle Trail Riders Association (Bob &
Mary Jo Bergman)
Colorado Mountain Club
Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (Ed
Binkley)
Colorado Sports Riders Assoc. (Ray Webb)
Colorado White Water Association
Colorado Wildlife Federation (Eric Kelly)
Colorado Wildlife Federation (Kelley Drake)
Colorado College Economic Department (Professor Walter
Hecox)
Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (John C. Martin)
Colorado Springs Independent (Scott Campbell)
Colorado Trout Unlimited (Steve Craig)
Conover, Robert D.
Cooper, Jayne
Cooper, Pat
Copel, Roger P.
Cottone, Glenn
Cripple Creek & Victor Mining Company (Ed Hunter)
Cronin, Brian P.
Cropper, Jessica
Crouch, David
Crowl, Peggy
Culp, Shannon
Custer County-Divide Soil Conservation District (Phyllis
Wilson)
Cyprus Mining Corp.
Dames & Moore
Davis, Don
Day, Madeline and Bill Hirth
Deluca, Pat and Joe
Denison, James L.
Denniston, Mark
Denver & Rio Grande Western RR
Denver Regional COG
Diemer, Rebecca and Kagan, Andrew
Dilley, Bill and Laurine
Dils, Reed and Karen
Dobey, Patrick and Billie Jean
Dolby, Jerry R.
Downing, Walter C.
Drake, Tom and Joyce
Dras, Stephen R.
Drisgill, Doris
Dudley, Jillian
Duncan, Hamilton R.
Dunn, Angela
Dunn, Kristin
DeKowzan, Sue A.
East Otero Soil Conservation District (Martha Montoya)
Ebersole, James J.
Eilers, Stan M.D.
El Paso County Soil Conservation District (Barbara Casados)
Eleven Mile SRA (David Spencer)
Emmer, Mark
Energy Fuels Coal, Inc. (James J. Cooper)
Engleman, Jessa
Environmental Study Program, St. Lawrence University
(Dr. Harris)
Epel, Joshua B.
Eve, Tom M.
Everett, Glenn
Exxon Company USA Regulatory Affairs Supervisor
(Richard Goddard)
Farris, Brian and Carol
Farris, Doug, Dorothea, and Annie
Fay, Lynell
Felix, Toby
Fenelon, Paul
Ferris, Rob
Fingh, Ron
Fink, Martha Carman
Fisher, Cara D.
Foote, Pat
Frazier, Anne
Freese, Bill
Freese, Bob
Fremont Soil Conservation District (Betty M. Chess)
Fremont/Custer Historical Society
Friends of the Arkansas (Dick Scar)
Frost, John B.
Gabow, Bruce
Gahagan, Jerry
Galvin, Josh H.
Garden Park Paleontology Society
Gates, Sidney (Ms)
Gazette Telegraph News Editor

Geddes & MacDougall, P.C. (Kenneth Geddes)
 Gertson, Barbara
 Gillespie, Jack
 Gillespie, Martin
 Gillespie, Russ
 Glenn, Lesley
 Gold Prospectors of Colorado (Jib Favor)
 Goodwin, Denzel
 Goshorn, Kent
 Gould, Renee
 Grant, Timothy D.
 Great Plains Resources, Inc. (Cam Miller)
 Gregory, Lee
 Greiner, Joe and Susan (Wilderness Aware)
 Griffin, Sandi
 Gronning Engineer Co. (Lloyd Gronning)
 Gust, John
 Haag, Tim
 Hager, William
 Hale, Jason
 Hale, Jefferey A.
 Haley, Lindsay
 Heart of the Rockies Audubon Society (Mark B. Emmer)
 Hecht, Joel
 Hecla Mining Company (Glen Zinn)
 Hecla Mining Company
 Heimbecker, Ray
 Heller, Susan
 Helms, Susan & William
 Herb, Andy
 Herranen, Richard
 Herzog, Arno
 Hetherington, Sherry L.
 Higby, Louis
 Higby, William R.
 High Country News
 Hill, Matthew
 Hoart, Dave
 Hobson, Jacob
 Hodson, Liz
 Hofmeister, Barbara, Frank, and Aaron
 Hogan, Denny and Pamela R.
 Holmes, Nancy I.
 Homestake Mining Company (John Hardaway)
 Homestake Water (Tim Vidman)
 Hoppen, Pete
 Horan, Kevin
 Howell, John
 Huffman, Jackie
 Hughes, Marcia
 Husaker, Marian
 Innes, Fred
 Jansak, Eugene
 Johnson, David
 Johnson, Douglas A.
 Jones, David I.
 Jones, Galen
 Kacykowski, Basia
 Kaiser, Michael
 Kanetsly, Joe
 Kaspar, Jerry and Janice
 Katte, Marianne
 Keidel, Jeff
 Kelly, Michael J.
 Kennedy, Randall P.
 Kent, Wendell
 Keogh, Miles
 Keystone Resort (Thomas C. Davidson)
 Kinell, Carl B. III
 King Center R&D (Weber Dehn)
 Kiowa County Soil Conservation District (John Kreutzer)
 Kiowa Soil Conservation District (Robin Ehlers)
 Kirschvink, James
 Klausman, Hank
 Knox, Paul (Adobe Inn)
 Koler, Judy
 Kosmicki, Edward P.
 Krassa, Lindholm, Kumli & Madson (Robert Krassa)
 Kretzmann, Arnold and Evelyn
 Kroepler, Kim
 Kuharich, Rod
 Kuzmiak, John
 KVRH (Patrick Lee)
 Labarr, Clarence
 Labella, Kevin
 Lake County Soil Conservation District (Bernard Smith)
 Lamb, Mark
 Lankford Foresters, Inc. (Len Lankford)
 Lassila, Andy
 Lavercombe, Elliott
 Lee, H. Virginia
 Lehmann, Scott
 Lenhart, Clarence
 Levin, Jon

Chapter 2

Littlejohn, Anthony
Loader, Lonnie
Lockhart, James E.
Loeffel, Ed
Lofgren, Jacob
Lovell, David
Lucky, Robert
MacDonald, Suzanne
MacDougald, Elisabeth and Bill
Mackenron, Helen A.
Maestrelli, Raymond C.
Magnini, John
Makris, Pete and Diana (Buffalo Joe River Trips)
Mangold, John
Marathon Oil Co. (Reed Bitter)
Marlow, Joyce
Marr, John G.
Marsh, Kimberly
Marsh, William Jr.
Martinez, Phil
Mastern, Neil L.
Matousek, Steve and Shelley
Maytag, Russ and Jean
McCann, Molly
McCoy, Michael and Katherine
McDowell, Frankie
McGannon, Jim (Colorado Mountain Club)
McHose, Don C.
McNamara, Alix
McQuary, Will
Melton, Edward I. Jr.
Menning, Kurt
Meridian Oil, Inc., Regulatory Compliance
Merlier, Henry and Nina
Merriman, Dan
Miller, Wilbur C.
Minerals Exploration Coalition (W.M. Shepard)
Mitchell, Kevin
Mohr, Bruce and Yvonne
Mohr, Gary, M.D.
Molello, Albert
Monaco, Pat/Engard, Donna
Moore, Roxann
Moran, Martha
Moss, Jim
Mountain Bell
Mountain Mail News Editor
Mt. Harvard Valley Development Property Owners' Assoc.
(Claryce J. Burt)
Mullen, Jocelyn
Munoz, Bob
McLelland, Roz
Naslund, Dave
National Organization for River Sports
National Wildlife Federation Natural Resources Clinic
(Chris Meyer)
Native Cultural Services (Pete & Carol Gleichman)
Natural Resources Defense Council (Johanna H. Wald)
Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., Public Lands
ProjectNeff, Jerry
Neserke, George and Ruth Hund
Nethaway, Kristina
Neville, Jim
Nolte, Joel F.
Noranda Exploration, Inc. (Stewart Wallis)
North Front Range Transportation & Air Quality Planning
Council
Northeast Prowers Soil Conservation District (Shari Wagner)
Northeastern Colorado Association of Local Governments
Northwestern University Environmental Policy Program
(H. Paul Friesema)
Nortier, Jennifer
O'Hara, Bud
Oaks-Moffett, Denise
Ogden, Neal R.
Olney-Boone Soil Conservation District (Edgar Cannon)
Orion Marketing Groups, Inc. (Rich Peck)
Oswald, Steve
Owens, Anne
Oxy USA, Inc. (Randy L. Pitre)
P.T.I. Communications, Inc. (Cal Miller)
Padyk, Paul
Palmer-Moloney, Jean
Pearson, Mark
Pendergast, Tony
People for the West, Arkansas Valley Chapter (Roy
Canterbury)
People for the West & COHVCO (Jimmie Porter)
People for the West (Harold Hoegberg)
Perniciaro, Lois & John
Peters, Don S.
Petroleum Information Corp. (Ed Marker)
Pfeiffer, Bill
Pifher, Mark
Pikes Peak Library District Local Documents
Pikes Peak Mining Company (Jim Munzert)

Pioszak, Roger
 Placzek, Steven
 Pomerantz, Benjamin
 Poulson, Odell & Peterson (Laura Lindley)
 Prowers Soil Conservation District (Paul Pierson)
 Pruett, David
 Public Lands Access Coalition (Dave T. Foss)
 Public Service Company of Colorado Permits and Land
 Use Coordinator
 Public Service Natural Gas Group Land Use and Contacts
 Pueblo Chieftain (Dean Preston)
 Pueblo Chieftain (Tracy Harmon)
 Purgatoire River Soil Conservation District (Frances V.
 Bianco)
 Quigley, Kenneth
 Ragan, Doug
 Randall, Sherry A.
 Rasmussen, Fred
 Reinhard, Paul
 Reisinger, Lawrence M.
 Reppert, Jack
 Rieck, Thomas
 Robb, Tom
 Robinson, Doug and Sue
 Rocky Mountain Assoc. of Geologists
 Rocky Mountain Council, BSA (Terry Lawson)
 Rocky Mountain Enduro Club (Dennis Larratt)
 Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Assoc. Public Lands Director
 (Alice Frell Benitez)
 Rocky Mountain Trails Assoc. (Larry Schmezzle)
 Roe, Forest W.
 Rogers, James D.
 Roman, Dorothy
 Roper, Roy
 Ross, Marilyn
 Ross, Rian and Heidi
 Rupp, Charles R.
 Rupp, Roger
 Rutz, Ron
 Salamon, Diane
 Salida Regional Library
 San Isabel Electric
 San Pedro Riparian NCA (Greg Yuncevich)
 Sanders, Paul
 Sandoval, Mike and Norma
 Sangre de Cristo Electric Assoc., Inc. (Mike Miller)
 Saxton, Jerry and Janice
 Sazonick, Paul
 Schechter, Bruce
 Schierbaum-Seely, Judith A.
 Schmidt, Howard
 Schutte, Robert W.
 Schwarz, Larry and Debbie
 Sharp, M.K.
 Shoemaker, Bob and Helen
 Sibbald, Will
 Siecs, Gwen
 Sierra Club, Legal Defense Funds (Vicky L. Palton)
 Sierra Club, Pikes Peak Group (John Stansfield)
 Sierra Club, Rocky Mountain Chapter (John M. Wade)
 Sierra Club, Sangre de Cristo Group (David Johnson)
 Sievering, Herman
 Simmons, Elizabeth
 Skvorc, Jim
 Slivka, Kim
 Smith, Andy
 Smith, Fred and Jean
 Smith, Mike
 Smyth, John
 Society for American Archeology
 Solution Gold, Ltd. (Maxine F. Stewart)
 South Pueblo County Soil Conservation District (Roy
 Christenson)
 Southeast Colorado Power Assoc.
 Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
 Spanish Peaks Soil Conservation District (Victor Brunelli)
 Sperling, David J.
 Spohn, Donna
 Stahlecker, Dale
 Stansfield, John
 Steck, John
 Stein, Charlie
 Stiles, Richard
 Stoneback, Bruce
 Stout, C. Jay
 Straub, Frank
 Stroh II, John
 Stroh, Jack and Margie
 Stroup, George
 Struthers, Rod and Sarah
 Stuller, Craig
 Summit Brick & Tile Co. (Joseph Welte)
 Sylvester, Thomas
 Taylor, Heidi
 Teipel, Charles

Chapter 2

Teller-Park Soil Conservation District (Sandra Sanders)
Texaco Exploration & Production, Inc. (E.C. Burritt)
Tezak, Bill
Thatcher, John H.
Thayer, Robert
The Fremont Cattlemen's Assoc. (Aaron Atwood)
The Humane Society of the United States (Tony Povilitis)
The Nature Conservancy (Tod Kipfer)
The Wilderness Society
Thomas, Karina M.
Thompson, Alan
Thompson, Donald
Tiedt, William R.
Tiegs, Kenneth W.
Timpas Soil Conservation District (James S. Cook)
Tobin, Dan
Toler, Bob
Touchette, Matt
Trexel, Steve
Tri-State G&T Assn., Inc. (Jerry A. Walker)
Triputt, Ashley
Truesdell, Sam
Trujillo, Shaun
Trussell, Richard
Turkey Creek Soil Conservation District (Eugene Alt)
Tyler, Matt
Tyson, Haywood B.
Union Pacific Resources (Rachelle Montgomery/James L. Parsons)
Unruh, Chris
Upper Arkansas Soil Conservation District (Frank McMurry)
Upper Huerfano Soil Conservation District (Alice M. Giro)
Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District (Denzel Goodwin)
Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District (Ken Baker)
U.S. West Communications Document Control Center
Van Epps, Charles P.
Vercruyse, Roger J.
Vickers, Adelle
Viss, Jonathan
Wade, John M.
Wainwright, Arthur and Helen
Walker, John
Waller, Charlotte
Wallis, Thomas E.
Ward, W.G.
Weber, Maria and Bassett, Jim
Webster, Dick
Weiseman, David
Weishaupt, Guy
Welty, Curt and Chriss
Wentz, Hal
Werkmeister, Wayne
Wersinger, Lori
West Otero Soil Conservation District (Martha Montoya)
West Plains Energy (Elmer Cordova)
Wheadon, Joe
Whitten, George, Jr
Wicks, David A.
Widen, Jeff
Wiesel, Bonnie
Wilder, J.W.
Wiley, Anne
Wiley, Roy
Williams, Dave and Jacque
Williams, Dennis
Willign, W.
Willyard, Pat
Wilson, Harry E.
Wilson, John
Wilson, Phyliss
Winans, Kenneth and Sandra
Woerner, Robert E.
Wogan, K. Whitney
Wolf, Tom
Wooten, Richard Miles
Wulfsberg, Einar J., M.D.
Wyoming Fuel Company (Tom Augustine)
Young, Don
Young, Jason T.
Young, Mary
Zamora, Sandra
Zier, Chris (Centennial Archaeology)
Zinser, Charles I., Dr.

Public Comments Summary

Six formal public hearings were held: two in Lakewood, Colorado, on November 1; two in Buena Vista, Colorado, on November 2; and two in Cañon City, Colorado, on November 3. Fifty people attended the hearings, and 19 oral statements were given.

During the comment period, from October 1, 1993, through close of business on January 10, 1994, 264 letters were received with 1 to 42 comments per letter. Twenty letters were received after the closing date, which are not part of the comment records.

The majority of the concerns related to wild and scenic river designation with 245 people (93 percent) expressing an opinion; 37 people (14 percent) commented on ACECs, and 33 people (13 percent) gave input on NRA designation for the Arkansas River corridor.

Public Comments (Written and Oral)

This section presents public comments and BLM responses submitted during the public review/comment period on the draft RMP/EIS.

The response numbers correspond to the hearing and letter numbers shown in the index (Table 2-1 and Table 2-2). The letters and hearing transcripts are identified by number/alphanumeric code, which identifies the type of comment and the individual commenter. Only numbers are used for the letters (i.e., 1 is the first letter commenter; 1-1 is the first letter comment/response. H1 is the first hearing commenter; H1-1 is the first hearing comment/response). Comments/responses are grouped by resource and/or resource use in the same order they were presented in the draft. BLM responses explain why a particular item is or is not addressed, clarification is or is not needed, whether or not a change in text is made, or give applicable reference to the reader. The responses must be read in conjunction with the comments preceding that response. In most cases a paraphrased comment will be used, especially when multiple commenters had basically the same comment.

Public Comments from Letters

Two hundred and sixty-four persons, groups, or agencies submitted written comments on the Draft Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement during the comment period. Table 2-1 lists those comments in the order they were received, by the comment letter number, and by the identified comment/response number(s).

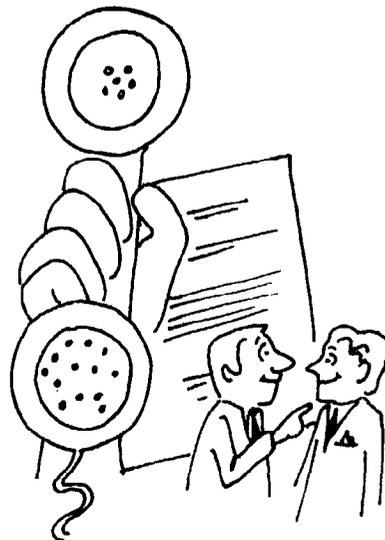


TABLE 2-1
Public Written Comments on the Royal Gorge Draft RMP/EIS

Letter Number	Commenter	Comment/Response Number(s)
1	Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy (Thomson)	1-1 - 1-2
2	Department of the Air Force (Lopez)	2-1
3	James R. Brooks	3-1 - 3-7
4	Colorado Historical Society (Hartman)	4-1 - 4-5
5	William L. Pfeiffer	5-1
6	Colorado White Water Association (Baker)	6-1 - 6-24
7	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines (Hipbshman)	7-1
8	William and Carolee Schrader	8-1 - 8-4
9	Jim Berry	9-1 - 9-3
10	Dana R. Bennett	10-1 - 10-2
11	Kirk Cunningham	11-1 - 11-5
12	Patrick Bohin	12-1 - 12-7
13	P. Willyard	13-1 - 13-1
14	Malcolm Rea	14-1 - 14-3
15	Bonnie Wiesel	15-1
16	Lori Wersinger	16-1
17	Marianne Katte	17-1
18	Mike Hartley and Polly Fiedler	18-1
19	Lois and Perniciaro	10-1
20	Carl B. Kinell, III	20-1
21	Jerry Neff	21-1
22	David J. Sperling	22-1
23	Mrs. Raymond Masestrelli	23-1
24	Albert A. Bartlett	24-1 - 24-9
25	Edward P. Kosmicki	25-1
26	Lawrence M. Reisinger	26-1
27	Sue D. DeKowzan	27-1
28	Susan Helms	28-1
29	Charles A. Adams	29-1 - 29-11
30	Steven J. Placzek	30-1
31	Nancy L. Holmes	31-1
32	Will McQuary	32-1 - 32-2
33	Richard Herranen	33-1 - 33-2
34	Patrick and Billie Jean Dobey	34-1 - 34-2
35	William Helms	35-1
36	HFS	36-1
37	Marian Husaker	37-1
38	Tony Pendergast	38-1

Table 2-1 (Continued)

Letter Number	Commenter	Comment/Response Number(s)
39	Jason T. Young	39-1
40	Maria Weber and Jim Bassett	40-1
41	Denny and Pamela Hogan	41-1 - 41-2
42	Neal R. Ogden	42-1
43	Roger Vercruyse	43-1
44	John B. Frost	44-1
45	David A. Wicks	45-1
46	Robert W. Schutte	46-1
47	K. Whitney Wogan	47-1 - 47-4
48	Robert Thayer	48-1 - 48-9
49	Paul Padyk	49-1
50	Patrick J. Canty	50-1
51	Joe and Sue Greiner	51-1 - 51-2
52	Mary Young	52-1
53	Arnold and Evelyn Kretzmann	53-1
54	Helen A. MacKenson	54-1
55	Bob Allen	55-1
56	Reed and Karen Dils	56-1 - 56-5
57	Karina M. Thomas	57-1 - 57-2
58	Matt Tyler	58-1
59	Charlie Stein	59-1 - 59-3
60	Ron Basendale, II	60-1
61	Robert E. Lucky	61-1 - 61-2
62	Matthew Hill	62-1
63	W. G. Ward	63-1 - 63-2
64	Jerry R. Dolby	64-1 - 64-2
65	Hank Kausman	65-1 - 65-2
66	Javier A. Ortega	66-1 - 66-2
67	Roger P. Copel	67-1 - 67-2
68	Walter C. Downing	68-1
69	Beverly and Tony Baker	69-1 - 69-9
70	Douglas Brady	70-1 - 70-2
71	John and Linda Tansil	71-1
72	Kenneth W. Tiegs	72-1 - 72-2
73	Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Thomson)	73-1
74	Doug Farris	74-1 - 74-2
75	Dorothea Farris	75-1 - 75-2
76	Brian and Carol Farris	76-1 - 76-2
77	Annie Farris	77-1 - 77-2

Table 2-1 (Continued)

Letter Number	Commenter	Comment/Response Number(s)
78	L. Max Acosta	78-1
79	James H. Moss	79-1
80	Douglas A. Johnson	80-1 - 80-2
81	Rich Peck	81-1
82	Steve and Shelley Matousek	82-1
83	Jimmie Porter	83-1 - 83-2
84	United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Snyder)	84-1 - 84-6
85	Mike and Norma Sandoval	85-1 - 85-2
86	Thomas E. Wallis	86-1
87	Forest W. Roe	87-1
88	Michael, Paul, and Marjorie Knox	88-1 - 88-2
89	Kevin La Bella	89-1 - 89-2
90	Steve Anyzeski	90-1 - 90-3
91	Henry and Nina Merlier	91-1 - 91-2
92	C. Jay Stout	92-1
93	Kenneth and Sandra Winans	93-1
94	Frankie McDowell	94-1 - 94-2
95	Anne Owens	95-1 - 95-3
96	Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Littlejohn	96-1 - 96-2
97	James J. Ebersole	97-1 - 97-2
98	Thomas Rieck	98-1 - 98-2
99	James D. Rogers	99-1
100	Madeline Day and Bill Hirth	100-1 - 100-3
101	Charlotte Waller	101-1
102	Tim Haag	102-1
103	Sherry A. Randall	103-1 - 103-7
104	Craig Stuller	104-1 - 104-2
105	Dick and Jan Scar	105-1 - 105-17
106	Andy Herb	106-1
107	Mt. Harvard Valley Development Property Owners Assn. (Burt)	107-1
108	Curt and Cheri Welty	108-1 - 108-2
109	Bryan C. Bomberg, M.D.	109-1 - 109-2
110	City of Victor (Irwin - Mayor)	110-1
111	Mary Purdy	111-1
112	Dorothy Roman	112-1
113	Dave and Jacque Williams	113-1 - 113-2
114	Rian and Heidi Ross	114-1 - 114-2
115	Rian and Heidi Ross	115-1 - 115-1
116	Rhonda Brozek	116-1

Table 2-1 (Continued)

Letter Number	Commenter	Comment/Response Number(s)
117	Robert and Doris Drisgill	117-1 - 117-2
118	Rod and Sarah Struthers	118-1 - 118-2
119	Einar J. Wulfsberg, M.D.	119-1 - 119-2
120	H. Virginia Lee	120--1 - 120-2
121	Wendell E. Kent	121-1
122	Andy Smith	122-1
123	Chas S. Clifton	123-1 - 123-2
124	Beaver Park Water, Inc. (Krassa)	124-1 - 124-12
125	Roxann Moore	125-1
126	Jean Bartheld	126-1 - 126-3
127	Bruce Gabow	127-1
128	Glenn J. Cottone	128-1
129	Matt Touchette	129-1 - 129-2
130	Andy Lassila	130-1
131	Dennis B. Williams	131-1 - 131-3
132	Elissa Angell	131-1 - 132-5
133	James Kirschivink	133-1
134	Martha Moran	134-1
135	Bruce Mohr	135-1 - 135-8
136	Arkansas Valley Audubon Society (Bright)	136-1 - 136-6
137	Jerry Gahagan	137-1 - 137-2
138	Michael J. Kelly	138-1 - 138-9
139	Martha C. Fink	139-1
140	R. Kurt Menning	140-1
141	John Walker	141-1 - 141-6
142	Timothy D. Grant	142-1
143	George Nesperke and Ruth Hunk	143-1 - 143-2
144	Sierra Club, Sangre de Cristo Group (Johnson)	144-1 - 144-5
145	John Mangold	145-1 - 145-2
146	Bruce Stoneback	146-1 - 146-2
147	Stephen R. Dras	147-1 - 147-2
148	Doug Ragan	148-1
149	Michael and Katherine McCoy	149-1 - 149-7
150	Barbara, Frank, and Aaron Hofmeisters	150-1 - 150-2151
151	Edward I. Melton, Jr.	151-1 - 151-2
152	David Weissman	152-1 - 152-2
153	Arthur E. and Helen Stiles-Wainwright	153-1 - 153-5
154	Barbara and Paul L. Arndt	154-1
155	Alix McNamara	155-1 - 155-4

Table 2-1 (Continued)

Letter Number	Commenter	Comment/Response Number(s)
156	Anne Wiley	156-1
157	Angela Dunn	157-1 - 157-2
158	Sierra Club, Rocky Mountain Chapter (Wade)	158-1 - 158-9
159	Robert D. Conover	159-1 - 159-2
160	Julie Barnes	160-1 - 160-2
161	William A. Hager	161-1 - 161-2
162	Great Plains Resources, Inc. (Miller)	162-1 - 162-10
163	Roberta E. Woerner	163-1
164	Jon Levin	164-1 - 164-2
165	Rebecca Diemer and Andrew Kagan	165-1
166	Marilyn Ross	166-1 - 166-2
167	Chris Tiepel	167-1 - 167-2
168	City of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs Utilities (Kuharich)	168-1 - 168-5
169	Joshua B. Epel	169-1 - 169-2
170	People for the West, Arkansas Valley Chapter (Canterbury)	170-1 - 170-42
171	The Fremont Cattlemen's Association (Atwood)	171-1 - 171-28
172	Daniel Sullivan	172-1
173	Colorado Environmental Coalition (Mullen)	173-1 - 173-39
174	Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.	174-1 - 174-6
175	State of Colorado, Division of Wildlife (Desilet)	175-1 - 175-35
176	C. Jacob Hobson	176-1
177	C. Jacob Hobson	177-1 - 177-5
178	C. Jacob Hobson	178-1 - 178-4
179	C. Jacob Hobson	179-1
180	Public Service Company of Colorado (Steck)	180-1 - 1806
181	Hal Wents	181-1
182	Michael Kaiser	182-1 - 182-2
183	Randall P. Kennedy	183-1 - 183-4
184	Michael J. Beezley, M.D.	184-1
185	James E. Lockhart	185-1 - 185-5
186	Roger Pioszak	186-1 - 186-3
187	Hamilton R. Duncan	187-1
188	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII (DeSpain)	188-1 - 188-17
189	Kevin Horan	189-1
190	Donald R. Thompson	190-1 - 190-4
191	David Christenson	191-1 - 191-4
192	Martha Blake	192-1
193	Richard Trussell	193-1 - 193-3
194	Susan Heller	194-1

Table 2-1 (Continued)

Letter Number	Commenter	Comment/Response Number(s)
195	Jimmie Porter	195-1 - 195-3
196	Sierra Club, Pikes Peak Group (Stansfield)	196-1 - 196-16
197	Jocelyn Mullen	197-1 - 197-4
198	Ed Loeffel	198-1 - 198-2
199	Joe Kanetsly	199-1
200	Alan Thompson	200-1
201	Herman Sievering	201-1 - 201-2
202	Sandi Griffin	202-1
203	Charles Huggs	203-1
204	Martin Christian	204-1
205	Denise R. Oaks	205-1
206	Benjamin Pomerantz	206-1
207	Brian Carlson	207-1
208	Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association (Mosely)	208-1 - 208-10
209	William Barrett	209-1
210	Josh H. Galvin	210-1
211	Toby Felix	211-1
212	Paul Reinhard	212-1
213	Rebecca Anders	213-1
214	Lesley Glenn	214-1
215	Thomas C. Davison	215-1
216	American Whitewater Affiliation (Bowers)	216-1 - 216-15
217	William Marsh, Jr.	217-1 - 217-7
218	Anne Frazier	218-1
219	Basia Kacykowski	219-1
220	Jean Palmer-Moloney	220-1
221	Jennifer A. Nortier	221-1
222	Diane Salamon	222-1
223	Molly McCann	223-1
224	Bob Bowers	224-1
225	Jim Skvorc	225-1
226	Neil L. Mosteir	226-1
227	Liz Hodson	227-1
228	Bruce Beerup	228-1
229	Joel Hecht	229-1
230	Howard Schmidt	230-1
231	Clarence LaBarr	231-1
232	Judy Koler	232-1
233	Richard A. Beber	233-1

Table 2-1 (Continued)

Letter Number	Commenter	Comment/Response Number(s)
234	Jayne Cooper	234-1
235	Elliott LaVercombe	235-1
236	Heidi Taylor	236-1
237	Paul Sanders	237-1
238	Jason Bachman	238-1
239	Matt Brown	239-1
240	Joe M. Wheadon	240-1
241	Adam Drake	241-1
242	Jason Hale	242-1
243	Lindsay Haley	243
244	Shaun Trujillo	244-1
245	Robert Carlucci	245-1
246	Ashley Triputt	246-1
247	Jessa Engleman	247-1
248	Gwen Siers	248-1
249	Kim Kroepler	249-1
250	Chris Unruh	250-1
251	Kim Slivka	251-1
252	Elizabeth Simmons	252-1
253	Shannon Culp	253-1
254	Jackie Huffman	254-1
255	Jessica Cropper	255-1
256	Jillian Dudley	256-1
257	Leah Fiske	257-1
258	Pat Foote	258-1
259	Sherry L. Hetherington	259-1
260	Scott Lehmann	260-1 - 260-2
261	Sharon Alcalay	261-1
262	Guy W. Weishaupt	262-1 - 262-2
263	Ms. Sidney Gates	263-1 - 263-7
264	Frank Schumann	264-1

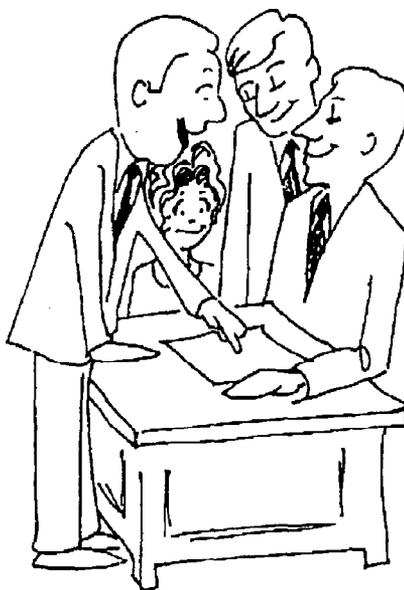
Public Comments from Hearings

Fifty people attended and nineteen persons, groups, or agencies gave oral testimony/comments on the Royal Gorge Draft RMP/EIS during the public hearing sessions in Denver, Buena Vista, and

Cañon City (November 1, 2, and 3, 1993). Table 2-2 lists those comments considered to be substantial in the order they were given, by the commenter, and by the identified comment/response number(s).

TABLE 2-2
Public Hearing Comments on the Royal Gorge Draft RMP/EIS

Letter Number	Commenter	Comment/Response Number(s)
H1-1	Rosalind McLellen	H1-1-1 - H1-1-7
H2-1	John Harrington	H2-1-1 - H2-1-2
H2-2	John Magnini	H2-2-1
H2-3	Dick Scar	H2-3-1 - H2-3-5
H2-4	Pete Makris	H2-4-1 - H2-4-2
H2-7	Steve Anyzeski	H2-7-1
H2-9	Suzanne MacDonald	H2-9-1
H2-10	Robert Ferris	H2-10-1
H2-11	Reed Dil	H2-11-1
H3-1	John Stansfield	H3-1-1 - H3-1-2
H3-2	Bill Pfeiffir	H3-2-1
H3-3	Bud O'Hara	H3-3-1 - H3-3-5
H3-4	Rod Kuharich	H3-4-1
H3-5	James Brooks	H3-5-1 - H3-5-5



Comments and Responses

Air Space

Comment 2-1

Potential conflict existing between missions of our respective agencies; give full consideration regarding how BLM planning and management decisions might adversely affect or restrict use of existing low altitude routes by military aircraft.

Response

Some resources may be adversely affected by low level flights more than others in the planning area. The visual sightings and noise of low-flying jets over wilderness study areas (WSAs) would decrease the wilderness values and recreational experience within these areas. Although the map attached to your letter is not detailed, it appears your flight routes do not cross any WSAs.

Historically, the resource area experiences a small number of wildfires that require suppression aircraft. Additionally, the district conducts WSA aerial surveillance flights. Agencies need to continue coordinating to avoid impacts on future fire and aviation missions and WSA flights in the planning area.

BLM manages habitat for wildlife on BLM-administered lands in close coordination with the Colorado Division of Wildlife since wildlife and the habitat need to be managed together. BLM-administered lands support several species of wildlife. Excessive noise could create disturbance and cause undue wildlife stress, especially during critical survival periods. In addition, threatened or endangered species may require special consideration.

Comments 175-32 and 33

One example of how some special status species animals and other wildlife may be negatively affected without W&SR designation is that air flight activities proposed under the Colorado Airspace Initiative will not be automatically restricted to a minimum overflight of 2,000 feet above ground level.

Response

Unlike a designated wilderness area, a wild and scenic river designation does not automatically restrict Colorado Air National Guard flights to a minimum of 2,000 feet above ground level.

Wilderness Management

Comments 9-1 and 83-1

Please put me on record as opposing the designation of any land under your jurisdiction as wilderness.

Response

Section 603(2) of the *Federal Land Policy Management Act* (FLPMA) directs BLM to inventory lands and identify those with wilderness characteristics. BLM only recommends and does not designate those areas that meet the requirements for wilderness. Congress will make the final decision on whether an area will be designated as wilderness. In the meantime, BLM is required to provide interim management for those areas identified as having wilderness characteristics until Congress releases those areas from further wilderness consideration. Additional OHV opportunities may be available in these areas once released by Congress.

Comments 10-1, 195-1, and 195-2

No useful benefit to designate any of the five WSAs as wilderness. Draft reports that OHV use occurs in two of the five units; where OHV use is occurring, the unit is not a true candidate for designation.

Response

No established roads were identified in any of the five wilderness study areas (WSAs). OHV use has occurred along some established "ways," which is a path or course maintained solely by the passage of vehicles. The majority of "ways" in the WSAs are reclaiming naturally. The present "ways" were not determined to impair the wilderness suitability of the areas. OHV use is allowed on established "ways" unless otherwise closed to protect the wilderness values in the area. Existing vegetation and topography provide sufficient visual screening in these areas. BLM has recommended two of the five WSAs for wilderness designation. These recommendations have been submitted to the President through the Secretary of the Interior. The President has passed these recommendations on to Congress, who will make the final determination on whether an area will receive wilderness designation.

Comment 33-2

Please move to give the Beaver Creek WSA a true wilderness status.

Response

The Beaver Creek WSA has been recommended by BLM for wilderness designation. The Secretary of the Interior reported his recommendations to the President in January 1992. The President has reported his final recommendations on Colorado BLM Wilderness to Congress, who will decide whether or not any of the areas are to be designated wilderness. It is not known at this time when Congress may act on these recommendations.

Comment 172-1

Strongly urge closure to mining and oil/gas leasing in WSAs and the protection of W&S river status for all BLM study areas of the Arkansas River Corridor.

Response

Mining and oil/gas leasing in WSAs is subject to policy stated in the *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines For Lands Under Wilderness Review*. All mineral activities existing on October 21, 1976, may continue in the same manner and degree in which they were being conducted on that date, even if they would impair wilderness suitability. These activities are considered "grandfathered." Valid existing rights of mining claimants will be recognized. To qualify as a valid existing right, a "discovery" of a valuable mineral, the test which has been accepted in case law as the "prudent man test", must be demonstrated.

No new leases may be issued on lands under wilderness review. All pre-FLPMA leases issued on or before October 21, 1976, have valid existing rights. All oil and gas leasing ceased on December 20, 1982. Those post-FLPMA leases issued prior to the issuance of the interim management policy, regardless of the conditions and terms under which the leases were issued, are subject to a special wilderness protection stipulation in FLPMA that states: "... exploration or production activities which are not in conformity with section 603 may never be permitted."

Also see response to comment 25-1 under Wild and Scenic River.

Comment 197-3

Urge that Beaver Creek WSA, Upper and Lower Grape Creek WSAs, McIntyre Hills WSA, and Brown's Canyon WSA continue to be managed in such a way as to not impair their long-term suitability for wilderness designation.

Response

In accordance with Sec. 603(2) of the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act*, BLM is required to manage all lands under wilderness review so suitability for wilderness designation will not be impaired. Management of WSAs will continue under the current *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* until Congress makes a decision regarding designation.

Comment 216-8

In 1987, BLM formally designated 26,150 acres of the Beaver Creek ecosystem as a WSA, affording the entire area interim protection under Federal law. Draft plan recommendations reduce this to only 20,750 acres.

Response

Four parcels of land not recommended for wilderness designation are on the edge of the WSA. The 605 acres adjacent to the Phantom Canyon Road, which is very popular for motor vehicle use, were not considered in the final recommendation. Sights and sounds associated with this use affect solitude throughout the area. The border of the area recommended for wilderness designation, along the upper edge of Phantom Canyon, provides a natural break between these areas.

Two other narrow, irregularly shaped parcels (1,962 acres on the central western border and 2,244 acres at the extreme northeastern border) provide only limited opportunities for outstanding recreation and solitude. The parcels are also separated topographically from the remainder of the WSA. Because of these factors, most wilderness users would not access the Beaver Creek area through these parcels.

The remaining 589-acre parcel is north of the power plant along West Beaver Creek. The power plant and related intrusions were "cherry stemmed" from the WSA, which separated this parcel from the remainder of the Beaver Creek WSA. The disturbances in this area substantially decrease the wilderness qualities of the area and were not included in the final BLM recommendation.

The draft RMP/EIS did not reduce the WSA acreage; this was done as part of a separate BLM wilderness EIS process. The Cañon City District Wilderness Final Environmental Impact Statement, dated December 1987, recommended only 20,750 acres of the total 26,150 acres in the Beaver Creek (CO-050-016) WSA be designated wilderness by Congress. This material is incorporated into this document as information only. No wilderness analysis nor recommendations were completed in the draft RMP/EIS. Congress will make the final decision on areas and the boundaries of areas to become a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Comment 216-9b

Plan does nothing to protect the Beaver Creek watershed from threats which have devastated the entire Arkansas River drainage for decades.

Response

The Beaver Creek area is protected in a variety of ways. The area is within a WSA, which has been recommended for wilderness designation. Currently it is under interim wilderness management, which will continue until Congress makes a decision on wilderness designation. The area is also identified as an area of critical environmental concern, and management will protect and enhance the special values that determined eligibility. There is only one inholding within the area, which is administered by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW). BLM and DOW have a memorandum of understanding that ensures management to retain the wilderness values.

Water Rights/Water Quality

Comment 6-1

Concentration of heavy metals at the Arkansas headwaters is so dangerous that it is unfit for livestock consumption, fish do not survive, and some irrigated soil contains enough lead to support mining.

Response

The second paragraph of the water quality section (page 2-16) states that in places the river is significantly affected by mine drainage. None of this drainage originates on land managed by BLM; therefore, an in-depth discussion of this topic is beyond the scope of this document.

Comment 6-2

Turbidity increases downstream and is exacerbated by erosion from logging, off-road vehicles, and overgrazing.

Response

These concerns are addressed in the section on surface water quality on page 2-17 of the draft RMP.

Comment 6-3

The draft RMP lacks intensity in addressing (or even acknowledging) these problems; however, three obscure statements indicate that BLM is aware of the problems. (A2-14 Parts of the river are greatly affected by mine

drainage. A2-17 Water quality in the Arkansas River is in need of improvement. A2-17 Except where water quality is strongly influenced by mine drainage, water in the South Platte and Arkansas Rivers is suitable for domestic, municipal, and agricultural purposes.)

Response

BLM appreciates your concern, however, the RMP is not a water quality improvement plan. Even though the problems have been identified, most of the water quality problems affecting the Arkansas River originate on lands not under the jurisdiction of BLM. Water is not only suitable for domestic, municipal, and agricultural purposes, but is also currently being used for these purposes.

Comment 6-4

Strongly objects to language in the draft that might be construed as advocating the construction of dams on the Arkansas. Page 2-1 states that "damaging floods occur." It would be far more accurate to say that floods are a natural part of the ecosystem, and when riparian areas are poorly managed, the consequences of a flood are damaging.

Response

Colorado Springs has only taken action on the Elephant Rock Dam proposal, which would be used by the City of Colorado Springs to take a portion of their imported transmountain water out of the river. Construction of this dam would, in fact, help return the river to the conditions that existed in the 1950s before large amounts of imported water were imposed on the natural flow of the river.

Damaging floods do occur naturally within the ecosystem analyzed in this plan.

Comment 6-5

Other examples on page 2-71 rave about how valuable dams are for agriculture, fisheries, flood control, hydroelectric power generation, industrial use, irrigation, municipal water, navigation, quality of water, recreation, shoreline protection, wildlife, groundwater recharge, wetlands, recreation, scenic values, and fire fighting--these editorial viewpoints are inaccurate and inappropriate.

Response

A change to sentence two of the second paragraph under Waterpower/Reservoir Resources in Chapter 2 is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1, of this document. It now reads "Analysis in the past have shown that this control . . ." Also see response to comment 6-4 for more information.

Our comments are not to advocate nor to prohibit the construction of dams, but to manage a resource with the understanding that water development has many useful purposes that may not be needed today, but may be needed in the future for local, regional, or national benefits.

Comment 6-6

Example on 2-77 is particularly offensive: ". . . effect of Elephant Rock itself on the boating industry, both commercial and private, would be minimal. Colorado Springs engineering studies show that the upstream end of the pool would stop short of the "Numbers" area of prime kayaking waters, and the reservoir pool area currently receives a very minor amount of float-through use." This statement is misleading; it does not mention Princeton Dam and is inconsistent with resolutions from every local government in the Arkansas valley (all oppose any attempt to dam the river).

Response

The word "minimal" has been changed to "significant." This change is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 in this document. The Princeton Dam is one of several alternatives, but has not been proposed. The purpose of this RMP is not to address the pros and cons of dams in the Arkansas River Basin, as this is beyond the scope of our responsibility and authority. Also refer to response to comment 6-4 for additional information.

Comment 6-7

Finally, the draft gives the impression that Colorado Springs has valid water rights to proceed with the permit process. This issue is currently in litigation. To date, Colorado water court has not ruled in favor of Colorado Springs.

Response

You are correct. It is still unclear at the present time whether or not Colorado Springs has a valid water right. The status of water rights pertaining to the city of Colorado Springs is beyond the scope and purpose of this document. Also refer to response to comment 6-4 for more information.

Comment 6-20

Water quality must improve. An interagency, Federal/state cooperative effort with a watershed perspective must emerge. Mining, grazing, irrigation, logging, municipal discharge, flow control, revegetation and remediation are all part of the same equation; improving one while ignoring the others leave us no better off.

Response

BLM is in complete agreement with your statement.

Comment 6-24

Need to address dams and water rights. If water management authorities are given the flexibility to utilize the existing infrastructure, maybe they would not need additional storage capacity. Utilizing the BLM proposal for an NRA, we can create the framework whereby the water managers would not be handcuffed, but still recognize that structures like Elephant Rock and Princeton Dams would be inappropriate.

Response

Questions on water rights and water management are being addressed in the Arkansas River Water Needs Assessment. This is a cooperative, in-depth study being conducted by various local, state, and Federal agencies with strong input from various user groups, including the rafting community. Also see response to comment 11-2 under National Recreation Area Designations.

Comment 124-1

Beaver Park is very concerned that the entire thrust and tone of this document gives little serious consideration to the economic value of water, and even less consideration to the opportunity to place that water to new uses to improve the human economic condition of people within the EIS study area. Lands administered by the Bureau are such a large part of the study area that the attitude which characterizes this study indicates a very serious problem may exist.

Response

BLM does not unilaterally make water management decisions, but rather cooperatively manages with water stakeholders with interests ranging from environmentally preservation to economic uses. Congress directs BLM to manage for sustaining natural resource values, so naturally the water narrative in the plan will reflect this directive. BLM recognizes that sustaining natural resource values must occur in the context of economic uses.

Comment 124-2

Beaver Park's Sheaffer reservoir should be listed in Appendix J. Beaver Park holds Reservoir Site ROW P-07902, originally issued May 31, 1910. Sheaffer Reservoir was constructed and operated, and although it is now in disrepair as a result of flood damage, Beaver Park intends to rebuild it. It is an excellent reservoir site. (p. 2-71)

Beaver Park believes that Sheaffer Reservoir qualifies as having significant potential for development as a water-power/reservoir resource and should be so identified (pg 3-42).

Response

Sheaffer Reservoir will be added to Table 2-4 on page 2-13, and to Appendix J as 1020002-212 in T. 28 S., R. 68 W., Sec. 16 as a DR (developed reservoir/diversion). This change is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 in this document. This site could also be listed as UR (undeveloped reservoir) as BLM responsibility is to gather information from other governmental and independent development agencies on potential sites.

Comment 124-12

The reference to "Beaver Park Water District" is in error. Beaver Park Water, Inc. (BPWI), a nonprofit mutual ditch company, has 4,185 acre-feet of adjudicated storage rights in Brush Hollow Reservoir which draws water from Beaver Creek. BPWI, in accordance with existing water law, leases water to the Penrose Water District which furnishes water for domestic purposes. (L-12)

Response

Thank you for your clarification regarding the operations of your company.

Changes have been made and are shown as a change in Chapter 1, Table 1-1, of this document.

Comment 216-3

The plan fails to protect sensitive resources by not recognizing the enormous problem of nonpoint source pollution on the Arkansas. This pollution is caused by mining in the headwaters; erosion from logging; overgrazing and irrigation practices; and off-road vehicle use. In addition to impacting recreation resources, this perspective also ignores the goals of two other recent BLM initiatives *Fish and Wildlife 2000* and *Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990's*.

Response

Although there are water pollution problems in the Arkansas River drainage, BLM does not believe they are insurmountable. Steps are being taken by many groups and agencies, in many parts of the watershed, to correct the existing problems. In the meantime, water from the river is being used for domestic, municipal, industrial, agricul-

tural, and recreational purposes. In isolated reaches of the river in the immediate vicinity of mining related pollution, the fish and other aquatic life do suffer adverse effects. EPA and various state agencies have begun major clean up efforts.

BLM believes the scope of the RMP does address the implementation of both *Fish and Wildlife 2000* and *Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990's*. There are extensive decisions throughout the document on riparian area management, wildlife habitat management, fishery habitat management, special status plant/community species management, and special status animal species management. Please see discussions of these in Chapters 2, 3, and 4 of the draft RMP.

Comment H2-2-1

Concerned regarding statement pg. 2-18 "As the population increases and more rural areas are subdivided, demands on ground water will increase. This may result in depletion of some aquifers." Is this just a blanket statement or have some of these ground waters or aquifers been identified, especially in Park County?

Response

This is a "blanket" statement and is not directed to any specific area or aquifer.

Comment H3-3-1

Need to add something on page 2-13 regarding water storage in reservoirs, especially native water, which is very minimal. Most reservoirs are built to store transmountain water. Add a sentence such as ". . . these reservoirs are used to store and regulate a small quantity of water native to the Arkansas River Basin, as well as large portions" or something like that.

Response

The following sentence will be inserted after the sentence listing the reservoirs in the upper Arkansas watershed: "All of these, except Clear Creek, were built primarily to store transmountain water." This change is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 of this document.

Comment H3-3-2

Page 2-14, 3rd paragraph beginning with "Water Rights in Colorado" - good section, but does not understand why it is in the section on crystalline rock aquifers; maybe move it back to the beginning of section on water rights, page 2-9.

Response

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The relocation of referenced paragraph is shown as a change to the draft RMP in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 in this document.

Comment H3-3-3

The USGS water quality study is not mentioned in the draft; is BLM aware of this.

Response

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The following sentence is shown as addition to the draft RMP on page 2-17: "Perhaps the most comprehensive of these studies is the one currently being conducted by the USGS, which examines the effects of river operations on the quality of water in the river. This study is expected to be completed in 1999." This change is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 of this document.

Comment H3-3-4

On Page A-4 Important Management Concerns - No. 7 and No. 8 (Water Rights and Water Quality respectively) - how is BLM going to handle these?

Response

The proposed actions relating to these management concerns are in Chapter 3, page 3-6, of the draft RMP.

Noxious Weeds**Comment 8-4**

Would like to see more interest in noxious weed and woodlands management as related to possible wild fire situations, but do recognize that budget and scope must stop somewhere. Perhaps both items will remain stable and concerns would be unfounded.

Response

BLM agrees that one way to potentially offer more control of wildfires is to establish prescribed burning for natural or manmade fires in areas of infestation of noxious weeds. It may also be appropriate to establish prescribed burns in predominantly woodland areas to modify those conditions. The current managers' fire policy within this resource area is to only consider full attack of all fires, whether they are

natural or manmade. This decision is shown in Chapter 3 of this document.

Comment 84-5

Because of the importance of potential invasions by the noxious plant mentioned, we suggest the issue of funding a large scale inventory be pursued. Perhaps cooperative, interagency funding of the BLM ecological sites inventories would accomplish the needed inventory.

Response

BLM will consider interagency funding when completing future ecological site inventories, which will include identifying potential noxious plant invasions, in integrated activity plans.

Comment 171-14

Table 2-34, page 2-73 - Tallahassee Leafy Spurge/noxious weeds should be designated an ACEC because of the threat to private and public land.

Response

The Tallahassee leafy spurge area does not meet the criteria for ACEC designation; however, the area will receive special management because of the threat that leafy spurge poses.

Comment H1-1-4

Restoration of native plants and animals is necessary to maintain species and biodiversity. Mention is made of exotic noxious weeds, non-native species and recommends strong measures to remove the invasions of new species.

Response

In all the alternatives, noxious weeds would be managed under the concept of integrated pest management, which uses many methods of control.

Fire Management**Comment H1-1-3**

Would like to see more attention to introduction of natural disturbance regimes into the document - fire in the grassland ecotype can bring back species and also the forest type; many species have co-evolved with fire with plant associations that were dependent on fire.

Response

You are correct in suggesting that fire has a natural place in many ecotypes. Within the Royal Gorge Resource Area, BLM has attempted to use prescribed fire to improve both grassland and woodland types.

The reintroduction of natural fire is desirable but because of the relatively fractured land pattern in the RGRA and the presence of both undeveloped private lands and mountain subdivision properties, natural fire presents a serious problem. Containment of natural fire on Federal property is a gamble. The resources available to Federal agencies to contain and control fire are limited. BLM has, in the recent past, seen serious potential for damage to adjacent private lands on both the Poverty Mountain and the Cooper Mountain Fires.

Because Federal resources are limited and most rural counties have only minimal fire protection resources for private property, BLM has determined it to be in the public interest to suppress natural fires. The Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan allows for the use of prescribed fire in specific situations with appropriate preplanning.

Economic Conditions and Social Environment

Comments 3-1 and H3-5-1

Economic evaluation is flawed. No where in the plan is there mention of how many dollars are taken in by BLM; nor is there a realistic accounting of actual management costs.

Response

Please see page 2-28 of the draft RMP/EIS for an estimate of the Royal Gorge Resource Area BLM budget. Although the amount of revenue collected is not discussed, there was an attempt to show how economic sectors in the area are related to BLM resource management. Nationwide BLM revenue collections are five to six times over what is used to administer the almost 400 million acres of BLM-administered lands.

Comments 3-2 and H3-5-2

Cooperative funds from state and other Federal agencies are part of actual costs, but do not appear to be accounted for.

Response

You are correct; costs from other state or Federal agencies were not estimated. The amount, however, they do spend on BLM-administered lands is directly related to the benefits they receive.

Comments 3-3 and H3-5-3

No accurate accounting of how many people or dollars are needed to administer various issues or alternatives.

Response

Please see page 4-3 of the draft RMP/EIS for an estimate of dollars to be spent on each of the particular alternatives. Basically, with very tight Federal budgets, BLM does not expect an overall increase in real dollars in the resource area budget, but only a reallocation of those dollars to reflect RMP management direction over time.

Comment 3-4

To say that "the base cost of \$1.7 million is not expected to change" is not reasonable, particularly if one looks to the past for a model.

Response

Please see page 4-3 of the draft RMP/EIS; it is explained that the \$1.7 million figure will change because of inflation.

Comment 3-5

If this management plan had been set in an accurate cost/benefit relationship, many of the issues would not even be considered and the whole thing could probably have been reduced to 50 pages or less.

Response

Please see page 4-3 of the draft RMP/EIS. BLM measured all feasible resource values for which an accurate value could be established. Some resource values just cannot be measured.

Comments 6-19 and 171-8

Funding for the Royal Gorge Resource Area (Table 2-12) is unclear. Adding up the amounts for each budget item (including "other") leaves a shortfall of \$200,000.

Response

The inadvertent typographical error in Table 2-12 of the draft RMP/EIS has been corrected. The correct range management amount is \$221,554. This change is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 in this document.

Comment 124-4

Description of the preferred alternative is significantly inaccurate and should read "with emphasis on preservation of natural resource condition." This approach would place people who depend on the local economy and their investment in their property in a sort of zoo or museum for the benefit of various researchers and tourists, who draw their economic sustenance from the taxpayers. (page 3-3)

Response

Thank you for your comment. An accurate quote of the statement made on page 3-3 of the draft RMP/EIS is "... a modified level of management with emphasis on natural resource conditions, much like the conservation alternative, but with moderate levels of resource utilization as well." BLM believes our description of the Preferred Alternative is an accurate description of the management shown on pages 3-5 through 3-60 of the Draft RMP/EIS.

Comment 170-6

Values should be clearly distinguished as tangible (Minerals - oil, gas, coal, metals, and mineral materials and Agricultural - hay, grass, timber, fish, etc.--commonly associated with human necessity) or as intangible values (wilderness, paleontological, historical, archaeological, recreational, visual, etc.) which are perceived differently in the mind of each member of the public.

Response

Please see page 4-2 in the draft for a discussion of the difficulty in measuring nonmarket values like wilderness, paleontological, etc.

Comment 170-31

Without knowing how the numbers were generated, the Colorado public has no basis on which to accept BLM's conclusion that the Preferred Alternative of "ecosystem" management will produce \$11.60 worth of benefit to the public for the single dollar BLM intends to spend in each of the next 15 to 20 years. Apparently the "Total" of the contents displayed in Table C-21 is compared to the "Total" displayed as the sum of the budget items displayed in Table 2-12 to arrive at the public "benefit/cost" ratio. If those were the

numbers that BLM chose to reflect the ratio of public benefit to public cost, then the result computes to be \$12.90 benefit for every public dollar spent, an 11.6 percent better benefit than the \$11.60 reported. However, the sum of the budget items displayed in Table 2-12 amounts to only \$1,507.196 and the computation results in a \$14.6 benefit to the public or 26 percent more than reported on page 4-3.

Response

Please see our response to comment 6-19. The typographical error in Table 2-12 of the draft RMP/EIS has been corrected. Also please see page 4-3 of the draft where BLM costs were compared to benefits over time using a 8-7/8 percent discount rate.

Comment 170-32

If the goal of engaging in a frivolous numbers game was to maximally delude the public about the merits of the plan, BLM could have rationally deleted the largest item in its budget, the \$407,000 spent on its imported wild horse and burro program as unrelated to the indigenous "ecosystem" of range management for the Royal Gorge Area that BLM proposes. That would amount to BLM admitting to the public that the Department of the Interior has been wasting astronomical sums of public money on a "welfare program for unwanted horses" to appease a few noisy "animal-rights zealots" to the expense of its larger public obligation of responsibly managing the public domain. Nonetheless, BLM managers are obliged to report all ecological aspects of that particular item of budgeted waste to the public. Otherwise, there is no credence to the "ecosystem" style of management contained in the plan.

Response

Since the wild horse program in the Royal Gorge Resource Area does not involve any BLM-administered land, any mention of it will be removed from the proposed RMP. This change is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 of this document.

Comment 170-33

Evidently, by not eliminating those BLM costs unrelated to "ecosystem" land management, BLM missed an opportunity to magnify the delusion that the public enjoys a whopping \$20 annual benefit for the measly \$1 it proposes to spend ("invest" in current politically correct jargon) over the next 15 to 20 years. Clearly, BLM failed to fully exploit the undocumented Tables C-17 through 21, fabricated to exaggerate the merits of the plan. However, we are more concerned that BLM violates conventional economic principles to deceive the public about the benefit/cost ratio.

Response

Please read pages 4-2 and 4-3 of the draft RMP/EIS which describes the assumptions and limitations for our economic analysis. We used standard and widely accepted methods and economic values to accomplish our analysis. These values are within the range accepted and used by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service.

Comment 170-34

Table C-21, from which the public benefit of the ratio is drawn, vividly displays the willingness of BLM to violate, not only economic principles, but rules of logic as well. The five categories of "National Annual Dollar Values" displayed are simply not comparable values to each other. Recreation dollar values, from the convoluted explanation on p. 4-2 and 3, apparently amount to no more than the figment of some bureaucrat's imagination. We worry that the numbers, unsupported by data, likely exaggerates the recreationist's "willingness to pay" into government coffers to enter the public domain in order to participate in the listed activity. If the recreationist is in fact, so compelled with a "willingness to pay" the magnitude of dollars reflected in Table C-20, BLM would be well-advised to tap in that "cash cow." Any conscientious manager would begin milking such potential to offset the cost of founding an "ecosystem" management upon a credible scientific base.

Response

The approaches we used in the draft RMP/EIS to estimate willingness to pay values for recreation are authorized by an interagency committee of the United States Government. The economic value of recreation was first authorized in Senate Document 97 in 1962. Supplement No. 1 to Senate Document 97 set up the Water Resources Council as an interagency committee to administer benefit cost methods. The approaches to empirical estimation of the value of recreation were reaffirmed in a 1983 edition of the guidelines signed by President Reagan. There are numerous studies documenting values relating to recreation. BLM believes these analysis factors provide for a reasonable and credible scientific base.

Comment 170-35

The other four numbers listed in Table C-21 are the revenues the district expects to actually collect from the annual harvest of the indicated resource. However, notably absent from the list are any revenues BLM expects to be forth coming from managing the mineral potential of the public domain. Clearly, if there were substance to the numbers BLM fabricated to reflect the merits of its plan, the plan would be self-sustaining, perhaps a bit left over to offset the National Debt, and there would be no justification, under

economic principles, to setting the district budget against the fabricated benefits as a public cost. But since BLM engaged in its sophomoric economic analysis, we feel obliged to sharpen BLM's business sense.

Response

The values in Table C-21 represent projected national dollar values. They are not necessarily collected by BLM and are projected for purposes of agency analysis only. It is correct, BLM did not estimate willingness to pay values for minerals. It is not feasible to complete a process for estimating all the various mineral values on BLM-administered lands.

Comment 170-36

Acknowledge the load as unable to be fully supported on the public domain; quantify the slop-over onto the private sector to be sustained, particularly through the winter months; quantify the value of the loss of labor intensive feed put up and distributed for sustaining domestic livestock through the winter; as well as, the cost of mending fences torn up by wildlife to get to the feed. We are further asking BLM to revise the current draft to avoid deluding the public that DOW can load and manage wildlife on public lands without cost to the private sector. We want those costs reflected in the next revision of the draft.

Response

BLM believes the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) is properly managing wildlife according to its mission. BLM would need access to your documented studies and files showing improper management by DOW in order to assess these "slop over" losses. BLM strongly suggests you meet with the DOW soon to discuss your concerns over their current management of wildlife and their relationships to domestic livestock. The purpose of the draft resource management plan is to evaluate BLM management of the wildlife land and water resource (i.e., the habitat); DOW manages the wildlife numbers (i.e., the animals).

Comment 170-38

According to our evaluation of information contained in the plan, that impact to cost to the private sector from overflow off BLM ground amounts to a minimum of \$300,000 per year - the effect projected from the same source to include overflow from USFS and state lands onto the private sector escalates the cost of impact to over a million dollars a year. Obviously the costs of reported "recreation benefit" are not wholly borne by BLM expenditures. Those costs borne by the private sector must be fully developed and reflected so elected officials of the state and local governments, as well as the public at large, are aware of the impact of the proposal on the relevant economy.

Response

BLM is unaware of any study that evaluates overflow off BLM-administered lands. This issue was not raised during our scoping. Before this type of impact could be included, BLM would need to review any studies you can provide.

Comment 170-39

We expect BLM to acknowledge that impact, develop the costs of the private sector, the economic impact on local government, and how BLM proposes to stabilize local economies as the "ecosystem" style of management striving for "biodiversity" overwhelms the ability of the very economic element critical to the support of the proposal. We expect the information to be compiled and a respectable economic impact statement be reported in the next draft. If BLM lacks available data of sufficient quality to define the system and honestly measure economic impact, we suggest BLM limit its management proposal for 15 to 20 years to developing the required data on which to credibly found its plan.

Response

An ecosystem approach will take place later after the ROD is completed.

Comment 171-21

Table C-19 (p. C-10) Livestock dollar value is misleading to general public.

Response

BLM agrees that the different willingness to pay values used in our economic analysis may not be understood by the general public; BLM does not agree that they are misleading. The value used livestock dollar value in Table C-19 of the draft RMP/EIS is a willingness to pay value estimated for the BLM 1991 Price File and is used to evaluate the benefits based on actual resource investments. Please also see the response to Comment 170-34.

Comment 173-33

Believe the economic information on pages 2-22 through 2-27 is very much out-of-date. Besides the gambling boom in Teller County that BLM mentions, we believe there is also a population and tourism boom affecting much of the upper Arkansas Valley. It is unlikely that the vacancy figures on page 2-25 are accurate given the increase in summer recreation and tourism. The economic section should therefore be redone.

Response

The economic data used in the draft RMP/EIS was the latest available at the time the analysis was done. It should be kept in mind that current data for most economic series are often 2 to 3 years out of date. BLM does not believe revising the economic data at this time would measurably change the impacts resulting from the alternatives.

Comment 177-2

If the Bureau proposes to show the economic benefit to the whole ecosystem, it should also include a column indicating the direct benefit to the Bureau of the segment so being analyzed.

Response

BLM believes the economic benefit is shown where those benefits actually occur. In general it is difficult to measure all benefits. It is not, however, a direct concern to BLM as to what part of the economic benefits actually accrue to the agency, and a fee is not charged for all benefits received. The draft RMP/EIS covers some 23 million acres; therefore, it is not possible to show economic benefits for the whole area. At the time the integrated activity plans are done using ecosystem methods, economics would certainly be included in that analysis.

Comment 178-1

I find the tables hopelessly jumbled; statistics from one table cannot be readily used to evaluate the conclusions presented in another table even though the same material is being treated. This comes together with a crunch in tables C-19/20/21. Each of these entries creates more questions than it answers: e.g. Livestock AUMs @\$9.19 - is this the accumulation of the \$1.92/month for the average duration that each class of domestic livestock is in the allotment, or is it the average value of nonimproved private grazing charges for the same animal unit?

Response

See response to Comment 171-21. The livestock AUM value is a willingness to pay value estimated for the BLM 1991 Price File. The price file data is used for evaluating resource investments on BLM-administered land using benefit/cost analysis. The actual price paid by the livestock users of BLM-administered lands is \$1.92; however, the actual willingness to pay value for the equivalent nonimproved private grazing lands is \$9.19. The willingness to pay value of BLM-administered lands is, therefore, equal to \$9.19. Of course there are many who believe the equivalent nonimproved private grazing land index is inaccurate, and there are those

who say this is proof that the livestock users of BLM-administered lands are receiving a subsidy payment of the difference. This debate will probably go on until such time as the rangeland reform process is completed nationwide.

Comment 178-2

I assume HDs mean hunting days (but they are not listed in the acronym decoder and therefore I have to surmise); ADs probably mean angling days, but again I guess; RDs mean recreation days, but again I'm guessing. Are the values assigned to these various activities relative values or are they real values perceived by the local BLM till?

Response

Yes, you assumed correctly; HD = hunter days, AD = angler days, and RD = recreation days. These changes are shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 in this document. These values are widely accepted willingness to pay values and do represent nonmarket values.

Comment 178-3

The willingness to pay (WTP), which I guess the values in these tables represent are really funny money, as it is someone's best guess as to the interested parties willingness to pay, but unless there are definite authorizations for BLM to charge these fees they remain an intangible guess as to the economy and someone's best guess as to the public's interest.

Response

Willingness to pay values based on published studies for nonmarket goods are a professionally accepted way to measure these values. Please also see response to Comments 170-34 and 178-2.

Comment 178-4

Mixing funny money and real money in your model does no one any good service. If the real money reported by the other activities is in Table C-21, which is just over 1 percent of the total, shows either an angry tilt toward recreation and against basic economic infrastructure, or at best the personal bias of BLM personnel toward what they would most enjoy doing.

Response

BLM used the best available information on willingness to pay values for market and nonmarket values. Please see response to Comment 170-34.

Vegetation/Ecosystem Management

Comment 141-1

The Preferred Alternative is similar to current management practices, which do not protect the resource from abusive practices. A classic example is the lower reaches of Kerr Gulch Allotment. I have seen vacant lots in urban areas in better condition than this area of public land.

Response

In the Preferred Alternative, changes in management category for grazing allotments will occur if conflicts between grazing and other lands uses exist or if grazing is damaging vegetation or preventing vegetation from re-covering to a desired condition. The range trend study in the lower Kerr Gulch Pasture shows a gradual upward trend. Some parts of the pasture have very little ground cover because of soil types and/or mature piñon/juniper vegetation.

Comment 144-5

It is essential to adopt a total ecosystem approach emphasizing biological diversity and restoration of degraded areas to maintain a healthy and productive environment. The time is past (or should be) when the land can be treated as any other commodity and exploited for private profit with little regard for other values.

Response

Current regulations require multiple use of BLM-administered land, and commodity production is considered a legitimate use. Using the ecosystem approach, integrated activity plans will be developed to direct management for compatible land use and ecosystem sustainability. Also refer to response for Comment 196-1.

Comments 170-1, 171-24

Our members recognize the BLM proposal to manage under the new concepts of "ecosystem management and biological diversity" to be dependent on crucial economic infrastructure developed by neighbors within the private sector abutting the public domain. The plan must be revised to properly address impacts of the new "ecosystem" style of management on those neighbors directly affected, on whose infrastructure the new BLM scheme of management depends.

Response

Ecosystem management will be implemented by geographic area (eco-subregion) as proposed in the RMP. An interdisciplinary activity plan will be developed for each area, which will assess impacts to private property and address concerns of affected interests.

Comment 170-2

If the intent of the document is to persuade the public of the merits of the "ecosystem" management plan, it must be presented in a form comprehensible to the lay public. BLM is obliged to lay out for the reader the parameters of the biological system it proposes to manage, how members of the biological community relate to each other as well as the resources on which each member depends. The reader deserves to be convinced the "ecosystem" style of management is, in fact, founded on sound scientific and economic principles. As written, one is hard pressed to find either serious or sound economics to be of much concern.

Response

Integrated activity plans will be developed after the record of decision is signed. See Chapter 3 of this document for maps of each of these eco-subregions. These plans will be very specific regarding the ecosystem functions, quality of life, production, and the desired landscape for each of these eco-subregions on BLM-administered land. An environmental assessment, which would address environmental and economic impacts, will be written for each plan.

Comment 170-3

Concerned about any management plan that implies local human economic activities be burdened with providing "conservation of the ecological system and provide for biological diversity" (page 2-1). BLM proposes in their plan a population the public domain cannot independently support. The reader deserves a clear statement of that dependence to rationally assess the merits of the plan.

Response

The RMP does not propose any population levels for wildlife; this is the scope of management by the Division of Wildlife. BLM only manages the habitat. Also refer to response for Comments 171-9 and 171-10 under Wildlife Habitat/ Fisheries Management.

Comment 171-15

Objectives of Alternative D--conflicts should be resolved not necessarily in favor of vegetation management goals.

Response

Resolving a conflict in favor of vegetation management goals does not necessarily preclude any particular land use. Achieving vegetation management goals would result in achieving or maintaining a desired plant community.

Comment 173-4

CEC finds the plan to be very lacking in terms of ecosystem protection.

Response

Actions to promote ecosystem protection will be proposed in the integrated activity plans, which will be developed for each geographic area (eco-subregion) identified within the RMP.

Comments 196-1, 24-1, 29-1, 47-1, 56-3, 59-1, 69-3, 100-1, 103-1, 135-8, 136-2, 138-3, 149-1, 158-1, 170-7, 170-18, 173-29, 190-4, and 217-1

It is impossible for the public to effectively evaluate the draft regarding its overall impact on ecosystems and biodiversity. No documentation is specifically provided for such evaluation. Although resources are well analyzed in isolation or as they effect some other associated values, no overview nor vision of general ecological direction exists here, which an ecosystem management-driving document might provide.

Response

The RMP introduces the principles of ecosystem management and the proposal to implement it by geographic area (eco-subregion).

Impacts to ecosystems and biodiversity will be addressed in the integrated activity plan written for each eco-subregion.

Comments 196-2 and H1-1-7

Recommend that the final RMP of the RGRA include principles of ecosystem management and biodiversity in its analysis of all resources; that these principles be noticeably reflected in both the alternatives and consequences of the plan; that a new chapter be added to the final as a statement of its overall management direction and of the significance of ecosystem to the RMP.

Response

In our scoping for this RMP 3 to 4 years ago, these principles were not brought up nor expressed as a concern or an issue.

During the planning process, however, the planning team determined that these principles could still be utilized at the implementation stage of planning. At this stage of the process, integrated resource planning will be done on specific eco-subregions within the Royal Gorge Planning Area. The principles of ecosystem analysis and biodiversity can be brought into the process at that time.

The team presented 10 geographic reference areas (eco-subregions) for public comment within the draft (Appendix D). On page 3-4 of the draft RMP, the integrated activity planning process is discussed and very specifically states "... an attempt will be made to blend all planned human activities with needed conservation of the ecological system and provide for biological diversity."

Comment 196-3

Recommends allocations for management of forage and forest lands as in Alternative B; objectives and new forage allocation as in Alternative D; and actions regarding DPC objectives as in Alternative D. In our analysis these recommendations are not mutually exclusive.

Response

Thank you for your comments; they will be considered in the final decision.

Livestock Grazing Management

Comments 103-6, 12-4, 24-8, 29-10, 48-8, 56-5, 69-9, 105-1, 135-4, 138-9, 144-2, 153-4, 158-9, 183-3, 201-1, 217-7, and 263-9

Do not allow grazing where the land is in poor or declining condition.

Response

Grazing will be adjusted where it is causing poor ecological conditions and/or declining vegetation trend. Adjustments will include the following: reduced stocking rate; change in season of grazing use; change in duration of grazing period; and in some cases, elimination of grazing. A determination will be made in each case to determine the cause of the poor condition or declining trend before any grazing adjustments are implemented. Some allotments are in unsatisfactory condition because of factors other than grazing. Adjustments on these allotments will not be made if a change or elimination of grazing would not result in a change in vegetation. Some allotments consist of small scattered tracts of BLM-administered land within a large private ranch. Some of these allotments are in poor condition with declining trend because of livestock grazing. No adjustments are planned, however,

because the land ownership pattern limits management opportunity. These BLM-administered lands are proposed for exchange or sale.

Comments 103-7, 29-11, 48-9, 69-9, 135-4, 138-9, 153-5, 158-9, 183-4, 185-4, and 263-9

No grazing developments should be allowed in WSAs or where they will harm the values for which ACECs were designated.

Response

Range improvements such as fences and water developments are allowed in WSAs as long as the improvements result in enhancement of the wilderness values in these study areas; i.e., a fence to control livestock grazing in a riparian area. Range improvements in ACECs will not be allowed if they harm the special values of the ACEC.

Comment 105-2

Grazing except as mentioned in Comment 105-1 should be phased out over a period of 10 years and during that time grazing operators should pay fair market value per AUM, but be credited for improvements to the allotment that they have paid for.

Response

This comment is also outside the scope of the RMP and the current Federal regulations. These issues are being addressed in the *Rangeland Reform '94* proposals.

Comment 105-3

Favor some type of subsidy to grazing operators to encourage them to keep their own land open and undeveloped. The support could be, for example, purchases of conservation easements or compensation for wildlife/habitat management and the overall magnitude of such support could be even greater than the current subsidies paid for livestock grazing.

Response

BLM does at times exchange land to preserve open space. Support to landowners for current preservation of open space, in the form of payments, is not allowed under BLM regulations. *Rangeland Reform '94* proposals are addressing this issue. BLM can also purchase conservation easements if funds are available and if an easement is necessary.

Comment 105-4

Riparian areas are particularly important because of the diversity and concentration of life forms they contain and support. And these areas are particularly susceptible to damage by livestock grazing. Only 17 allotments in Table F-1 were listed as having good or excellent riparian condition; 11 were listed as having fair or poor riparian condition. It is disturbing that the riparian condition of over 150 allotments was listed as "unknown."

Response

Changing livestock grazing on allotments with riparian areas in poor condition because of livestock grazing will be a high priority. A riparian inventory will be completed as part of developing specific integrated activity ecosystem plans (see response to Comment 196-1 under Vegetation/Ecosystem Management).

Comment 136-6

Grazing should not be permitted in WSAs and should be strictly monitored elsewhere for insuring a sustainable ecology.

Response

Allotments categorized "maintain" and "improve" will be monitored for compliance with authorized number of animals and season of use. Forage utilization and trend of the plant community will also be monitored.

Also refer to response for Comments 103-7 and 196-1.

Comment 144-3

Grazing in riparian areas should be sharply reduced and allowed only if compatible with restoration of riparian areas. The preferred alternative is an improvement over the existing alternative, but still does not go far enough in protecting riparian.

Response

In the Preferred Alternative, allotments with riparian areas in poor condition because of livestock grazing will be a high priority for implementing changes in livestock grazing; i.e., reductions in stocking rates and/or changes in season of grazing use. The Preferred Alternative would meet the BLM goal of having 75 percent of riparian areas in functioning condition.

Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high waterflow,

thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality; filter sediment, capture bedload, and aid floodplain development; improve flood-water retention and groundwater recharge; develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action; develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and support greater biodiversity. The functioning condition of riparian-wetland areas is a result of interaction among geology, soil, water, and vegetation.

Comments 170-8 and 170-7

Both the 1977-78 period and 1981 are reported by United States Geological Survey to be drought years. Data collected during such periods would surely reflect a conservative bias toward a minimum grazing capacity for each grazing allotment.

Response

This RMP does not propose to use the 1977-78 survey as the basis of setting carrying capacity. The 1977-78 range inventories were not used to set grazing capacities. Actual grazing use data and utilization data were collected from 1981 to 1986, which were used as the basis to set grazing capacities on the 77 "improve" category allotments. These years (1981 through 1986) were generally wetter than average.

Comment 170-9

One should expect monitoring studies from 1981 forward to reflect improved range conditions in response to climatic emergence from the bottom of a drought condition. Yet, the reader is offered no data, but is expected to accept a bald statement about the 77-78 study to justify grazing capacity limits as 28 - 30,000 AUMs for allotting domestic livestock grazing. The public needs an explanation about how the sparse data collected is interpolated to justify a maximum allocation of 30,000 animal unit months to livestock grazing in a given year.

Response

The 1977-78 range inventory was not used to set grazing capacities. See Comment 170-8.

Comments 170-10 and 170-11

When one considers that BLM asserts cattle grazing to be a dominant use in the area, authorizes a maximum 30,000 AUMs (page 2-30) for livestock grazing on the basis of its data, and carefully controls "seasons of use" for livestock grazing to an average of 28,000 AUMs, one gets the impres-

sion that the carrying capacity is strained by livestock. Yet we read on p. 2-31 that elk numbers have been allowed to expand from about 10,000 in 1980 to approximately 30,000 today. We find no documentation of range management data in the plan that would justify BLM cutting a deal with DOW to support providing a two-fold increase in elk habitat.

Response

On page 2-41, Table 2-20, it should be noted that almost one-third of the total elk population in the planning area occurs in DAU-33 (Units 83, 85, 851, and 140). This unit is almost totally private land with little or no public access. Although BLM included these figures in the total because they occur within the planning area, it is inaccurate to compare this number (30,000 elk) with the total number of available AUMs. If you look at the elk population increases in other DAUs with more public lands, you will note an average of 24 percent increase in elk over the past decade or about 2 percent per year. BLM and Division of Wildlife work together in managing elk populations on public lands, and BLM believes an increase of 2 percent per year is not excessive. Population goals, however, have been reached in many management units, and further increases are not planned.

Comment 170-12

With respect to grazing use, we are recommending that BLM revise the draft to set its forage studies (sustainable inventory), including riparian vegetation, into the common context with the species that eat it at whatever time. Only when productivity is quantified, is BLM in a position to allocate the pie, within the complex rules of ecology, amongst the various species of competitors. Once a sustainable yield is established, responsible managers can move on to prioritizing use. At the moment, BLM has committed to some 28,000 AUMs for domestic livestock, and from Tables 2-20, 21, 22, and 23, some 112,000 AUMs of elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and antelope distributed over some 653,000 acres that BLM assumes responsibility for grazing control.

Response

When the ecological site inventory (ESI) for each area is completed, that data along with actual use and utilization data will be used to set grazing capacities. Season of grazing use and species of animal will be considered when setting the grazing capacity. Production is measured directly in the ESI method, and can be derived from the actual use and utilization method. A sustainable yield of forage can be calculated from these methods. The 28,000 to 30,000 AUMs of grazing capacity are currently being used. The number could go higher if all ranchers used their full grazing permits. The

28,000 to 30,000 AUM range is not something new; it was negotiated with each rancher in the early 1980s.

Comment 170-13

Obviously the first task for the conscientious range manager in revising the plan is to confirm that BLM's present commitment to grazing is, in fact, within the bounds of the sustained productivity of the land and consistent with the natural selection of species. On an annual basis, BLM commitment amounts to about 56 acres per cow unit, or a showing that the land managed produces some 756,000 tons of forage over whatever seasons of the year. Once the forage productivity is confirmed, the BLM range manager is confronted with considering how the wildlife commitment is to be managed through the 4 to 5 winter months during which climatic conditions precludes accessibility to forage on the public domain for wildlife to survive.

Response

BLM is participating in the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program in three areas within the Royal Gorge Planning Area. Consensus on how to solve wildlife range problems is a top priority of the program.

Comment 170-14

The public needs to know where the wildlife must go when it can no longer tolerate the adverse conditions prevailing on the area of public domain to which the wildlife has been assigned. All of those considerations are valid to be addressed in any credible "ecosystem" approach to management. Clearly, as BLM uses "ecosystem" in the current plan, the term amounts to only a bureaucratic "buzz-word." If the revised plan continues to ignore the scientific meaning of an ecological system, the reader is justified in regarding the writer to be engaged in "eco-babble." In adopting a scientific approach to range management, BLM must be scrupulous in avoiding statements, proposals, and decisions that cannot be rationalized within the boundary of its state of knowledge.

Response

This comment will be considered in developing the final RMP. BLM is participating in the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program along with the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and private landowners. The purpose of this program is to address problems of big game on private land, particularly fence damage and consumption of range forage by big game on private land. The definition of ecosystem management used by BLM is: "Ecosystem management is the integration of ecological, economic, and social principles to manage biological systems in a manner that safeguards long-term ecological sustainability. In other

words, it is simply a process of people and science working together to restore land health and sustain human welfare."

Comment 170-15

Alternative B and, too often Alternative D, proposes large undefined areas designated to a specific plant or creature's dominate use until integrated activity plans, desired plant communities, and riparian areas are identified, and habitat management plans can be worked out. One needs to examine but the single footnote to Table 3-5 to get a sense of the tedious effort BLM envisions as required to manage a relatively insignificant component of the system as a whole. Yet BLM proposed to eliminate livestock (not wildlife) grazing on numerous parcels of "riparian habitat" scattered throughout the planning area comprising but a total of 325 acres which BLM expects to find in "poor condition" once the parcels are identified.

Response

Since a riparian inventory has not been completed, an estimate was made of how much riparian area was in poor condition. Of the riparian areas in poor condition, it was estimated that elimination of livestock grazing on half would be the only reasonable way to improve the area. The management of each riparian area will be approached on a case-by-case basis, and if livestock grazing can be managed to improve the riparian area, then there will be no need to eliminate grazing.

Comment 170-19

The plan simply neglects acknowledgement of full understanding that the dependence of the success of the plan relies on the water and superior forage developed on adjacent land by its industrious neighbors, thus permitting environmental zealots to perpetuate the myth that BLM is subsidizing local rangers. We believe BLM, in the revision of its plan, is in a position to quiet the zealots' shrill cry for "the Public Domain to be cattle-free by '93" as adverse to the public interest. BLM, in the revision, needs to set the neighboring rancher in the proper perspective as a vital element in maintaining the abundance of wildlife presently found on the public domain.

Response

BLM understands the importance of private agricultural and range land to wildlife; this is stated in Chapter 2 of the plan.

Comment 171-1

If the RMP is to be implemented, the draft would have to be revised to properly address the impact on bordering ranchers.

Response

Impacts to ranchers bordering BLM-administered land will be addressed in the integrated activity plans that will be developed by eco-subregion.

Comment 171-4

Table S-1 - Livestock grazing does not state where acreage is.

Response

Table S-1 is a summary comparison of the alternatives. Specific locations of the acreage of grazing allocation is in Table 304, page 3-12 of the draft RMP.

Comment 171-17

Pg. 4-5 - 3,000 acres and 150 AUMs lost to historical and recreation uses; seems like too much land taken out of grazing.

Response

The 3,000-acre figure represents the acres of historical sites eligible for the national register and the acreage of recreation sites. Only the historic sites and recreation sites with conflicts from livestock grazing will need to be fenced to exclude grazing.

Comment 171-20

Table 4-2 (page 4-5) Impact conclusions unclear.

Response

Irreversible and irretrievable mean something would be lost forever and could not be regained. None of the impacts to livestock grazing will be irreversible or irretrievable.

Comment 171-22

What is the cost factor of the IAPs and are we, as permittees, going to be penalized with high fees because of these?

Response

There is no authority presently, nor is any planned in the proposed *Rangeland Reform '94*, for BLM to collect higher grazing fees based on BLM cost to manage a particular grazing allotment.

Comments 171-23 and 171-24

The state should pay for wildlife AUMs used on public land since 20,000 AUMs have been removed from livestock use.

Response

There is no authority for BLM to charge Colorado Division of Wildlife grazing fees for wildlife use on BLM-administered lands. The 20,000 AUMs of wildlife grazing were not cut from livestock grazing in this RMP nor in the 1980 Grazing EIS. These AUMs of wildlife grazing have been the existing situation for a long time.

Comment 171-25

Who are the operators being adversely affected mentioned in Table 4-2 on page 4-6?

Response

Based on the amount of riparian habitat in poor condition, BLM estimates three operators will be affected. Which operators will be affected depends on the proposals in each IAP that will be developed for each eco-subregion.

Comment 171-26

Where are the 2,728 acres being protected that are addressed in Table 4-13, page 4-32?

Response

This land is in the Oil Well Flats Allotment. Grazing restrictions are already in the plan that protect the paleontological resources. It may be necessary to develop more restrictions than are currently present.

Comment 173-2

BLM should change its approach of leaving all areas open to livestock grazing and mineral leasing and location (and other forms of resource development and extraction) unless an overriding resource value requires protection. BLM should manage primarily for biodiversity and ecosystem protection, and the resources would be utilized or extracted where they would not interfere with that primary goal.

Response

Current regulations require multiple use of BLM-administered land including resource development and extraction. As BLM implements an ecosystem approach to land management, changes in land uses will be made to substantially preserve ecosystems.

Comment 173-38

Much of the range in the area in 1991 was not in good condition and much was declining; therefore, we question whether grazing should be allowed at all on an allotment until a detailed inventory and plan is done.

Response

Grazing cannot be eliminated from BLM-administered land unless there is data to support the decision. BLM prioritizes allotments to inventory and where problems are obvious, data is collected to make decisions. Also refer to response for Comment 103-6 for more information.

Comment 173-39

Language in Appendix E is so broad as not to be helpful. For example, "Adjustments in grazing use would be made by allotment on a case-by-case basis." This does not disclose to the public what is being proposed for its land.

Response

The 1980 Royal Gorge Grazing EIS discussed in great detail and disclosed the impacts of grazing. The decisions from that EIS have been adopted into this RMP. Impacts from grazing on an allotment-by-allotment basis are in each allotment management plan, and grazing impacts will be discussed further when interdisciplinary activity plans are developed.

Comment 175-8

Conservation Alternative seems to allow excessive grazing.

Response

The conservation alternative allows the minimum amount of grazing that could still be considered multiple use management.

Comment 177-3

The correlation of use of the resource needs to justify the limiting or reducing domestic livestock AUMs at 28,000-30,000 does not square with the wildlife AUMs being allowed to increase exponentially since 1978

Response

Livestock use on BLM-administered land is currently in the 28,000 to 30,000 AUM range. This is the existing situation and not a proposal for change. The increase in wildlife numbers and problems that have occurred will be addressed through the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program.

Comment 188-8

There are AMPs for 69 of the 454 allotments (page 2-32). The remaining allotments are classified as "custodial" and are apparently not scheduled for management plans

Response

Under the Preferred Alternative, 87 allotments will be managed under an AMP or IAP, and 357 will be managed on a custodial basis (see Table 3-4 of the draft RMP).

Also see responses to Comments 188-10 and 188-11 and paragraph 4 and 5 on page 3-11 of the draft RMP.

Comment 188-9

Document has very little discussion of range condition and trend. The "maintain" (M) and "improve" (I) categories are somewhat helpful to the reader as a description of how the allotment is responding to recent grazing practices, but the definition for the "custodial" (C) category (p. 2-31), which includes the great majority of allotments within the RGRA, does not lend itself to range condition interpretation.

Response

Range conditions and trend are discussed in the vegetation section. Management categories; i.e., "M," "I," and "C" are not meant to be a substitute for condition and trend data. Refer to page 3-11 of the draft for definitions of different categories and response to Comment 103-6 for more information.

Comment 188-10

Since allotments are placed within Category C because they "either do not lend themselves to intensive management or lack the potential to improve under current economic conditions," they apparently receive less attention and would, therefore, seem more susceptible to delayed discovery of adverse effects than Categories M and I.

Response

The categorization process sets priorities for management by identifying conflicts and obvious resource problems

without doing a range inventory. If issues arise on a "C" category allotment, it will be changed to an "I" category.

Comment 188-11

Only 12 of the 454 allotments are placed within Category M. Since this is the only category defined to have "no major resource use conflicts", it would seem the RMP should contain a more thorough description of a program that improves, protects, and monitors the resource.

Response

"M" category allotments are not the only ones without major resource conflicts. Most "C" category allotments do not have major resource use conflicts either. Management plans are not developed on "C" category allotments if there are no major conflicts or if the allotment consists of scattered land ownership patterns. Management opportunities are very limited on allotments with scattered landownership patterns. Generally these lands will be available for exchange or disposal. "I" category allotments with conflicts have a management plan to correct the problems. After the management plan is implemented and the conflicts are eliminated, the "I" category allotment becomes an "M" category allotment.

Comment 196-4

Strongly believe that range conditions must improve substantially and quickly in the RGRA and the west. The mediocre range conditions and apparent trend, as on page 2-29, are unacceptable. We recommend Alternative B for this reason, but with even more Improve category allotments and more fiscal resources directed to range improvement.

Response

Range condition and trend data have been updated since the draft RMP was written. The reason for updating the condition data was to restate the condition in terms of ecological condition instead of forage condition. Trend was updated to replace apparent trend data on allotments with monitoring studies. The new figures are as follows:

CONDITION IN ACRES						
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unclassified		
347	195,493	148,753	169,514	153,956		
TREND IN ACRES						
Apparent		Monitored		Undetermined		
Upward	Static	Downward	Upward	Static	Downward	
1,749	143,428	29,735	122,009	73,400	101,194	196,548

Riparian Area Management

Comment 6-15

The draft does an excellent job of documenting damage caused to riparian areas by livestock grazing, off-road vehicles, mining, and recreation. How are these data applied to correcting the problems? This draft should call for the expansion of the riparian demonstration areas to cover all riparian zones in the RA. Also 13% of the grazing allotment management plans currently have specific riparian objectives; this should be 100%.

Response

Riparian areas in poor condition with a downward trend will become a high priority for changes in management and/or protection from damaging uses. The riparian demonstration areas were designed to showcase the benefits of good riparian management to ranchers, environmentalists, and the general public. Also, the demonstration areas were used as experimental areas. The grazing techniques developed in the demonstration areas will be used to improve other areas, but BLM probably will not develop many more demonstration areas. Not all the allotments with management plans have riparian areas, so riparian objectives will not be written for all of them. BLM will change management on riparian areas so the goal of 75 percent of riparian areas in functioning condition is met.

Comment 141-2

The Preferred Alternative is little more than a half measure, failing to recognize the habitat value of intermittent stream flows and allowing livestock damage where watering points would be sufficient to allow dispersed grazing of adjacent lands.

Response

Intermittent riparian areas will be managed to meet the objective of having 75 percent or more in functioning condition. Some impacts to riparian areas will occur as long as they are used by livestock as watering points; however, these impacts do not necessarily prevent the riparian area from being functional.

Comment 141-3

Page 4-7 states that some BLM riparian areas would remain "nonfunctional" due to upstream watershed conditions on lands not under BLM control. Removing livestock from riparian areas (both onsite and upstream) on my own lands did improve the condition substantially as sedges, grasses, and an assortment of woody plants trapped sediment,

reducing sheet-type erosion and storing water for improved stream flow around springs. Similar results can be expected on at least some of the BLM riparian areas with watershed problems upstream.

Response

BLM agrees with the statement except that removing livestock from the riparian areas is not the only method of improvement. Refer to response to Comment 171-3. Demonstration areas in the Royal Gorge Resource Area have shown that riparian areas can be improved with certain types of livestock grazing.

Comment 170-16

Suppose, once livestock are excluded, BLM monitors the parcels to find them to continue in poor condition; that in fact, some hungry wildlife creature ate the esteemed "wetland" vegetation. In that event, the public deserves to know how much additional of its money BLM is obliged to waste to preserve, or enhance, such inconsequential occurrences of "wetlands" under the "ecosystem" scenario.

Response

BLM will only exclude livestock from riparian areas where the livestock are causing the poor condition and changing to another grazing method is not feasible. BLM program activity costs are available for public review.

Comments 171-3 and H2-3-4

Table 3-5 proposes that BLM will eliminate livestock from numerous parcels of riparian areas scattered throughout the planning area. BLM expects to identify 325 acres in poor condition once the parcels are identified. The fact is livestock do enhance the riparian areas through distribution and compaction of seeds. If livestock numbers were reduced or eliminated, these areas would deteriorate.

Response

BLM estimates that 650 acres of riparian areas in the resource area are in poor condition. BLM also estimates that 325 acres, or half of the total, cannot be improved as long as any type of livestock grazing occurs. This could be due to factors such as the small size or location of the area (i.e., deep canyon) that cause livestock to concentrate on the streambanks. The 325 acres to be eliminated is just an estimate. If it is possible to improve all 650 acres of riparian areas in poor condition through other changes in management, there will be no need to eliminate grazing. Livestock grazing can be adjusted to allow a riparian area to recover, or in some cases livestock grazing can be used to improve the area.

Comment 171-5

Table S-1 - Riparian - where does acreage come from.

Response

Table S-1 is a summary comparison of the alternatives. More specific information is in Table 3-5, page 3-14 of the draft RMP. In the Preferred Alternative, grazing will be eliminated from an estimated 325 acres of riparian habitat. These acres represent one-half of riparian habitat in poor condition. BLM believes elimination of about one-half of the riparian in poor condition is the only practical way to improve conditions. Specific areas have not been identified and will not be until integrated activity plans are developed.

Comment 171-11

On page 2-34, wildlife grazing use should be added to list of activities damaging riparian areas. Object to livestock grazing use being portrayed as causing "the most extensive damage." Believe that the combination of other uses such as roads, OHV, mineral activities, and recreation causes more damage than improper livestock grazing. Use the phrase "improper livestock grazing" in place of "livestock grazing."

Response

Thank you for your comments. These will be incorporated into Chapter 1, Table 1-1, of the proposed RMP as the following changes: Page 2-34 - Change "livestock grazing" to "improper livestock grazing"; add "wildlife forage use" to list of activities that cause disturbance. Change from livestock grazing causing the most extensive damage to "Livestock grazing is the most extensive use of riparian areas." A statement regarding cause of most damage will be not be used because it would be subjective.

Comment 171-12

Report on benefits of livestock grazing in riparian areas (page 2-34)

Response

Successful riparian management with livestock grazing is discussed on page 2-35 of the draft RMP.

Comment 175-9

DOW recommends the Conservation Alternative, though it too may need further refining. There is no explanation why some riparian habitat will be protected from grazing or mineral uses and other riparian habitat not protected.

DOW is doubtful whether BLM can justify protecting some riparian habitat, but not all.

Response

In the Conservation Alternative, both perennial and intermittent riparian areas (2,465 acres) would be protected from mineral development, waterpower/reservoir sites, and OHV use. Livestock grazing would be eliminated from all riparian areas in poor condition (650 acres). In the Preferred Alternative, only perennial riparian areas (1,720 acres) would be protected from mineral development, waterpower/reservoir sites, and OHV use. Grazing would be eliminated from approximately 325 acres of riparian areas in poor condition, and intensive grazing management would be implemented on the other 325 acres of riparian acres in poor condition. (Please note acres have been updated since the draft was published.)

In both alternatives, the goal of having 75 percent of riparian areas in properly functioning condition will be achieved. The Conservation Alternative would emphasize riparian improvement through protection, and the Preferred Alternative would emphasize riparian improvement through improved management of existing uses.

Comment 175-12

It is unclear what is meant by "protecting" riparian habitat associated with grazing; therefore, difficult to say whether 1 percent, versus 26 percent, versus 0 percent, versus 13 percent is an appropriate management goal for riparian acres protected from grazing.

Response

Protection of riparian areas, as shown in Table S-1, page S-1, means elimination of livestock grazing. Regardless of what percentage is protected from livestock grazing, each alternative will achieve the goal of 75 percent of riparian areas in properly functioning condition.

Comment 175-13

It may be best to preclude grazing in riparian areas where specific grazing constraints as to time, duration, etc., are not in place--or where these constraints cannot be practically monitored and enforced.

Response

This recommendation is the the same as the Preferred Alternative, but BLM believes that elimination of grazing would take place on a relatively small area, about 325 acres.

Comment 175-14

No grazing should be allowed in riparian areas that are not in good or excellent condition. Perhaps the best approach to managing riparian areas would be to give them ACEC status requiring an IAP to justify any potentially damaging use.

Response

The larger riparian areas with conflicts; i.e., Grape Creek, will have ACEC status in the Preferred Alternative. Most other significant riparian areas will fall into areas on which an IAP would be developed; i.e., Badger Creek. Also refer to response for Comment 103-6 under Livestock Grazing.

Comment 188-1

Document did not specifically address the existence of waters of the U.S., including wetlands, within the analysis area nor did it discuss possible effects to them.

Response

No attempt was made to separate the waters of the U.S. from the waters of the state. BLM must comply with both Federal and state regulations concerning water quality and wetland management; therefore, separate discussions were not presented in the draft RMP.

Comment 188-2

The riparian section (Table 2-6, p. 2-34) indicates that the criteria for measuring riparian condition and trend is "... at least 1 mile of stream length and contains a fishery." While this criteria meets some specific needs, it is not helpful in determining consistency of programs and projects designed to implement the RMP with the *Clean Water Act*. As a minimum, the final EIS must provide a definition of wetlands which is consistent with the *Clean Water Act* and indicate the difference/similarity of the wetlands and riparian areas. Wetlands, which receive the protection afforded by Executive Order 11990, often occur in locations other than riparian areas.

Response

Table 2-6 in the draft RMP was designed to give the reader an overview of the condition and trend of the larger riparian areas in the planning area. A complete list of known riparian areas and wetlands in the planning area is in Appendix F.

The following definition of wetlands has been received since the draft was published and will be shown as a change to the draft RMP in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 of this document:

"Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas."

Comment 188-3

Neither the narrative nor Table 2-16 provides any indication of how much riparian area in terms of acreage is located in the 10 AMPs with riparian objectives. Table 2-16 should include acreage information to provide the basis for comparison of the potential effects of grazing among alternatives considered.

Response

This comment will be incorporated into the proposed plan as a change in Chapter 1, Table 1-1. An estimate of acreage affected will be shown.

Comment 188-4

The alternatives discussion (page 3-14) indicates that "minimum legislative requirements would be met" for all alternatives, but does not list what they are, whether there is a difference between minimum and maximum or what that difference would be.

Response

"... minimum legislative requirements would be met" means that in each alternative BLM will comply with laws and regulations relating to management of resources and values on BLM-administered land. In this case, management will comply with the *Clean Water Act*.

Comment 188-5

Concerned that the preferred alternative removes grazing from only half of the riparian acreage identified to be in poor condition. The document does not disclose whether, if, or how this will achieve the "... policy goal of 75 percent in a properly functioning condition by 1997." It does not mention whether the remaining 25 percent will be allowed to remain in less than properly functioning condition or will be dealt with at a later date.

Response

BLM believes about half of the acres in poor condition cannot be improved with livestock grazing of any kind because of limitations such as size or location of the riparian area within an allotment. BLM predicts that the other half

of the poor condition riparian areas can be improved to the functioning level with better grazing systems instead of eliminating grazing. The only riparian areas that will remain in a nonfunctioning condition are those with large upstream watersheds in poor condition on private land where BLM has no opportunity to make management changes.

Comment 188-6

Did not find any discussion or rationale for protecting only half of the riparian area or how the anticipated loss of 50 percent (1,275 acres) of the riparian would lead to the conclusion that "About 75 percent of the riparian would likely be improved to a properly 'functioning condition'." (pages 4-7, 4-8).

Response

Approximately one-half of the riparian areas are associated with perennial streams with fisheries. The other 50 percent of riparian areas are intermittent without fisheries. Although these areas are open to mineral development, only a small percentage is expected to be disturbed. Also refer to response for Comment 188-5.

Comment 188-7

Although the document cites increased protection under the preferred alternative, it does not disclose differences in funding from the no action alternative. The document cites increased resource protection under the preferred alternative, but does not support the citation with standards, guidelines, or specific actions designed to accomplish it.

Response

Under the Preferred Alternative, grazing allotments with riparian problems will be a high priority for change through plan development or revision. BLM riparian policy is a standard of 75 percent of riparian areas in functioning condition. This will be accomplished through changes in season of grazing use, duration of use, and numbers of livestock. Other uses such as OHV use and road construction could also be restricted or eliminated. Decisions on these uses will be made when interdisciplinary activity plans for geographic areas are developed.

Comment 196-5

Recommend Alternative B. Particular attention to poor riparian conditions along Grape Creek are required soon.

Response

Grape Creek is a high priority for improved riparian management. Recently two drift fences were constructed to control

intensive and duration of grazing in the riparian area, and compliance checks have been increased to five per year. The area is also scheduled for the development of a interdisciplinary activity plan.

Comment H3-1-2

Riparian conditions in the district are not as we would like to see them. Believes substantial increase in riparian quality and in the water quality associated with riparian habitats is definitely needed.

Response

All riparian areas in the nonfunctioning or functioning at risk category will be a high priority for improvement. Also refer to response for Comment 171-3.

Forest and Woodland Management

Comment 12-7

Logging should be limited to small scale selective cutting, leaving buffer zones along streams and using only a limited number of roads in order to protect watershed.

Response

BLM cutting, with two exceptions, is on a very small scale. (Only twice since 1978 has any logging sale exceeded 500 MBF with few "sales" exceeding even 200 MBF).

BLM does not preclude selective harvest (an uneven-age management silvicultural practice), but does plan to implement on a long rotation, even-age management. This long rotation in the case of Engelmann spruce, Douglas-fir, the true firs, and ponderosa pine will be about 190 years. Pure implementation of selective logging tends to favor only those species of trees tolerant of shade (spruce, true firs, Douglas-fir) and precludes those species nontolerant of shade such as ponderosa pine. In a balanced forest ecosystem, it should be better to have all local species, capable of reproducing on the site present.

Watershed protection is paramount in any site-specific environmental assessment. Allowing streamside buffer strips and limiting the number of roads certainly are two of many opportunities for watershed protection. These are usually included as part of the initial project design.

Comment 196-6

Recommend Alternative B because we are aware of past timber production practices destructive to wildlife habitat in the Upper Arkansas portions of the RGRA.

Response

BLM understands your concern that past timber practices have been destructive to wildlife habitat especially in the Upper Arkansas; at the same time there were concerns that additional harvesting was needed to enhance wildlife habitat. From a historical perspective both views may have merit.

The resource area is committed to future extended rotation on commercial forest lands and operable woodlands. This, plus managing forested lands allocated for resource values other than planned timber harvest to maintain and/or establish old growth forests, should accommodate most concerns, including those you expressed. Future timber harvesting will be addressed within integrated activity plans using ecosystem methods.

Wildlife Habitat/Fishery Habitat Management

Comment 8-1

Cattle grazing/wildlife habitat relationship is of concern. Cattle can be contained, but wildlife tend to drift onto adjoining property and damage does occur. Please consider your neighbors as you move into implementation of your plans! Improved hunting access in our area would be needed.

Response

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is responsible for wildlife numbers whereas BLM manages habitat. You need to provide input to the DOW about your concerns with excessive populations and damage to your private lands. The Colorado Habitat Partnership Program, which was recently implemented in the Howard area, is designed to deal with the types of concerns you have raised. Access to BLM-administered lands is critical to achieve proper harvest of game animals, which results in fewer damage problems. BLM is constantly searching for opportunities to improve access and will work towards that goal throughout the planning area.

Comment 11-4

Leasing, mining, and ORV use should be excluded on ecologically sensitive and/or aesthetically important areas like riparian corridors and big game calving or winter range.

Response

Chapter 4 in the plan outlines restrictions to protect sensitive areas such as riparian corridors and critical big game ranges. These restrictions are shown in the appropriate sections such as Fluid Minerals Management, Locatable

Minerals Management, and Off-Highway Vehicle Management.

Comment 123-2

Supports Beaver Creek WSA as an ACEC based on terrain, water quality, wilderness experience, relatively undisturbed riparian habitat, and nesting and wintering area for the Mexican spotted owl and other raptors.

Response

Beaver Creek has been nominated as an ACEC for the reasons listed above, and BLM believes it is a perfect example of what an ACEC should be.

Comments 162-2, 162-3, 174-4, 208-2, and 208-3

We support BLM wildlife habitat management efforts in the RGPA, however, we are concerned that multiple use activities such as oil and gas exploration and development are being penalized through the expanded use of restrictive stipulations designed to provide added protection of wildlife and its expanding habitat.

Response

Data on wildlife resources BLM manages improves and changes daily. New information becomes available from inventory work completed by BLM and Colorado Division of Wildlife. As this information is gathered, it is necessary to incorporate it into land management decisions. This trend is likely to continue in the future. Restrictions on oil and gas activities are only implemented when necessary. The public demands that BLM recognize all species of wildlife on BLM-administered lands and that management is for long-term viability.

Comments 162-4, 162-3, 174-4, and 208-3

Recommend BLM analyze the adaptability of deer and elk to human activity to verify whether such activities would even have a negative impact.

Response

The literature available on human impacts to wildlife is extensive and many research projects have focused on big game species. In order to save space, these references were not cited in the RMP. There are cases where wildlife will adapt to the presence of humans, and this does happen. The more important issue is the destruction of habitat that occurs when humans encroach in wildland areas. This habitat is often destroyed for many years, and, although can be small

(i.e., 2-acre drill sites), the additive effect of many small sites can impact habitat significantly.

Comment 170-17

Setting aside large areas as maternity wards for wildlife simply strains the public's credulity to accept. BLM is obliged to credibly justify to the public that occasional traffic on a ROW, an oil rig occupying a couple of acres of ground, or an occasional cow traipsing through the area designated for birthing would disrupt the nativity process one whit. Apparently, the paternalistic wildlife manager underestimates the ability of the new mother to adapt and cope with distractions. She certainly has more to fear from a hungry predator discovering the maternity ward to which she has been assigned than any disruption she might encounter from economic activities BLM proposes to control.

Response

The RMP outlines certain areas where some activities are restricted to protect birthing areas for wildlife. The only species for which these restrictions are imposed are for those research has shown to be negatively affected by human activities. Unnecessary restrictions to traditional uses of the public land are not part of the RMP.

Comment 170-20

Anyone who reads a paper along the front range must be aware that public lands are now overloaded with wildlife. Bighorn sheep and deer present themselves as costly nuisance as they destroy expensive landscaping in the Shadow Hills suburb of Colorado Springs.

Response

Population levels for some big game species of wildlife are high. The Colorado Division of Wildlife is charged with managing these levels through hunting seasons. As very little hunting occurs in and around subdivisions, animals often can present problems in these areas. Also, as more and more homes are built in outlying areas and big game habitat is destroyed, more animals are displaced into more populated areas. This does not mean that the "wildland" areas of the state are overpopulated, only that a distribution problem exists. Wildlife have a tendency to occupy those areas where they feel safe, and this gives the appearance that we are "overloaded" but in fact we are not.

Comment 170-21

What has not been bugled by the press are the thousands of deer and elk that must tear up ranchers' fences, destroy hay stacks, steal hay doled out for cattle and ravage meadows

late into spring. Those are the impacts of overloading the public domain that both BLM and DOW are obliged to communicate to the public in BLM's proposed "ecosystem" plan. As well, the public deserves to know the disparity between actual damage and the value that DOW is willing to pay. Clearly, BLM's rancher neighbors are essential players in the RMP under the "ecosystem" of management proposed. They should be so acknowledged and their contribution so assessed.

Response

Management of vegetation through the use of animals, both domestic stock and native wildlife, will be the challenge of ecosystem management. BLM recognizes both these uses as legitimate and they have been so acknowledged in the RMP.

Comment 170-24

Although BLM does admit that a drilling rig might command as much as an acre or two of ground, it fails to acknowledge that the mineral deposit target is fixed. There is no evidence presented that a wildlife mother would be disrupted in the birthing process within a couple of hundred feet from an operating drill. Nor, would the presence of man on a minute area of "winter habitat" likely deter hungry wildlife from grazing right up to the drill.

Response

Many structured studies have shown that wildlife species can be affected by human activities occurring in birthing areas. Space limitations prevented citing these studies in the RMP.

Comment 170-37

The cost of wildlife consumption of harvested labor-intensive forage, not available for wildlife to survive on public lands, is the number we are asking BLM to develop and to communicate to the public as the minimum cost burden the private sector shoulders to subsidize government agency indiscretions such as BLM and DOW agreeing to triple the population of elk within the RGRMP with no regard for the impact on the local economy.

Response

Nowhere does the RMP state the DOW and BLM have agreed to "triple" elk numbers in this area. In fact elk numbers are to be held at current levels and actually reduced in some areas.

Comment 171-9

Is there a correlation between increase of elk numbers and decrease in cattle numbers (Table 20, page 2-21).

Response

Some correlation probably does exist between the increase in elk numbers and the decrease in cattle numbers, but it is difficult to quantify because other factors such as subdivision of private property has also contributed to the reduction in cattle numbers. BLM has not reduced cattle grazing permits based on conflicts with elk, but some permittees have reported that they have used less than their full cattle numbers on their BLM grazing allotments because of competition between cattle and elk for forage.

Comments 171-10 and 171-13

Table 2-20 and 2-21 (pages 2-41 and 43). Need another column for wintering elk and deer population on private land. BLM should also estimate increased elk and deer numbers on private land in Preferred Alternative and address these impacts in Chapter 4.

Response

Since this is a BLM resource management plan, figures were not included for animals wintering on other lands. Estimates have not been made for private lands, state lands, or USFS lands because the BLM has no management authority on these lands. This is not to say that BLM does not consider the impacts to other lands by these animals, but rather that land management decisions on private lands are not influenced by BLM.

BLM will address impacts such as increases in elk population on private land in the integrated activity plans, if an action in these plans causes the increase.

Comment 171-18

Table 4-2 (page 4-5). Need clarification of wildlife habitat, Alternative D, on loss of 500 AUMs.

Response

This is an estimate of the amount of AUMs on BLM-administered land that could be lost to domestic livestock grazing if livestock/big game conflicts on critical big game habitat are resolved. These areas are not known at this time, but will be identified through the Colorado Habitat partnership Program, of which BLM is a participant.

Comment 173-20

Information for making mineral development decisions is outdated. Based on conversations with CDOW officials, we believe this plan was compiled and recommended resource

allocation decisions were made using 1988 DOW wildlife data.

Response

When BLM began this planning effort, the 1988 data from the DOW was the most recent available. As the information was reviewed for use in this document, changes were made to reflect new information and updates. BLM reviews mineral development proposals as they are received, and decisions are made based on the most recent data and information available.

Comment 173-25

Page 3-23 states that timing stipulations will be placed on leases from 2/1-7/32. No radius for the restricted areas is given. We do not understand this. Request at a minimum no leasing occur with a 2.4 km (approx. 1.5 mile) radius of lesser prairie chicken leks.

Response

Timing stipulation dates of 2/1-7/31 relate only to Mexican spotted owl habitat. Specific information concerning how this habitat is identified is contained under the stipulation in Appendix B.

Page 3-23, under the Preferred Alternative at the top of the page, shows that a one-fourth mile buffer (radius) is required around all lesser prairie chicken leks. This is a no surface occupancy stipulation, which prevents any surface disturbance within this buffer area. The *Colorado Oil and Gas Development EIS* prepared by BLM in January of 1991 standardized restrictions statewide for all wildlife species, and a one-fourth mile buffer was accepted as the standard for the grouse species that gather on leks in the spring.

Comment 173-26

Lesser prairie chicken leks should be withdrawn from mining as well as for disposal of mineral materials, because of concern about habitat fragmentation, activity from roads and maintenance, and destruction or encroachment on production areas.

Response

The primary threat to these birds is from fluid mineral exploration activities. Lesser prairie chicken habitat on 10,500 acres is seasonally protected from these activities from March 1 through July 31 as detailed in Table 3-10, page 3-20 and Table 3-11, page 3-23 of the draft RMP.

The same restrictions apply to locatable minerals (see Table 3-12, page 3-26) and mineral materials (see Table 3-13, page 3-28) although there is little potential for mineral material sales and almost no potential for locatable minerals activity in these areas.

Comment 173-28

There is little discussion in the plan about predators and furbearers. There is no discussion of predator control. These should be addressed.

Response

BLM recognizes predators and furbearers are important components of the ecosystem. Good wildlife management practices for the other categories discussed in the plan (deer, elk, pronghorn, small game, etc.) in almost all cases benefit these species also. With this in mind, BLM believes it unnecessary to include a separate section for furbearers and predators. There has been no Federal animal damage control activity on BLM-administered lands within the planning area for the past 10 years and none is planned in the future. This lack of activity is the reason it was not addressed in the plan.

Comment 175-3

Was vegetation and wildlife species mapping as referenced or suggested in tables, e.g. Table 3-3 Vegetation Mapping, actually used? If so, these maps should be included as part of the EIS.

Response

Forage allocation use is not mapped in the RMP. Table 3-3, Vegetation, in the draft RMP describes how vegetation would be managed within each of the four alternatives in the plan. Reference to the "new forage" is the potential increase in forage based on applied management to the lands and other resources. New forage will be distributed to either livestock or wildlife based on a site-specific analysis. BLM believes that a DOW habitat partnership plan process is the preferred method to solve any conflicts if and when they arise.

Comment 175-4

Interaction with key S.E. Region staff throughout the development of this document would have been helpful, not only to ensure input of the latest data, but to keep DOW apprised of major shifts in management philosophies or decisions; e.g., the dropping of Big Game Winter Range as an ACEC. DOW believes that appropriate adjustments could have been; e.g., transfer of new data, and refinement of ACECs to encompass severe winter range versus overall winter range. Such adjustments would probably have resulted in a different BLM management decision.

Response:

DOW staff was consulted throughout the planning process so good data could be used for this plan. Although the data supplied by the DOW was outdated in some cases, BLM wildlife biologists reviewed the data and made changes and updates where necessary. At the time of printing, the most recent information was included in the plan. Dropping Big Game Winter Ranges as an ACEC was a management decision based on the difficulty of managing an ACEC for a mobile, changing resource such as a big game species. BLM believes that adequate protection of this resource could be accomplished by other means.

Comments 175-6, 175-7, 175-21, 175-27, 175-30, and 175-35

DOW believes the resource/values managed by BLM will best be served by emphasizing the Resource Conservation Alternative rather than the Preferred Alternative. Under the Conservation Alternative, thousands of acres (riparian habitat and others) will be better protected or managed with emphasis on fisheries, wildlife, and habitat.

Response

BLM is a multiple-use agency charged with the responsibility of managing many resources and the various uses by the public. There is no question the Conservation Alternative would protect fish and wildlife habitat better than the other alternatives; however, the other resources BLM manages must be considered, and the protection and uses of those resources must be balanced. BLM believes the Preferred Alternative does a good job of providing for protection of fish and wildlife habitat.

Comment 175-10

One area of particular concern to DOW is the failure of BLM to address an action affecting the brown trout fishery in the Arkansas River. Research data collected over a period of 12 years indicates that augmentation to 700 cfs is very detrimental to brown trout growth and will cause a reduction in physical habitat.

Response

BLM introduces the Arkansas Water Needs Assessment on page 2-16 of the draft RMP. Findings from this assessment will be used in conjunction with, and to substantiate, findings of the Division of Wildlife. BLM believes the DOW findings are qualified with respect to the Wellsville station. Caution, however, must be used when extrapolating flow management recommendations for 130 miles of river based on findings of only one site. This is especially true when IFIM

technology necessitates breaking river reaches out based on changes in geomorphology, flows, slope, and channel type. In addition, there may be confounding water quality parameters that should be addressed in the assessment. Water quality certainly could enter into future flow manipulation equations. BLM is concerned also with respect to significance of the findings; terminology has gone from "...appears to negatively impact trout growth..." in past reporting to now stating in the comment letter that it is "very detrimental to brown trout." This leads BLM to believe further information is needed for a unified understanding among all parties involved in river management.

Comment 175-11

BLM has recommended to BOR that flows be augmented from July 1 to August 15 to 700 cfs. This recommendation is in contradiction to the AHRA plan and EA which states "Where flexibility in manipulating flows does exist, recognize biological requirements as the primary consideration; i.e., maintain requirements for fisheries and natural ecosystems first."

Response

This "flexibility" statement was added to the river management plan by its Decision Record and became part of the Coordination Requirements with BOR. This statement ensures that first consideration is given to biological values in making recommendations on flow augmentation. Application of numerous other plan directives are required in order to balance our management of all the issues identified in the plan. BLM must take positions that reflect the obligation to manage BLM-administered lands for multiple use based on plan guidance and sound available data.

Comment 175-22

DOW does not know to what extent BLM acreage identified is accurate or adequately inclusive since no maps at a usable scale have been provided for analysis.

Response

The acreage figures are those derived from GIS compilation process using data maps developed from digitized DOW data maps. BLM realizes that the smaller scale page-sized maps lack details sufficient to provide close analysis. Also refer to response for Comment 173-1 under Miscellaneous for more details on this issue. Large scale maps depicting this data are in this document.

Comments 175-24 and 175-25

DOW believes BLM should have requested the latest data from DOW as it is certainly available. DOW recommends that BLM consult with DOW to make this change and to include known migration corridors.

Response

BLM requested and received data from DOW when the planning effort began. This data was digitized for use in the GIS used for the draft RMP. Check plots were produced and provided to the wildlife biologist who checked them for corrections and deletions and updated them as necessary. DOW field people were consulted when data was lacking. As a result, the most current information was used. Since wildlife populations are constantly moving and distribution changes constantly, it would be impossible to have current data always available. These data will be updated through the life of the plan, and specific decisions regarding wildlife will be carried forth even if distributions change.

Comment 175-26

Nongame species are not mentioned. Some consideration for the many species falling under this catch-all term might be afforded identification and protection via a vegetative analysis and management approach whereby key habitat types are identified and protected from degradation and fragmentation.

Response

In the Affected Environment writeup for Wildlife Habitat Management in the draft RMP (page 2-49) nongame species are addressed. There has been recent interest in neotropical migrants (birds that migrate to South America during the winter) within BLM, and our wildlife programs are reflecting this trend. In the dry climate typical of much of the BLM-administered lands in the planning area, riparian areas are critical for nongame species. The draft plan reflects this concern for riparian areas with protective stipulations designed to reach a goal of having 75 percent of the riparian areas in proper functioning condition by 1997 (page 3-14).

Comment 177-4

Should further study determine it is in the general public's best interest to give a larger proportion of the managed resource to the various species of wildlife then the segments of the public so benefited should underwrite the Bureau's cost of doing business and to that same extent should relieve the ranchers and farmers of the burden that these additional wildlife create for them.

Response

Public land management in the west is in a state of transition. The "greening" of the west is forcing land management agencies to recognize and manage resources such as recreation and wildlife on an equal level with more traditional uses such as livestock grazing, timber, and mining. BLM is adjusting to this change in many ways and it is reflected in the RMP.

Comment 177-5

Wildlife grazing on private lands needs to be charged at the cost of replacement forage for domestic livestock. Therefore, 4+ months winter pasture cost corresponds to 16 months grazing, or 2 years summer pasture at private commercial rates! Private landholders should not be expected to subsidize the public's penchant for liking to see wildlife.

Response

The RMP does not make any decisions regarding compensation for big game damage on private land; in fact, BLM has no authority to compensate for wildlife damage. Big game grazing damages on private land will be addressed through the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) of which BLM is a participant.

BLM is responsible for managing wildlife habitat to sustain the wildlife populations determined by the Colorado Division of Wildlife to be appropriate for an area. These numbers are determined when the DOW completes a DAU (data analysis unit) plan, which is formulated with input from many sources including the public. Private landowners need to make their concerns known at these meetings. Impacts to private lands from wildlife can be addressed in two ways: through the DOW game damage system and through the HPP. Both of these programs address and manage the concerns you have expressed.

Comment 196-7

Recommend Alternative B because Alternative-D has more potential for habitat and riparian area loss to fluid minerals development.

Response

Alternative B shows larger acreages where stipulations are in place to protect wildlife and riparian habitats. These figures include many areas where there is little potential for fluid minerals development. In Alternative D (Preferred Alternative), the areas identified for protection are only those areas with potential. BLM believes the areas in greatest need for protection are adequately covered in Alternative D.

Comments H1-1-1 and H1-1-2

Need some kind of habitat as connecting corridors to ensure long-term preservation of biodiversity; does not believe the Preferred Alternative fully accomplishes this.

Response

BLM has recognized, along with other Federal, state, and private organizations, the need to incorporate ecosystem management into resource management decisions. The RMP reflects this trend by focusing more on the nonconsumptive resources rather than the more traditional uses. Coordination with other resource management agencies and groups is vital to ensure that biodiversity is maintained. Resource management in the future will tend to cause agencies to erase boundary lines and work together on an ecosystem approach. Also see response to Comment 48-1 under Special Status Plant/Community Species/Special Status Animal Species Management.

Comment H1-1-5

Problems resulting from roads - effects on habitat (mortality from road kill), dispersal barriers to migrating species, amphibians, reptiles, small rodents, which can present serious obstacles and create inbreeding and other risks that contribute to species decline and eventual extinction.

Roads contribute to introduction of opportunistic plant and animal species (changes in the plant composition of interior habitat). There is human disturbance resulting from roads.

Conservation alternative recommends quite a few road closures and restrictions; the Preferred Alternative should incorporate more of this.

Response

Roads that cause disruptions to wildlife are uncommon in the planning area. The interstate highway system crosses BLM-administered lands in certain areas and may be hazardous to wildlife. No new roads of this type are planned in the area. The BLM road system on BLM-administered lands are lightly traveled and few in number because of the rough nature of the landscape. Road closures and restrictions that improve and/or maintain wildlife habitat are incorporated in the plan.

Comment H2-3-1

BLM should begin thinking about maximizing biodiversity in wildlife management throughout the lands they (BLM) manages.

Response

The current trend in the resource management field is to manage all resources using an ecosystem approach, which affords equal consideration towards all species rather than a single-species focus.

Comment H2-3-3

Alternative B seems to give the best treatment towards wildlife habitat management and also to special status plant and animal species management.

Response

Alternative B is the Conservation Alternative and as such treats wildlife habitat as a higher priority. Close examination of Alternative D, the Preferred Alternative, will show that it is similar in many ways to Alternative B and in fact affords better protection to wildlife than it is currently receiving.

**Special Status Plant/Community Species/
Special Status Animal Species Management**

Comment 6-14

Although the draft acknowledges existence of T&E species and claims to afford protection by preserving tiny islands of critical habitat, the underlying causes of these extinctions-in-the-making are allowed to continue, and even encouraged. Nowhere in the draft is a recovery plan mentioned.

Response

Any T&E species that occur in the planning area are afforded full protection under the *Endangered Species Act*. BLM is by law required to manage these species so as to not contribute to their decline or extinction. In no case is BLM encouraging extinctions-in-the-making.

The existence of recovery plans is mentioned several places in the draft plan: page 2-57 as it relates to the peregrine falcon and page 2-58 as it relates to piping plovers and least terns are examples. A bald eagle recovery plan has been completed, but was not mentioned, and BLM is in the process of cooperating with many agencies and individuals in formulating a plan for the Mexican spotted owl. Including these recovery plans in the planning document is not feasible, but they do exist and are followed closely.

Comment 6-21

We need to manage ecosystems, not species. The Mexican spotted owl is threatened because the environment that supports it (as well as us) is not being managed properly. Certain activities are inappropriate in certain places, and some areas require higher levels of protection. Beaver Creek WSA (in its entirety) is one of those areas.

Response

BLM is moving, as are many agencies, in the direction of ecosystem management and is beginning to change management to reflect these emerging concepts. The Mexican spotted owl is threatened in Colorado because Colorado is at the northern edge of its range. It never has been nor ever will be a common species in the state. It is not threatened because of improper management. Suitable habitat for the owls is not widespread in Colorado.

Comment 12-2

The Arkansas River riparian zone harbors a richness of wildlife unmatched by upland areas. Rare plant communities exist along the river and are only at the waters edge. It serves as a corridor for wildlife to migrate and find open range for forage. The current management plan needs a stronger emphasis on conservation biology to protect the habitat necessary for wildlife in this area.

Response

The Arkansas River flows through approximately 41 miles of BLM-administered lands and supports about 600 acres of riparian habitat along its length. Riparian habitat is limited along approximately 30 miles because of the rough, rocky canyon environment. Because of a highway, railroad, and a largely channelized river, conditions are not optimum for riparian habitat to increase significantly in the future. BLM does, however, recognize the importance of the limited amount of riparian habitat along the river and is very sensitive to disturbances in these areas. All activity plans, for wildlife, livestock management, or recreation, address riparian and have specific objectives to provide maximum protection to this important habitat. Integrated activity plans using ecosystem analysis will replace these single use plans and will also provide for protection for the significant values.

Comments 48-1, 24-1, 47-1, 69-3, 100-1, 103-1, 135-8, 138-3, 155-4, 158-1, 173-5, 173-27, 173-29, 175-5, 190-4, 217-1, and 263-1

Believes BLM has failed to recognize the need for protection of large blocks of land as core reserves, buffers, and

connecting corridors to allow for survival of sensitive species and a healthy, productive environment.

Response

The scattered land ownership pattern that BLM administers in the planning area makes many aspects of land management difficult. The Land Ownership Adjustment section of the draft plan identifies BLM plans for land exchange, acquisition, and sale. BLM does not plan to dispose of lands adjoining larger blocks of BLM-administered land. The plan clearly states BLM will block up BLM-administered lands to the extent possible for management of all resources, not just sensitive species. Disposal of habitat for species listed as T&E, by law, will not occur. In the geographic reference areas (eco-subregions) writeups in Appendix D of the draft RMP, there is a Management Issues and Concerns section for each eco-subregion describing general management objectives in the planning area. Management will provide for acquisitions of areas with sensitive species and enhancement of special status plant/animal species.

In the draft plan, Chapter 3, Vegetation, the Preferred Alternative states that vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives outlined in *Fish and Wildlife 2000*. One of the goals in *Fish and Wildlife 2000* is to "... ensure optimum populations and a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife resources on public lands. . . ." This may be an ambitious goal but gives BLM direction for ensuring long-term survival and viability of all wildlife populations.

Comment 124-11

Questions the assertions that the Mexican spotted owl, *Strix occidentalis lucida*, "has been confirmed in Beaver Creek: and that "occurrence in other areas is also very likely." According to the Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study, ed. Charles A. Chase III et al., 1982, the spotted owl does not occur in the vicinity at all and its occurrence elsewhere in Colorado is "accidental or straggler.: Copies of title page and pages v, vi, 2 and 31 are attached. See also Birds of Colorado, by Alfred M. Bailey, et al., 1965 (copy of title page and page 432 attached), which states that there are no definite nesting records for Colorado. References to the spotted owl in the EIS are improper, and should be removed. (L-9)

Response

In 1989, Mexican spotted owls were confirmed as nesting in the Wet Mountains south of Cañon City. Since similar habitat exists on BLM-administered lands in the Beaver Creek area, BLM began inventories in 1991 to determine the existence of the owl in this area. After 3 years of intensive inventory work, 10 individual owls have been documented in the Beaver Creek WSA, 4 of which are paired adults that

have been confirmed as nesting, producing two juvenile birds. Five other owls have been located outside the WSA boundaries. References to the spotted owl in the EIS are proper and will remain in the document.

Comment 175-15

In addition to those species listed in Table 2-29, the following species should be listed: western snowy plover, black tern, loggerhead shrike, Texas horned lizard, and Arkansas darter. Also add all Colorado designated big game. All of these species and their habitats should be given priority where conflicting management/use options come into play.

Response

At the time the Special Status Animal Species portion of the draft plan was written, these species were not included on any available Federal or state sensitive lists. BLM is aware of the occurrence of these species and is considering them in management decisions. BLM does not consider "all Colorado designated big game" as Special Status Species. Big game species are discussed under Wildlife Habitat Management beginning on page 2-39 of the draft RMP.

Comment 175-16

This plan states that only five of the special status animals are "... realistically affected by BLM management programs." DOW does not agree with this assessment, especially when considering the large number of acres controlled by the Federal government for leasing of mineral rights. The swift fox is an example of a specie not listed, but vulnerable depending on BLM management decisions.

Response

The distribution data available for use on the RMP was incomplete as it relates to swift fox distribution. The county distribution data used was not consistent across all the counties of eastern Colorado for some of the special status species. Rather than have "holes" in the data, only those species were included that BLM management could affect and for which good distribution data were available. Leasing of minerals is recognized as a potential threat to some species. These data will be included as they are available and will be considered when making decisions on the leasing of Federal minerals.

Comment 175-17

This plan also states that the lynx and wolverine have been "abolished from their ranges" in the resource area. DOW does not consider these species "abolished" in the extreme western portion of the resource area; e.g., Lake County.

Response

Thank you for your comment. Text has been changed to "Three species, black-footed ferret, gray wolf, and the grizzly bear, have disappeared from their ranges in the planning area. BLM and Colorado Division of Wildlife have no plans to reintroduce these species to their former ranges unless intensive inventories determine habitat suitability. The lynx and wolverine are extremely rare in the planning area, but may occur in the extreme western part of Lake County." This change is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 in this document.

Comment 175-18

Reference is also made to the transplant of lesser prairie chickens to "... suitable habitat east of Pueblo." It should be noted that transplant efforts have not been successful to date.

Response

Since these transplants did not occur on BLM-administered lands, they were not addressed in the draft RMP.

Comment 175-19

DOW believes that all lands within 1.5 miles of any identified lek should be withdrawn from all potentially damaging uses. This distance has been determined to be that which lesser prairie chickens will move from the lek to carry out nesting and brood rearing. BLM recommended management options are not adequate and will result in further habitat loss and fragmentation, not to mention interruption of breeding activities during "maintenance" practices related to oil and gas operations.

Response

BLM has restrictions built into the plan to regulate O&G activities that occur within lesser prairie chicken habitat. A no surface occupancy (NSO) restriction of one-quarter mile radius is placed around each lek, which means a company cannot disturb any habitat within this buffer during exploration or production activities. A seasonal limitation is also in place which means that no oil and gas activity is allowed in any habitat from 3/1 to 7/31 (breeding and nesting season). The latest information BLM has indicates that less than 15 percent of the existing active leks occur on Federal mineral estate. BLM has no control over the activities on the other 85 percent of the active leks. In addition, also keep in mind the lack of activity that occurs in this area on Federal mineral estate. BLM processes on the average one well per year with a total disturbance of less than 2 acres for all of Baca and Prowers counties.

Comment 175-20

The bald eagle, contrary to BLM information, nest in or near the resource area; e.g., Fremont County. Also, the lateral avoidance distance for bald eagles, similar to Mexican spotted owls, should be one-half mile; not one-fourth mile as recommended. One quarter mile is too insignificant to be meaningful for most disruptive activities.

Response

At the time this section of the plan was written, there were no bald eagles nesting in the resource area. BLM is aware of the active nest north of Cañon City that was discovered in 1993. This particular nest is on private land. The plan recommends a one-quarter mile buffer around active raptor nests. In most cases this is adequate protection for small raptors, however, this restriction was not intended to include bald eagles because there are no bald eagles nesting on BLM-administered lands. If and when bald eagles nests occur on BLM-administered lands, this restriction will be revisited to determine if adjustments are necessary.

Comment 175-28

DOW believes the acreage protected is inadequate. For instance McIntyre Hills ACEC is comprised only of the river canyon portion of the unit and excludes critical deer, elk, and bighorn sheep winter range, severe winter range, production areas, and migration corridors. This area is also considered important habitat for black bear and mountain lion.

Response

BLM established a team to formulate and evaluate ACEC areas. Many areas did not meet the relevance and importance criteria; therefore, were dropped from further consideration. That portion of the McIntyre Hills ACEC the team believed met the criteria was included in the Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC. Although important habitat for wildlife does occur in the remaining portions of McIntyre Hills, the area is so remote and inaccessible that threats to wildlife are unlikely. In addition, the potential for alterations to the habitat from mineral development, forestry, etc., are extremely low.

Comment 175-31

Failure of BLM to pursue W&SR designation for Beaver Creek may have a direct impact on the peregrine falcon and other species such as the Mexican spotted owl and bighorn sheep.

Response

BLM does not believe this to be the case. The Beaver Creek Wilderness Study area is recommended by BLM for wilderness designation. This designation will provide more than adequate protection to all the species inhabiting the area. If Beaver Creek is not designated as a wilderness area by Congress, BLM believes adequate protection will be provided for these important species under an ACEC designation.

Comment H2-3-2

Noted the plan stated there were no bald eagles thought to be nesting in the area; has heard stories of nesting bald eagles along the Arkansas, however, has no facts nor any way to confirm this.

Response

There are no known bald eagle nests along the Arkansas river and in fact until 1993 no bald eagles nested in southeastern Colorado. A single nest, which raised two young, was located north of Cañon City in 1993 and was the first documented nesting of bald eagles in this part of Colorado. Bald eagles are common in the Arkansas River valley during the winter months.

Fluid Minerals Management***Comment 11-5***

Disturbed that BLM is proposing to allow oil and gas leasing in non-WSA lands on a blanket basis with the only protection in the form of stipulations.

Response

The identification of BLM-administered lands that should or should not be made available for fluid mineral leasing was a specific management concern for analysis in the draft RMP. BLM is confident this responsibility was met through the analysis conducted and, based on this analysis, it was determined that no discretionary closures to fluid leasing were necessary.

Comments 12-5, 24-5, 29-6, 48-4, 103-4, 105-7, 313-2, 132-2, 135-5, 138-6, 149-7, 155-3, 191-2, 196-9, and 263-5

Oil and gas exploration should not be allowed in ACECs, WSAs, riparian zones, or other areas important to wildlife.

Response

BLM is mandated by law to manage the BLM-administered lands under a multiple use criteria. This criteria does not and should not prohibit nor unnecessarily restrict one resource value or use over another unless there is quantifiable data that such resource values are mutually incompatible. The analysis of oil and gas activities within the planning area and specifically within the areas identified above did not identify the need to prohibit fluid mineral resource development, but rather a need to mitigate certain actions on a resource-specific basis through leasing stipulations and conditions of approval. Fluid mineral leasing with no surface occupancy, timing limitations, and controlled surface use stipulations has been determined adequate for protection of specific resource values and also provides for the orderly and efficient development of oil and gas.

Comments 84-3 and 84-4

We agree with the objectives for the Gold Belt SRMA (page 3-56), especially the concern for maintaining the scenic and historical integrity of the area. With that goal in mind, does the preferred alternative under the allocation section, page 3-57, provide adequate protection? It seems that NSO stipulations should be required in areas that affect the visual integrity of the resources.

Response

An NSO stipulation was determined to be unnecessary within the Gold Belt SRMA based on the extensive opportunities afforded by the topography to screen any potential fluid operations. The majority of the BLM-administered lands in the foreground viewing areas along the Gold Belt Tour are also classified with a Visual Resource Management Class II rating. This rating provides for the highest consideration for the visual resources with the exception of a Class I rating, which is reserved for areas designated by Congress for their visual values; i.e., wilderness areas, national conservation areas. Fluid minerals management activities occurring within Visual Class II areas are subject to controlled surface use (CSU) stipulations. This stipulation allows relocation of fluid operations over 200 meters to protect visual values and/or for operations to be mitigated to screen the operation from the visual viewshed and restoration of disturbed areas to a condition substantially unnoticeable to the casual viewer.

Appendix G, page G-24 of the draft RMP discusses the potential for oil and gas throughout the Gold Belt Tour area. All of Teller County is identified as a nominal area (potential for the discovery of a productive field is almost nonexistent). Nominal would reflect a classification below that of low potential. The Florence Basin, which includes the southern portion of the Gold Belt Tour, is considered a high potential basin.

In addition to the CSU stipulation for Visual Class II areas, portions of the Gold Belt Tour are designated ACECs (Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek and Garden Park, approximately 20,900 acres of BLM-administered lands).

Comment 132-1

BLM plans to open all lands to oil and gas leasing even though wildlife habitat and water quality can be seriously degraded by oil and gas exploration. I would like to see wildlife winter range areas, wildlife birthing areas, riparian areas, and other important wildlife habitats kept from oil, gas, and mining development along with buffers and connecting corridors through developed lands.

Response

The implication that oil and gas exploration results in serious degradation of wildlife habitat, water quality, and other resource values represents an unwarranted and unjustified generality in present day oil and gas industry. Fluid mineral operations are conducted under strict compliance with a myriad of laws, requirements, and policies that provide for the prevention of resource value losses. In addition, specific stipulations concerning wildlife birthing areas, riparian areas, and other important wildlife habitats have been included in the plan to provide further protection of these resource values. Because of this, BLM believes the proposed plan provides a sound basis for fluid mineral development and ensures more than adequate protection of other resource values.

Comment 162-5

Support BLM practice of identifying exception criteria for lease stipulations. Such information is helpful to energy industry and the public alike in their efforts to determine when, where, and what types of activities will be allowed on a leasehold at any given time.

Response

Thank you for your comment.

Comment 170-22

We are asking that BLM fully elaborate in the plan its responsibility to the public to manage public lands to effect a continuing supply of minerals and how that responsibility can be accomplished under the management system proposed. The public needs to understand how mineral deposits are found and developed - the role of the prospector, the explorationist, the developer - and how BLM's "eco-scheme" is conceived to accommodate those species who engage in those activities to advance the public interest.

Response

BLM believes the plan fully identifies how mineral resources will be managed in relation to other resource values.

Comment 170-30

We question the need and the advisability for BLM to insult the integrity of the developer or the surface owner with the mediation approach on page 2-59 that BLM has adopted to effect an APD for oil. Where is the justification for BLM to play "big brother"? Surely the owner understands that when-ever government severed the mineral estate from a home-stead entry, the government also reserved a right of access to the mineral. BLM's responsibility is to the mineral developer to assure the right of access is honored.

Response

It is the responsibility of BLM to ensure that oil and gas operations conducted on Federal leases are in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, onshore orders, and Bureau policies regardless of whether the surface estate is public or private. This responsibility includes ensuring that operations are conducted in an environmentally sound manner with the participation of all involved parties. The process identified for participation of the private owner in the onsite inspection provides for his or her input into the process and at the same time ensures that lease rights are maintained.

Comment 173-11

BLM is not taking an ecosystem approach. It is impossible to solve all the possible resource conflicts with timing restrictions. If a species habitat is fragmented by a road or oil and gas operation, or an actual nesting, birthing, or feeding site is obliterated, occupied by or located near an oil and gas drill pad, pipeline, road, reservoir, or other facility, a timing adjustment of the conduct of active operations will not ensure the health or survival of the species.

Response

Ecosystem management does not necessitate the mutual exclusion of one resource use over another, but rather that objectives must be developed to conserve, restore, and maintain the ecological integrity, productivity, and biological diversity of BLM-administered lands. BLM believes the management approach identified in the draft plan, as it relates to fluid mineral leasing, meets the above objectives and provides for social and economic needs. The plan does not claim to solve all possible resource conflicts utilizing seasonal limitations; however, the conflicts for which these stipulations were developed will be mitigated sufficiently.

Site-specific impacts associated with actual fluid operations will be addressed by subsequent NEPA analysis conducted pursuant to the filing of an APD.

Comments 173-13, 29-7, 34-2, 48-5, 69-6, 158-7, and 217-5

Analysis area for this stage should be limited to an area where interest in actual leasing has been expressed or where the potential for oil and gas occurring is known to be high.

Response

The Federal onshore *Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act* of 1987 provides that all lands to be leased be leased initially through competitive bid. Lands made available for bid are selected by BLM and/or public nomination. This competitive system was created to provide for orderly leasing of those Federal lands most likely be developed in the near future. It is not the intent nor purpose of this RMP/EIS to determine which lands will be leased or when, but rather to identify which lands can or cannot be made available for lease, and if made available what mitigations or stipulations are necessary. The oil and gas industry using geologic and economic factors makes the ultimate decision whether or not available lands are leased and developed.

Comment 173-14

Portions of the RA not analyzed in the first stage should not be authorized for leasing. If industry expresses interest in leasing these areas in the future, a plan amendment, with full public participation, must be completed.

Response

BLM is not aware of any lands within the resource planning area that are not analyzed as to suitability or unsuitability for fluid mineral leasing. This determination and the inclusion of necessary and justifiable lease stipulations represent the leasing decisions for all BLM-administered lands in the planning area. Industry interest is manifested in their decision to bid on and subsequently lease tracts under the leasing system.

Comment 173-15

This decision should not simply entail what, if any, stipulations are applied. In order to protect other resources and make the proper first stage decisions, it is essential that BLM actively exercise its discretionary no lease authority and make certain sensitive lands are "administratively unavailable for leasing."

Response

A primary issue in development of this plan was the identification of lands suitable or unsuitable for fluid mineral leasing. The plan did not identify any lands as unsuitable (other than WSAs) for leasing. It did, however, specifically exclude surface occupancy from four ACECs, reservoir and railroad rights-of-way, raptor nesting and fledgling habitat, Mexican spotted owl core areas, developed recreation sites, and Class I paleo areas. It was determined that in these areas, surface disturbing activities could not be allowed; however, the development of the fluid mineral resource from off-site locations did not require the closure of the area to leasing.

Comment 173-16

In making the first stage decision, BLM should find that an "administratively unavailable" designation is necessary to protect all roadless areas in the analysis area, especially those recommended for wilderness designation. Areas designated as core areas or connecting corridors should also be no-lease areas.

Response

The plan especially provides for a no lease decision on all wilderness study areas pending a final determination by Congress regarding inclusion in the wilderness system. It was the determination of this plan that any lands, currently WSAs, not designated wilderness would be managed in accordance with the resource objectives identified in this plan.

Comment 173-17

Other resources need protection from future oil and gas activities through a no lease designation, at the very least an NSO stipulation that cannot be waived. These include wetlands; river corridors and accompanying riparian areas, including designated and potential wild and scenic rivers; recommended research natural areas and ACECs; crucial wildlife habitat, such as big game winter range; lands at and above timberline; popular dispersed recreation sites and areas; developed recreation sites, with a minimum 1-mile buffer; scenic by-ways; habitat for uncommon, rare, threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and animal species; municipal watersheds; and cultural sites.

Response

A variety of alternatives concerning the need for various resource value protection were analyzed in the plan, including Alternative B, which has many of the stipulations you recommend. Stipulations identified in Alternative D were

determined to provide the necessary resource protection, as well as provide opportunities for fluid mineral leasing.

Comment 173-18

An NSO stipulation should only be applied in those cases where it is technically and financially feasible; i.e., where an oil and gas operator could directionally drill into the area. If it is impossible to gain access to an area where there can be no surface disturbance through directional drilling given current technology and economics, then that area should be designated "no lease." An NSO designation does not work for roadless areas because surface disturbance around the perimeter of core areas would cause an edge effect, disrupting and fragmenting natural ecosystems and linkage corridors.

Response

It is not the intent nor purpose of this plan to determine what is currently technically or financially feasible in regard to fluid mineral operations. It is the responsibility of the prospective lessee and/or operator to make these decisions when determining whether to lease or propose operations in an area that requires no surface occupancy. This fact in essence establishes a "no lease" area under current technology, but also provides for future developments, which could change.

The use of visual screening, noise reduction, multiple well placement on a single pad, and other mitigative measures can be highly effective in lessening impacts from fluid mineral development and will be utilized on a site-specific basis to lessen the impacts.

Comment 173-21

If BLM uses information in this plan to make specific leasing decisions, without consulting DOW and the public, it could be leasing areas that are important to particular species.

Response

The draft plan was developed utilizing input from many different interest and user groups. Both the public and DOW were involved, and BLM has consulted, and will continue to consult, DOW on wildlife and fluid mineral issues.

Comment 173-23

Requests that the plan call for a periodic review of the RFD scenario to make sure it is still accurate. If a review of the RFD analysis shows a change in the level of oil and gas activity on the RA, additional NEPA analysis should be conducted before any more leases are issued.

Response

The following change to Chapter 2, page 2-60 of the draft RMP is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 of this document. "The RFD will be monitored to ensure that assumptions and projections identified remain appropriate. Should these assumptions change, appropriate NEPA analysis will be completed."

Comment 173-24

The plan must include the exact criteria in which there can be a waiver, modification, or exemption to a stipulation. There should be no waivers, modifications, or exceptions for NSO stips. A request for a waiver should trigger NEPA analysis and public review.

Response

The plan contains criteria concerning exceptions to a stipulation and the NEPA requirements for modifications and waiver of lease stipulations (Appendix B of this document).

Comment 174-1

Texaco prefers Alternative C as a land management approach. In this alternative, 97 percent of BLM surface is available under standard lease terms. We believe that standard lease restrictions are adequate to address potential impacts to other uses of the RA.

Response

Based on an analysis of all the alternatives, a determination was made that Alternative D represented the preferred allocation of resources within the RGPA. This alternative provides for a balanced approach between fluid mineral operations and the necessary protection of other resource values.

Comment 174-2

BLM must determine if a restriction is necessary. Are raptors or prairie chickens present or near the proposed drillsite justifying an NSO restriction?

Response

Based on the best data available to BLM, areas have been delineated to a one-fourth mile buffer around known raptor nests and prairie chicken lek sites. These sites have been used historically by these species, and such use can be anticipated to continue. It has been determined that fluid mineral operations could result in abandonment of these

sites, which are dependent on topography, vegetation, and solitude. This potential loss necessitated the NSO requirement; however, exception criteria has been developed to provide for fluid operations under specific conditions.

Comment 175-29

Some ACECs are provided protection from mineral extraction and some are not. All should be given full protection. DOW was not consulted in developing these recommendations and believes the ACEC designation should be redone to reflect DOW input.

Response

Each ACEC is provided protection from mineral development based on the natural resources within that ACEC and the level of protection appropriate to maintain the protected resource. Blanket closures of all ACECs to all forms of mineral development is not always considered necessary to provide appropriate protection. Almost all of the wildlife data within this plan and specifically within the ACEC analysis was provided DOW. Typical types of protection for wildlife within ACECs include: No leasing, no surface occupancy, controlled surface use, seasonal limitations on development, and standard limitations for fluid minerals management; no entry and seasonal advisories for locatable minerals management; and no sale and seasonal closures for mineral materials management. Please see the ACEC and wildlife sections of this proposed plan to determine the particular protection needed and provided within each area.

Comment 188-12

Information should be provided on the potential for and environmental consequences of reinjection of produced water to contaminate surface and groundwater. The subsurface injection of produced water for secondary recovery or disposal purposes should be recognized as carrying a potential threat to drinking water quality aquifers.

Response

Approval of injection wells for the disposal of produced water is the responsibility of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which has received primary responsibility from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. BLM is not the regulatory agency responsible for administering this program. BLM, however, takes an interest in all such operations involving Federal mineral estate and makes recommendations to the COGC if proposals appear to create potential for water contamination of any fresh water zones.

Comment 188-13

It is recommended that the appropriate regulatory agency have an inspector onsite to witness the primary cementing of the long strings.

Response

The inspection of casing placement and cementing procedures for all casing strings is of primary importance to BLM and is conducted by BLM inspectors on a priority basis.

Comment 188-14

Also to be considered, BLM has the authority to require testing and evaluation beyond those measures specifically contained in an APD should the integrity of a well be suspect.

Response

BLM does have and will exercise the authority to require necessary testing and remediation of lease wells to ensure well bore integrity.

Comments 188-15 and 188-16

Standards and guidelines to preclude the possibility of contamination, as well as mitigation practices required should also be included in these narratives.

Response

Standards, guidelines, and practices for prevention of ground water contamination are extensively discussed in Appendix G of the draft RMP.

Comment 188-17

In projects and programs such as oil and gas leasing, which contain high risks for pollution to surface and groundwater drinking water resources, a required escrow account adequate for protection, emergency cleanup, and proper post operation rehabilitation would be advisable.

Response

BLM policy is to ensure adequate bonding of all fluid mineral operations conducted under a Federal oil and gas lease. These bonds shall be adjusted as necessary to adequately protect the interests of the United States. Such interests include, but are not limited to, complete and timely plugging of wells, reclamation of the lease area, and the restoration of any lands or waters adversely affected by lease operations.

Comments 208-1, 162-1, and 174-3

Concerned that the mineral data used by BLM is outdated; most recent cited in the RMP is 1988. Recommend BLM update its information and analysis prior to releasing the final EIS. It is possible the RFD and surface disturbance assumptions may change based on more recent data.

Response

The reasonably foreseeable development (RFD) for oil and gas activity in the RGPA involved the use of trend analysis and statistical forecasting from historical data, USGS activity estimates, and professional judgment. This approach, when taken as a whole, provides for fluctuations in activity over the projected life of the RMP and alleviates the need to change the assumptions of the RFD unless a significant and unexpected change in oil and gas activity occurs. Fluid mineral operations in the RGPA during the period between 1988 and 1992 are well within the projections identified in the RFD, and no change is warranted at this time.

Comments 208-4, 162-6, and 174-5

Page G-14, third paragraph, BLM states "The operator shall also report progress on a weekly basis until completion [of geophysical exploration]. A prework conference may be required." The reason for requiring geophysical crews to report to BLM on a weekly basis on a project's progress is unclear. If there is some specific purpose for such a requirement, it should be explicitly stated. We believe compliance with this requirement may prove too difficult for field crews because they would likely not have the resources needed to make a weekly progress report. We recommend the prework conference be used to identify any specific concerns that need to be dealt with by the operator on the project.

Response

The text has been revised and shown as a change in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 in this document as follows: "A prework conference may be necessary to determine any project-specific requirements. One such requirement may be for the operator to provide weekly progress reports to BLM based on the expected scheduling and any timing or period of use limitations."

Comments 208-5 and 162-7

Page G-16, first paragraph under Threatened and Endangered and Sensitive Species, BLM indicates "the lessee may be required to provide inventory information for certain species if it is determined that inadequate information is available to make appropriate decisions relating to mitigation." It is inappropriate for BLM to compel the lessee or operator to provide this information.

Response

The authority to require the lessee to conduct inventories or special studies in relation to threatened and endangered species is identified in Sec. 6 of the standard lease terms which states: "Lessee may be required to complete minor inventories or short term special studies under guidelines provided by lessor." Such inventories would be limited in extent to that necessary to evaluate the operations proposed in relation to suspected threatened and endangered species, both plant and animal.

Comments 208-6 and 162-8

Pg. G-16, last paragraph of T&E and Sensitive Species, it is stated that protection of T&E species will be achieved through various means, such as relocation of wells or pipelines or installing fencing. Although we do not disagree that BLM has the authority to impose appropriate mitigation measures to ensure adequate protection of the species in question, it is critical that such requirements be formulated with the full involvement and concordance of the project proponent.

Response

The text has been revised and shown as a change in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 in this document as follows: "BLM, with cooperation from other Federal and state agencies and in coordination with the operator, will develop appropriate mitigation to alleviate potential impacts to important populations/occurrences to the degree that existing development rights are not unduly hindered nor precluded."

Comments 208-7, 162-9, 208-8, and 208-9

Page G-18, BLM states, "Prior to [pit] closure, a randomly selected sample of drilling pits within established fields will be sampled for hazardous materials. . . ." First, RMOGA suggests terminology be used precisely since various terms are specific to a particular regulatory program and are not interchangeable. Use of the term "hazardous materials" is improper when discussing oil and gas pit contents. Hazardous materials is a term routinely associated with DOT regulations governing the transportation of certain materials. The term "hazardous waste" is specific to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulating the disposal of certain wastes. The term "hazardous substance" is specific to the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act (CERCLA) governing the release of certain substances.

Response

You are correct in the precise definitions included in your comments. BLM recognizes that certain oil and gas products and wastes are exempt from both RCRA and CERCLA. These

materials may, however, present hazards to the environment, even though they have been specifically exempted from certain regulatory action.

The sampling of pits is intended to determine the presence of substances not exempted from regulation and that may be a hazard to the environment, particularly ground water. Many pits have unrestricted access and are in remote locations. Unauthorized dumping of regulated materials has occurred in oil and gas operations.

BLM believes the Federal government may be subject to considerable long-term liability, particularly relating to contamination of groundwater, from actions authorized by the agency. This liability is not limited to oil and gas operations, but possible in many of the actions occurring on BLM-administered land. Remote oil and gas sites, with little access control, are attractive targets for unauthorized dumping. It is prudent for the Federal government to limit, as much as possible, the long-term liability associated with authorized actions.

Comments 208-10 and 162-10

Page G-19, last paragraph under Production Section, indicates that if a well is "located within 2,500 feet of residences, appropriate noise mitigation will be employed." This requirement is too rigid. There may be extenuating circumstances that would eliminate the need for such mitigation. For example, rough terrain which screens the operation from the residence or deflects the sound away from the residence may be adequate to minimize noise to an acceptable level. We recommend BLM incorporate flexibility into this requirement to allow for such conditions.

Response

Site-specific situations will influence the methods and necessity for imposition of this condition of approval (COA) in all cases; however, the objective of compliance with applicable noise standards will be met.

Comments 263-6, 24-6, 29-8, 48-6, 69-7, 103-5, 105-6, 135-6, 138-8, 158-7, 173-10, 173-12, 173-19, 173-22, and 196-8

A more detailed environmental review should be made of areas before leasing.

Response

Bureau policy and procedures for fluid minerals planning and environmental review for lease issuance are clearly detailed in BLM Manual, Section 1642.2, Supplemental Program Guidance for Energy and Mineral Resources, and BLM Handbook H-1624-1, Planning for Fluid Mineral Resources. The procedures and requirements identified in these documents were followed in the preparation of the Draft Royal Gorge RMP/EIS, and the resulting fluid mineral leasing decisions were determined to be adequate environmental review for lease issuance on lands with the planning area.

Locatable Minerals/Mineral Materials Management

Comments 3-7 and H3-5-5

Economic mineral deposits are rare and unusual occurrences. Their rarity and importance to our national well being should give them priority over any other land use.

Response

BLM policy is to provide for mineral resource development on BLM-administered mineral estate under the context of multiple use. BLM believes this plan provides for mineral resource development, as well as providing for other resource values.

Comment 7-1

About 30 percent of the entire study area would be closed or restricted for locatable minerals and mineral materials resulting in cumulative adverse effects. Document maps, however, do not indicate the relationship between high potential areas for locatable minerals and mineral materials and the proposed withdrawals. Without knowing if the areas coincide, it is not possible to determine the impact, if any, on locatable mineral and mineral materials resources.

Response

BLM did not differentiate between high/moderate/low mineral values because a definitive measure for different levels of potential was not available.

Comment 12-6

For the sake of watershed protection, hard rock mining should not be allowed in the RGRA.

Response

Past mining development practices, for the most part, have not considered impacts to the watershed. If adequate mitigation occurs, many of the impacts to watersheds can be avoided.

Comment 24-3

ACECs should be withdrawn from mining.

Response

Most ACECs have been withdrawn from mineral development; however, prior rights must be protected. Also refer to response to Comment 100-3 under Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for more information.

Comments 29-5, 105-8, 138-7, 149-7, 155-3, 185-4, 191-2, 196-10, and 263-7

Locatable mining should be prohibited completely from all W&SR study corridors, WSAs not eventually designated by Congress, ACECs, big game critical winter range, birthing areas, other important wildlife habitat, and riparian areas.

Response

WSAs not eventually designated as wilderness will be returned to other types of multiple use management as prescribed in this land use plan. The NRA proposal in the Preferred Alternative does recommend that the 125,000-acres NRA corridor, which is substantially larger than the W&S River corridor, be closed to mineral entry. Also refer to the response to Comment 100-3 under Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for more information.

Comment 69-8

Because hard-rock mining is so destructive, the same areas closed to oil and gas leasing should not be open to mining.

Response

All areas closed to fluid minerals management (WSAs) are also closed to mineral entry. Similar mitigation measures for fluid minerals management are also applied to big game birthing and critical winter habitat. Riparian areas are closed to both mineral entry and to fluid mineral management.

Comment 105-9

Any hardrock mining operation should pay a minimum of 8 percent in gross royalties for minerals taken from public

lands and be held responsible for all impacts on the environment and all reclamation. Royalties should be used to balance the Federal budget and not for mitigation or reclamation, which should be paid by the companies profiting from ore extraction.

Response

Addressing royalties from Federal developed locatable minerals on private lands is beyond the scope of this plan. Locatable minerals are not subject to royalties under the 1872 Mining Law, and royalties cannot be imposed without congressional authority. Information that might be cited as a supplementary response to this comment, however, is that royalty rates paid by mining companies when they operate on private land usually ranges between 1 and 3 percent. Any increase in royalty rates above 3 percent decreases the economic viability of an actual or potential mine. A royalty rate of 8 percent, therefore, might significantly discourage the search for new mineral deposits.

Mining companies presently are responsible for impacts on the environment and for reclamation under 43 CFR 3809.0-6 (*Federal Land Policy and Management Act* of 1976). In the state of Colorado, mining companies are bonded for an amount equal to the estimated cost of reclamation of their particular mine, so funds are available to the state or Federal government in case of failure by the company to do an adequate job of reclamation.

Comment 158-8

Hard-rock mining should be prohibited in the same areas oil and gas leasing is prohibited, such as riparian areas and important wildlife habitat.

Response

Important wildlife habitat is protected under the Preferred Alternative. Big game birthing areas and riparian areas are closed to mineral entry. Regulations now afford basic protection and/or mitigation and reclamation in mining areas. Also refer to response for Comment 29-5 for more information.

Comment 170-23

As presented in the plan, the public is permitted to dismiss managing public lands for mineral development as unimportant to national interest, when in fact mineral development on public lands is a fundamental national interest. BLM is specifically charged to advance that fundamental responsibility of BLM must be emphasized to the public and fully integrated into the proposed plan.

Response

It is not the position of BLM nor an objective of the resource management plan to minimize the importance of mineral development to the national interest. A large part of BLM responsibility has been and will continue to be support of mineral development on BLM-administered lands as long as such development is environmentally safe and does not degrade the quality of the lands involved. *The Mining Law of 1872*, as amended by several acts, the most important of which was the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976*, still governs such mineral development.

Comment 173-26

Lesser prairie chicken leks should be withdrawn from mining as well as for disposal of mineral materials, because of concern about habitat fragmentation, activity from roads and maintenance, and destruction or encroachment on production areas.

Response

All lesser prairie chicken habitat is protected from fluid mineral leasing and from other mineral operations by seasonal limitations from March 1 through July 31. Lesser prairie chicken lek sites, with a one-quarter mile buffer, are protected from fluid mineral leasing with no surface occupancy limitations. There is little or no potential for mineral material sales or for locatable mineral development in these habitat areas; therefore, there is no need to withdraw these lands. See Chapter 3, Eco-Subregion 10, Table 3-10 (special status animals) for more specific information.

Comment 217-6

Hard rock mining should be limited to areas likely to be developed in the near future. Countless studies have shown that mining causes irreparable damage to the types of ecosystems considered in this plan.

Response

There is no way of predicting areas that will be developed in the near future. Past mining practices have damaged ecosystems, but the impact of properly managed mines is minimal. Also refer to Comment 29-5.

Coal Minerals Management**Comments 170-25 and 170-26**

We are concerned that BLM has little inherent knowledge about the character of the coal deposits of the Raton Basin

in Colorado. Clearly the conscientious investigator, with but a meager knowledge of the complex stratigraphy of the Raton Basin, would not accept any of the figures compared in Table I-1 as holding any meaningful expression of the "Coal Reserve Figures" in the Raton Basin. The fact that the BLM reports but one ancient 962-acre Federal coal lease suggests government overrates the value of its coal.

Response

The reserve figures given in Table I-1 are an estimate of the potentially minable coal in the entire basin, regardless of coal ownership. As such, the published reserves include areas of privately-owned coal and will be substantially larger than the Federally-owned coal. The Amuedo & Ivey reserves were calculated from isopach maps of coals, which were correlated and mapped across portions of the basin. The maximum overburden and minimum thickness criteria used in the calculation of reserves is based on industry criteria for minable coal. Because of the lack of closely-spaced drill hole data, most of the reserves are inferred. Detailed data and information on the coal thickness, areal extent, quality, and minability are needed to accurately determine minable and recoverable reserves.

Historically, large tonnages of coal were produced from numerous mines within the basin. Currently, there is only one 962-acre Federal lease in this area, which is included in the mine plan of the producing Golden Eagle Mine. The current low production levels and lack of Federal leasing interest in most parts of the basin are the result of current coal market conditions and do not affect the projection of potentially minable reserves. The reserves presented in the Table I-1 are merely intended to give the public a reasonable perception of the large and widespread coal resource, which is available for leasing and has potential for mining, and should not be construed as a reliable figure of the economic or recoverable reserves.

Comment 170-27

BLM evaluation of coal resources as presented in the draft plan reflects the writer to be not only encumbered by a lack of inherent knowledge about basin characteristics critical to meaningful quantifying coal deposits, he also leaves the reader with the impression all coal found is extractable, when in fact only 50 to 70 percent is recoverable by conventional underground mining methods.

Response

It should be noted that the reserves listed in the plan are the potential minable reserves, using the minable criteria given for coal bed thickness and overburden depth. Only about 50 percent of the underground minable reserves are recoverable

(for conventional room-and-pillar mining) while about 90 percent of the coal that can be stripped is normally recoverable.

Comment 170-28

The public is further deluded by a hypothetical example implying that a 3-foot coal bed is "recoverable" by surface mining methods to a 200-foot high wall, over 53,000 acres of Federal ground, under the topographic conditions he makes his projection and under the prevailing reclamation requirements to clean up the mess.

Response

The 53,000 acres of Federal coal available for surface or underground mining includes the southeastern portion of the Trinidad known recoverable coal resources area (KRCRA) where the coal zones outcrop, and the shallow overburden will allow surface mine development in some areas. For calculating surface minable reserves in this area, the criteria selected was a 3-foot minimum thickness and 200-foot maximum overburden depth. This was not meant to imply that coal that can be stripped covers the entire acreage or that a single 3-foot thick bed is recoverable at 200 feet; the calculation of 286 million tons is more hypothetical and was not derived from isopach maps of the coal areas that can be stripped. There is insufficient data to calculate stripping ratios (total overburden thickness:total coal thickness), which is necessary for delineating minable areas. There are a multitude of other considerations for determining suitable lands, including coal geology, access, terrain, reclamation, and interference with surface resources and improvements, all of which are beyond the scope of this plan. Site-specific evaluations will be made of the coal reserves and affected lands at the time any lease application is submitted. Because an accurate determination of surface minable reserves cannot be made at this time, it may be more beneficial to examine one of the published maps which outline areas favorable for surface mining.

Comment 170-29

BLM not only quietly adopted all of the disincentives contained in the various punitive Acts, but expanded the authority to allow inventing a few more obstacles of its own. One notable example is BLM's empowerment of the surface occupant, over any severed mineral estate in the public domain, to veto, or otherwise frustrate, the extraction of an otherwise worthwhile economic mineral development project.

Response

In accordance with the regulation 43 CFR part 3420, BLM is required to consult, during land use planning, with qualified surface owners whose lands overlie coal deposits with surface

mining potential. Where a significant number of surface owners in an area have expressed a preference against surface mining, the area shall be considered acceptable for underground mining development only. Under split estate leasing (43 CFR subpart 3427), coal deposits proposed for surface mining shall not be included in a lease sale without evidence of written consent from the qualified surface owner, which allows entry and commencement of surface mining. Application of unsuitability criteria under 43 CFR subpart 3461 may also identify lands unsuitable for surface or underground mining (subsidence impacts) based on the presence of structures and other surface improvements.

Paleontological Resources

Comments 84-1 and 84-3

Concern lies in the establishment of public collection areas. This action notes that collection would be for public domain collections at area/regional schools. How would this activity be monitored? Would scientifically valuable specimens be reserved for exhibit or study at the proposed Garden Park facility? Will collected materials remain public property? Our concern is not only for the resource, but for potential conflicting policies between our agencies, particularly if we begin joint interpretive activities.

We understand the interest in public collection of fossils, but we would encourage stronger protection measures on Class I paleo areas. We also support the protection measures outlined on page 4-32, under Alternative B, that restrict grazing and forest management practices in Class I areas.

Response

The concept of working with public schools in developing "public domain" fossil collections is a valuable educational tool to teach children and teachers the methodologies of collecting and recording the find, utilizing paleontological standards employed at major museums such as the Denver Museum of Natural History. In this regard, students at a particular elementary school could specialize in marine fossils of a certain age, and they could develop a properly recorded collection for the school to maintain. Any fossils determined to be scientifically significant would be forwarded to a Federal repository for analysis, and no vertebrate fossils would be collected. The advantage of this program is that the student would learn the benefits of a properly recorded and maintained collection, as opposed to numerous individual fossil collections that are eventually lost and the fossils unidentified. This type of program could have positive benefits for the education of students and an overall improvement of our care and stewardship of fossil resources. This program has not been implemented to date, and the RMP only sets the stage for it. It is a program that may be discussed at the 1994 National Paleontology Conference. NPS involvement in helping develop such a course will be appreciated.

Historical/Archaeological Resources

Comments 4-1 and 4-2

Page 2-63, righthand column, paragraph 3, line 2 and 2-64, lefthand column, paragraph 4, line 5. Change "national historic districts" to "National Historic Landmark districts"

Response

Change has been made and is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 of this document.

Comments 4-3 and 4-5

Page 2-65, lefthand column, paragraph 6, first two sentences and 2-65, righthand column, paragraph 6, first sentence: Description of Section 106 process is not accurate. Suggested change: "Section 106 of the *National Historical Preservation Act* requires BLM to identify historic properties and, in consultation with the SHPO, determine whether any such properties are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and what effects an undertaking will have on eligible properties. If an undertaking will adversely affect a historic property, the BLM and SHPO will agree on an appropriate treatment plan specifying mitigation measures to be conducted. BLM will concurrently provide the treatment plan to the advisory council on historic preservation for review and approval. The approved treatment plan must be carried out before the undertaking is allowed to proceed."

Response

Changes have been made and are shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1, in this document.

Comment 4-4

Page 2-65, righthand column, paragraph 6, line 3: Change "site inventory" to "identification."

Response

Change has been made and is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1, of this document.

Comment 8-3

Historic sites in our area are most likely on patented lands but their worth might be recognized in your management objectives. Potential for cultural education and anthropology uses for sites and the settler/land bank era of U.S. Government activity have been left out of the plan.

Response

BLM is directly responsible for the management of cultural resources on BLM-administered lands, but recognizes the significance of such resources in the entire RGPA. Regarding cultural education, the reader is referred to Tables 3-16 and 3-17 where both education and interpretation are discussed under all of the alternatives. Because the present document is limited in size, it was not possible to include a detailed discussion of the history of Colorado. The reader is referred to *A Colorado History*, by Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane A. Smith (Pruett Publishers, Boulder) for a more detailed discussion of the homesteading period in the Royal Gorge Planning Area.

Comment 260-2

The river values (as well as the tunnels on the old Denver and South park RR ROW) are threatened by the proposed Elephant Rock Dam north of Buena Vista, part of a water expert scheme devised by the Colorado Springs Water Department.

Response

The tunnels north of Buena Vista, located along the Colorado Midland Railroad Grade, have not been evaluated for their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Based on precedents in other areas, however, they probably do contribute to the significance of the railroad grade (which is eligible for the National Register).

Without a map of the proposed dam and reservoir, it is difficult to determine what effect construction might have on the tunnels. In any case, BLM, in partnership with the water management proponent, would mitigate any potential adverse effects on cultural resources in the affected area.

Transportation and Access Management

Comment 124-7

Apparently access for future activities on Beaver Creek would be limited, to the damage of Beaver Park.

Response

The planned management for the Beaver Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern does involve some enhanced non-motorized access during the life of the RMP; however, activities currently occurring; e.g., primitive camping, backpacking, wildlife observing, fly fishing, etc., will continue. BLM is not aware that any damage would be caused to Beaver Water Park, Inc. by these activities on BLM-administered lands or the continuance of these activities. The existing right of Beaver Park

is a legal device to protect the needed operations of the company on BLM-administered land.

Comment 125-1

"Resource Conservation Alternative B" would best suit the needs of the BLM-administered lands. A main objection to many of the other "alternatives" is their willingness to encourage road construction, which would be detrimental to many other resources in the area.

Response

Road development that occurs in implementing any of the alternatives would be done in an environmentally sound manner; e.g., correctly developed drainages, waterbarring, culverts, runoff control devices, etc. None of the alternatives encourage road construction. More roads are likely to be closed than new roads being constructed. All construction is considered on a case-by-case basis; i.e., a need is determined and alternative routes are analyzed. An environmental assessment will be completed for each site-specific development to determine level of mitigation, limitations, and design requirements to alleviate or at least minimize impacts to other resources. Refer to response to Comment 141-4 and the Objective Decisions in Table 3-1, Chapter 3, of this document for more information.

Comment 141-4

Enhancement of vehicular access can only compound this problem. Vehicle access should either be properly maintained or abandoned and closed. Unless major funding improvements are anticipated, BLM road access should be limited to that which can be effectively patrolled for protection of adjacent resources.

Response

There are no specific plans to increase vehicular access into lower Kerr Gulch Allotment. Page 3-34, Transportation and Access Management in the draft RMP states: "Roads and trails on BLM-administered lands would be maintained by the appropriate holder of rights. BLM would maintain those transportation system roads and trails needed for agency resource management and public use. Unneeded and unmaintained roads and trails would be closed and reclaimed. Vehicle use would be limited seasonally, as needed, by public notice. Comprehensive transportation planning would be maintained." This provides for road and trail management as you propose.

Comment 171-6

Table S-1 - need to define access.

Response

In the Transportation and Access Management section, pages 2-66 and 2-67 of the draft RMP/EIS, the detailed definition of each of the four types of access considered within this plan is given. Your concerns might involve all four types; therefore, the executive summary table may not be the appropriate place for detailed definitions.

Comment 173-30

Access to WSAs, ACECs, wilderness, and other components of a reserve system should not be determined only on the basis of the recreation opportunity spectrum, but on protecting habitat and the reserve system components from excessive roading, fragmentation, and disturbance.

Response

Habitat and reserve system components that require protection from excessive roading, fragmentation, and disturbance are protected by designations and will be analyzed in depth in each integrated activity plan using ecosystem analysis.

Rights-of-Way Management

Comment 168-5

Regarding the recommended alternatives for ROWs and visual resources, it should be noted that existing ROWs will need to be maintained and future ROWs developed as infrastructure is needed to support the citizens of the state. Flexibility should be maintained to allow for ROW development and at the same time mitigate visual and other environmental impacts.

Response

Rights-of-way will be authorized on a case-by-case basis when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are satisfied and protective stipulations are in place. Designation criteria are explained in Chapter 3, page 3-37 of the draft RMP. This is a flexible system that allows for right-of-way development and still mitigates visual and environmental impacts. There is no intent to prohibit the holder from maintaining their rights-of-way.

Comment 171-7

Table S-1 - where are designated corridors.

Response

As shown on Map 4-10 Utility Corridors - Preferred Alternative, page 4-40 of the draft RMP/EIS, designated corridors are shown in a very general manner. A much larger scale map is included in the back of this document and will assist you in determining the location of these designated corridors.

Comment 173-3

We believe that large core reserves and corridors are crucial to the long-term survival of many species. BLM should pay special attention to the location and use of roads. There is some discussion of roads (pages 2-66, 2-67, 3-34, 3-35) with statistics on the number of miles of roads; however, there is no map showing roads or roadless areas. This makes it very difficult to determine where core reserves or corridors could be designed or managed.

Response

Our road inventory is very detailed; therefore, it is impossible to display all the roads on a page-sized map in the document. A larger foldout map is too expensive to produce for a resource management plan. This type of map is envisioned as part of a transportation/support services activity plan or will be included in integrated activity plans as described on page 3-4 of the draft RMP. This type of product will result in a map of roadless areas.

Comment 173-31

Construction of a road or major pipeline would likely be prohibited in a wilderness or across an area of significant cultural resources - page 2-67. We believe this statement to be incorrect. Wilderness by law is not open to ROWs, neither are WSAs if the ROW would impair wilderness character (see recent IBLA decision in Ruin Canyon case). We ask BLM to correct this statement.

Response

The affected environment chapter is describing present management. The correct wording of this sentence should be as follows. "... construction of a road or major pipeline would likely be prohibited in a wilderness study area or across an area of significant cultural resources." This change is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 in this document. There are no designated wilderness areas in the planning area.

Comment 173-32

To be consistent with an ecosystem approach and avoid habitat fragmentation, we request that ROWs not be approved in cores, limited use areas, or corridors.

Response

Major rights-of-way are excluded from threatened and endangered species habitat, special plant and animal habitat, and wilderness or wilderness study areas. Critical big game birthing areas, ACECs with VRM Class II, and developed recreation sites are to be avoided by major rights-of-way. Minor rights-of-way are to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if there is an unacceptable impact to the environment, including ecosystem cores, limited use areas, and corridors.

Comment 180-1

Concerned that the DRMP specifies corridor width (1,2, or 3 miles wide depending on the management alternative). Public Service believes utility corridors have natural boundaries determined by topographic, geographic, and land use constraints and actual corridor width could vary from several hundred feet to as much as 5 miles depending on the constraint. WUG defines a corridor as: "A linear strip of land without definite width, but limited by technological, environmental, and topographical factors, and containing one or more utility, communication, or transportation facilities."

Response

The proposed action will more closely fit the definition of WUG, with a maximum width of 3 miles. This width will apply where the site-specific adjusted corridor location does not conflict with an exclusion area. The corridors will be adjusted on a site-specific basis to circumvent both exclusion and avoidance areas where ever possible to the extent possible. The width, therefore, will vary according to the limiting factors.

Comment 180-2

Recommends the WUG corridor definition be adopted in the final RMP and the references to specific corridor widths be dropped from the final plan. For comparison of alternatives, utility corridors should be measured in miles rather than acres.

Response

The WUG 1993 Study is adopted in the proposed RMP, but a maximum width is retained to focus the intent of corridor identification. Acres are used to assess impacts to other

resources that can only be described as the number of acres affected and cannot be assessed as miles. The length of designated corridors will be calculated and shown in the proposed plan.

Comment 180-3

Page 3-37 in the DRMP states "Existing ROWs and the 1986 WUG study would be considered" In October 1993, WUG released an updated, more comprehensive version of the WRCS. Copies of the 1993 study have been distributed to all BLM DOs and all USFS SOs. Public Service recommends that the ROWs management prescriptions on page 3-37 be changed to read as follows:

Corridors (existing and proposed) identified in the Western Regional Corridor Study will be designated utility corridors under all alternatives.

Designated utility corridors will be the preferred location for all new major right-of-way (ROW) proposals. Major ROWs are powerlines 115,000 volt (115kV) and above and gas pipelines 8 inches in diameter or greater.

ROW avoidance areas are areas with values that could be adversely affected by new major ROWs. Major ROWs and areal sites (i.e., communication sites and reservoir sites) could be granted in avoidance areas only when a feasible alternative designated corridor or site is unavailable.

ROW exclusion areas are areas with values that would be adversely affected by new major ROWs. Major ROWs and areal sites would not be granted in exclusion areas unless mandated by laws. WSAs (70,984 acres) would be treated as exclusion areas in all alternatives.

Minor ROWs are powerlines, pipelines, communication lines, and sites that serve a local purpose. Minor ROWs will be granted when a clear need is demonstrated, and the environmental impacts can be mitigated. Minor ROWs would be authorized on a case-by-case basis under all alternatives.

Response

The reference to the 1986 study will be updated to 1993, and the majority of the recommended wording changes are in the proposed plan.

Comment 180-4

On Map 4-10 there appears to be several areas where the "Designated Corridor on BLM Land" and the "Western Utility Group Corridor" do not coincide. The difference may be a result of mapping scale or the interpretation of the corridor location from the 1986 WRCS. The 1993 study is a

more accurate representative of corridor locations, however, there may still be differences because of map scales.

Response

Map scale may be part of the discrepancy, but it should be noted that the BLM realty specialist utilized known locations in several cases to adjust the 1986 study location in the mapping. The site-specific adjustment of corridors will further refine and more accurately delineate locations. Industry may provide input in this process of adjustment.

Comment 180-5

Suggest in order to accurately assess impacts from and to corridors, BLM obtain more accurate maps for the corridors shown in the 1993 study and refine the maps in the DRMP. Public Service can provide more accurate maps of corridors where its facilities are located.

Response

Corrections have been made to our ROW maps based on your RMP comments and meetings with your consultant concerning using the 1993 WUG report instead of the 1986 report. Information from Public Service maps has been incorporated into this document and will be used in future IAPs. Large scale maps in the back of this document more clearly shows corridor locations. This should allow better visible comparisons of other resources of concern; e.g., ACECs, wildlife habitat, etc. Also see response for Comment 180-4.

Comment 180-6

A comparison of Map 4-10 - Utility Corridors and Map 4-12 - ACECs indicates four or more locations where proposed designated utility corridors overlap proposed ACECs. Since ACECs are defined as avoidance areas for utility corridors this overlap should be double checked with more accurate maps.

Response

Site-specific adjustments in this document include the following conditions:

1. Corridors outside exclusion and avoidance areas will be 3 miles wide.
2. Existing corridors along major facilities through avoidance areas recommended for designation by WUG will be only one-half mile in total width. New corridors proposed through avoidance areas will be diverted around the area if possible.

3. There shall be no corridors designated through any exclusion area.

Withdrawals and Classifications

Comment 168-3

Regarding the water and power withdrawals and the recommended alternative, the city continues to assert its water rights for a reservoir at Elephant Rock. It is critical that BLM maintain the water and power withdrawal at this site. Perhaps the identification of 84 percent of the water and power withdrawal acreage to be removed from this category is too large and should be rethought on a case-by-case basis.

Response

There are 46,965.49 acres of waterpower withdrawals according to Table J-1, page J-3, in the draft RMP. Termination of 6,753 acres as proposed in Table 3-21 (page 3-41) would constitute a 14 percent reduction. Within the Arkansas River Eco-subregion, there are 7,996 acres of withdrawals, which are recommended for revocation. Also refer to response to Comment 11-2 under National Recreation Area Designations.

Comment 196-11

Strongly recommends Alternative B.

Response

The Preferred Alternative for the Waterpower/Reservoir Resources table, page 3-42 in the draft RMP, is the same as the Conservation Alternative in respect to the waterpower/reservoir allocations. Also refer to response for Comment 168-3.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Designations

Comments 6-12 and 13-1

ACEC recommendation for Beaver Creek is for only 3,734 acres; the fine print allows livestock grazing, mining, and logging "for enhancement of protected resources." Actual recommendations do not protect outstandingly remarkable characteristics in Beaver Creek.

Response

The draft RMP/EIS, on page 3-47, recommended a total of 12,081 acres to be designated as an ACEC in both Alternatives B and D. Livestock grazing was totally excluded in Alternative B and partially excluded on 5,755 acres in Alternative D. Total livestock grazing exclusion

was not considered necessary to protect the sensitive resources in the remainder of the ACEC. The ACEC is totally closed to locatable mineral entry and mineral materials sales in both Alternatives B and D. The total ACEC is retained in public ownership in both Alternatives B and D. In both Alternatives A and D, timber harvesting and wood gathering would be allowed only for enhancement of the protected sensitive resources. The ACEC is open to fluid minerals management under a no surface occupancy stipulation in Alternative B and under standard stipulations in Alternative D. BLM believes these measures will protect the outstandingly remarkable values in the Beaver Creek ACEC.

Comment 48-7

Would like to see limited motor vehicles in ACECs, birthing and critical habitat areas, riparian areas, wild and scenic river corridors, and other sensitive areas.

Response

All areas of critical environmental concern have either closures to off-highway vehicles or travel is limited to roads and trails only. In the Preferred Alternative of the draft RMP, all 17,499 acres of big game birthing habitat is protected through limiting travel to roads and trails only. Also in the Preferred Alternative, all of the big game birthing habitat and the big game critical winter habitat (191,605 acres total) is closed seasonally to off-highway vehicle travel. In the Preferred Alternative, off-highway travel in all riparian areas is limited to designated roads and trails only. There is no restriction on off-highway vehicle travel within wild and scenic river corridors since none were recommended in the Preferred Alternative. This corridor, however, is considered to be sufficiently protected because of the many other off-highway limitations on stream fishery habitat, riparian areas, etc.

Comments 100-3, 11-3, 12-3, 13-1, 14-2, 29-4, 47-4, 48-3, 56-4, 59-3, 69-1, 95-1, 103-3, 105-17, 131-1, 132-3, 135-3, 136-5, 138-1, 144-1, 149-5, 153-3, 158-6, 183-1, 185-5, 190-1, 191-1, 201-1, 216-9a, 271-4, and 263-4

Please do not allow mining or leasing, grazing, "logging", motor vehicles, oil or gas drilling in ACECs.

Response

The purpose of BLM establishing areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) is to provide for special management of a given area because of special values or sensitive resource needs. This designation does not exclude all other uses within the ACEC, but excludes or limits to some degree

only activities that will potentially change or adversely affect those values of special concern.

In some ACECs, mineral development is excluded or limited. Fluid mineral leasing may be restricted under standard, controlled surface use, timing, or no surface occupancy stipulations. Total closure or seasonal limitations may be used for mineral material sales. Locatable minerals may be totally withdrawn from entry or limited by claimant notification of seasonal limitations.

In some cases livestock grazing may be excluded, continued, or modified depending on the special values within a particular ACEC. Close monitoring of this use, in all cases, will be continued to ensure that any values of concern are maintained or enhanced.

In all cases, BLM timber production, whether commercial logging or wood gathering, must enhance those values within the ACEC. Close monitoring of this activity will be done to ensure maintenance or enhancement of any values of concern.

In all ACECs, off-highway motorized vehicles are limited to designated roads and trails only as a measure of protecting those special values. In many cases, large portions of many of the ACECs are totally closed to off-highway vehicle travel. Again this is done on an area-by-area basis to protect those sensitive or special values to be maintained within these special areas.

In all of these areas, an integrated activity plan (IAP) of that specific ecosystem will be completed in order to implement on-the-ground management specified within this resource management plan (RMP). IAPs will very likely be done during the first 5 years of implementation of the RMP.

Comments 124-3 and 124-8

Beaver Creek should not be an ACEC. Exchanges and releases, both up and down stream, have been made for many years and are useful to Beaver Park. These economic values are incompatible with ACEC designation. Human activity has shaped the present characteristic of Beaver Creek. (page 2-73)

Response

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists within BLM nominated the Beaver Creek corridor as an area of critical environmental concern because of the unique features (i.e., outstandingly remarkable wilderness, non-roaded, primitive, wildlife values). A public input group of concerned citizens representing city and county governments, environmental groups, ranchers, retired persons, etc., also determined the area to be unique and to have qualities that make it eligible under BLM area of critical environmental concern criteria. Present use of the stream does not appear to be in conflict with

designation, and BLM cannot determine that any economic values are incompatible with designation.

Comment 164-4

We believe ACEC designation has no impact on the existing or future use and administration of water rights. It should be noted that this area is downstream with water rights situated above it. As such, should wilderness designation occur, it must respect existing and future uses of water.

Response

The area of critical environmental concern designation will not affect valid existing rights in this area. Wilderness designation, if it occurs through Congressional action, will likely not affect valid existing rights. It might, however, affect future uses of water within the congressionally designated boundary. The proposed wilderness recommendation will be decided by Congress.

Comment 171-19

Table 4-2 (page 4-5) ACEC designations, Alternative D, needs to be clarified.

Response

Livestock grazing will be eliminated on 6,676 acres of BLM-administered land in the Beaver Creek ACEC and 2,678 acres of BLM-administered land in Mosquito Pass ACEC. Currently there are no grazing permits on these areas; therefore, no operators will be affected. It is estimated that livestock grazing needs to be restricted on 21,221 acres of the 48,252 acres in the other seven ACECs in the Preferred Alternative to protect or enhance the values of the ACECs. This will result in a potential loss of 250 AUMs.

Comment 171-27

What protection for historical sites goes with ACEC designation in the Preferred Alternative?

Response

OHV use would be limited in all ACECs. Integrated activity plans will be developed to protect and enhance the values on which the ACEC designation was based, including historical values.

Comment 175-23

One approach to giving uniform protection to big game habitat but rejected by BLM was to provide big game habitat

with ACEC status. This plan states that ACEC status for big game winter range was dropped for lack of current data. BLM personnel have also stated that the total percentage of resource area acreage protected would be excessive if big game winter range were given ACEC status.

Response

A large portion of BLM administered-lands had one or more big game habitat present; therefore, this area was too excessive to be nominated as an area of critical environmental concern. The big game habitat does change from time to time and would be difficult to manage as an ACEC; i.e., this designation is not mobile. The majority of other actions taken by BLM do restrict or limit the adverse effects on this habitat; i.e., fluid mineral leasing has timing limitations. BLM believes that using these types of limitations for special habitats, a more manageable job of protection can be accomplished. The areas and amounts protected by stipulations can be modified; however, it is not feasible to continue to redesignate a modified area of critical environmental concern each time the data changes.

Comment 197-4

Regarding historical resources, I urge that the more resource conservative approach be taken to protect 100 percent of 76,341 acres through an ACEC designation.

Response

As shown on page 4-34 of the draft for both the Conservation and the Preferred Alternatives, designation of 78,556 acres of areas of critical environmental concern will enhance the protection of historical values. Recommendation is the same for both the Preferred and Conservation Alternatives.

Comment 216-9

The plan reduces Beaver Creek ACEC acreage from 27,626 to only 13,734 acres.

Response

The original acreage nominated for the Beaver Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern was 27,626 acres as shown in Appendix K, page K-2 of the draft RMP. The Royal Gorge Area Manager made a decision to reduce the acreage to 13,734 acres. This decreased the "cherry-stemming" effect of some of the nominated land and created a more manageable block of land. The present boundary, encompassing 13,734 acres, does not include all the land recommended to Congress in December 1987 for potential wilderness designation. See response to Comment 216-8 under Wilderness Management for more information related to the wilderness study area.

Wild and Scenic River Designations

Comment 1-1

Difficulty in determining whether or not BLM is recommending the Arkansas River from Leadville to Pueblo Reservoir be designated WILD, SCENIC, AND RECREATION or RECREATION.

Response

Within the *National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* (NWSRA) each eligible river or eligible segment of river must be classified, according to standards included in the Act as either "wild," "scenic," or "recreational." The Arkansas River could only be classified as "recreational" because of the extensive existing development along the river corridor. This classification is important in determining what types of management activities would be permissible if the river were designated. The "recreational" classification is the least restrictive in terms of development opportunities allowable under the NWSRA.

Under the Preferred Alternative in the draft RMP, BLM is not recommending any of the eligible segments of the Arkansas River be designated by Congress as a wild and scenic river.

Comment 1-2

Sees a justification for either designation. It certainly would qualify for recreation.

Response

The Arkansas River was classified as "recreational" as a result of the standards included in the *National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*.

Comments 3-6 and H3-5-4

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires a river to be "generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive." The Arkansas River with U.S. Highway 50 and the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad following much of its course does not seem to fit the criteria. There is no need for any W&S river designation in the Royal Gorge Resource Area.

Response

The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* contains provisions for evaluation and potential designation for rivers with varying degrees of development along shorelines. The Act categorizes or classifies rivers according to three different sets of criteria.

Rivers classified as "wild" are typically those with conditions similar to what you describe. The Act also provides for designation of rivers with more extensive development along shorelines under the classifications of "scenic" or "recreational." The Arkansas River was classified as "recreational" because of the existing development along the shoreline.

Comment 5-1

Would like to go on record of being for the wild and scenic designation for the Arkansas River.

Response

Your support is noted. Thank you.

Comments 6-8 and 216-6

In denying protection to the Royal Gorge, the draft declares Segment 5 only "possibly" free-flowing, and "possibly" outstandingly remarkable (A:L-30). Segment 5 is as free-flowing as the rest of the river, and if not outstandingly remarkable, why am I flocked by sight-seeing tourists every time I kayak there? Accepting artificial boundaries, excluding the Royal Gorge for this reason is in clear violation of the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*: (C:Section 4(a)(ii)).

Response

The W&S study report clearly identifies land ownership in Segment 5 as principally state (Colorado), city (Cañon City), and private. The RMP acknowledges that BLM has a limited role in administering this section of the river since BLM has no authority for management decisions on land not under its administration. This was reiterated numerous times in the study process by both BLM and other landowners. Because of this limited role of BLM administration, participation by the state of Colorado, Cañon City, and the major landowners was invited. The state did not respond, and Cañon City declined to participate. Without participation of two major landowners, BLM determined it would be inappropriate to analyze Segment 5 of the river. The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* does provide for analysis by other entities. BLM believes this section of the river clearly would be suited to such an effort. If you strongly believe the area should be considered, you can initiate such a project with the state of Colorado as provided in the Act.

The study report reflects an initial observation only on the free-flowing and outstandingly remarkable qualities of the river. When the determination was made that BLM was not the appropriate agency to conduct the study on this segment, it would not have been prudent to expend limited resources in further evaluation.

Comment 6-9

From Highway 50 to the confluence of Grape Creek, the Royal Gorge is an outstanding resource, clearly different from the rest of Segment # 5, and it should be treated as such.

Response

BLM agrees that the river segment through the Royal Gorge is different than other stretches of the river. The majority of this segment is administered by other entities (state, city, and private); therefore, conducting an analysis of this property is beyond the scope of BLM responsibility. Also refer to response for Comment 6-8 for more information.

Comment 14-1

The RMP proposes no wild and scenic protection for the most heavily rafted river in Colorado. This is absurd. It leaves the river open to damage from projects like the Elephant Rock Dam.

Response

The Elephant Rock Dam is based on the assumption of prior rights to a powersite withdrawal that predates the *National Wild and Scenic River Act*. The Wild and Scenic River Study report explains why this dam site may have precedence over any wild and scenic river action.

Please refer to Appendix C in the draft RMP and the rationale in Chapter 1 of this document.

Comments 25-1, 6-10, 6-11, 6-13, 11-1, 13-2, 15-1, 17-1, 18-1, 19-1, 20-1, 21-1, 22-1, 26-1, 27-1, 28-1, 31-1, 32-1, 33-1, 34-1, 35-1, 36-1, 37-1, 38-1, 39-1, 40-1, 42-1, 43-1, 44-1, 45-1, 46-1, 49-1, 50-1, 51-1, 51-2, 52-1, 53-1, 54-1, 55-1, 56-1, 56-2, 57-1, 58-1, 60-1, 61-1, 62-1, 63-2, 64-2, 65-1, 66-2, 67-1, 68-1, 69-5, 70-2, 71-1, 72-2, 73-1, 74-2, 75-2, 76-2, 77-2, 78-1, 79-1, 80-1, 81-1, 82-1, 85-1, 86-1, 87-1, 88-2, 89-2, 90-1, 90-2, 91-2, 92-1, 93-2, 94-1, 94-2, 95-2, 96-1, 96-2, 97-1, 98-2, 99-1, 101-1, 102-1, 104-1, 105-10, 105-11, 105-12, 105-13, 105-14, 106-1, 107-1, 108-1, 108-2, 109-2, 111-1, 112-1, 113-2, 114-1, 115-1, 116-1, 117-1, 117-2, 118-1, 119-2, 120-1, 121-1, 122-1, 126-1, 126-2, 127-1, 128-1, 129-1, 129-2, 131-3, 133-1, 134-1, 135-2, 138-5, 139-1, 140-1, 142-1, 143-2, 145-1, 145-2, 146-2, 147-1, 147-2, 149-3, 150-2, 151-2, 152-2, 154-1, 155-2, 156-1, 157-2, 158-2, 158-4, 158-5, 159-1, 160-2, 161-2, 163-1, 164-2, 165-1, 166-2, 167-1, 169-1, 173-7, 173-8, 175-34, 181-1, 182-1, 183-2, 184-1,

185-1, 185-2, 186-2, 187-1, 190-3, 191-4, 192-1, 193-1, 193-2, 194-1, 197-1, 198-1, 203-1, 204-1, 205, 206, 207, 209, 210, 211, 212, 212, 213, 214, 215-1, 216-4, 216-5, 217-2, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250., 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260-1, 261, 262-2, 263-3, 264-1, H2-1-2, H2-3-5, H2-4-1, H2-7-1, H2-9-1, H2-10-1, H2-11-1, H3-1-1, H3-2-1, and H3-4-1

Encourage BLM to recommend to Congress designation of Segments 1 and 4 of the Arkansas River as "recreational" under the W&SR Act.

Response

BLM believes that wild and scenic river designation is a battle that cannot be won. The Federal Reserved Water Right (FRWR) required as part of a W&S river is such a controversial issue that it prevents or delays interminably meaningful progress in terms of river protection. The issue that separated factions in the long discussion over additional Colorado wilderness areas completed this past winter was the FRWR. A bill was passed in 1993, but the issue was not resolved. The new wilderness bill simply does not discuss the FRWR because, unlike the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*, it is not a requirement of the original *Wilderness Act*.

In the case of the Arkansas River, the application of an FRWR is unrealistic because the river is currently fully appropriated under Colorado water law, leaving no water available for application of the FRWR. What current adjudicated water right should be taken to provide for a FRWR? Should it simply be confiscated through condemnation or purchase? How much water is needed to "protect" the river and how many rights holders will be affected? How is that water purchased? What is a realistic value?

Imported water (water not native to the Arkansas River drainage) is in addition exempt from the FRWR. Depending on whom you ask, imported water constitutes from half to three-quarters of the river flow after the annual high runoff period. That water will never be affected by a FRWR. The problems with adequate flows for whatever purpose you favor are during the low flow period during the summer, fall, and winter, when imported water makes up such a considerable percentage of available flow.

The central issue on the Arkansas River is resource protection, not wild and scenic rivers. Currently, all affected parties are working cooperatively to manage the river; i.e., provide for delivery of water to downstream rights holders, maintain recreational values for float boating and fishing, and strive to provide for the needs of aquatic life in the river. The Wild and Scenic

River Study Report documented the "outstandingly remarkable" recreational value of the Arkansas River. It is worthy of strong protection because of the value to individual recreationists as well as the economy of the upper Arkansas Valley. The recreational value of the river, however, is just one significant value. The river is of significance to one-fourth of the residents of the state for domestic water and supports a significant percentage of Colorado agricultural industry. Initiating a Federal reserve water right, which is of doubtful value, will only destroy the cooperative efforts to manage the Arkansas River, probably the most intensively managed river in the entire nation.

The proposed national recreation area (NRA) can promote river protection by encouraging the cooperative management of the river. An NRA proposal would have to be written specifically for the Arkansas River. There is no "umbrella" Congressional act such as the *National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* that would be used to provide protection. This is actually an advantage in terms of providing protection to the river because it is not encumbered by the unresolvable baggage of a Federal reserve water right.

Also refer to Chapter 1 of this document for more details.

Comment 32-2

BLM must have a firm idea (prior to making a decision whether or not to recommend W&S designation) of what environmental consequences will result if a dam is built. Hopefully GIS modeling to predict what effect a dam above Buena Vista, one with sufficient capacity for the city of Colorado Springs to "develop" all its water rights, would have on downstream water levels, temperatures, and current speeds at various locations and different times of the year.

Response

Evaluation of impacts resulting from future development of the Elephant Rock Dam to the Arkansas River will be considered in the environmental impact statement for that project. The BLM management decision regarding wild and scenic river designation is an administrative action based on the statutory requirements of the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*. Also refer to response for Comment 90-1.

Comments 48-2, 12-1, 24-2, 29-2, 47-2, 59-2, 69-4, 70-1, 95-3, 100-2, 103-2, 110-1, 123-1, 132-4, 135-1, 136-3, 136-4, 138-4, 144-4, 149-2, 153-1, 153-2, 155-1, 173-6, 183-2, 185-3, 185-4, 190-2, 201-2, and 263-2

Does not understand why there are no rivers and streams designated as wild and scenic, even though 230 plus miles of the Arkansas, Grape Creek, Badger Creek, Beaver Creek, Fourmile and Eightmile Creeks were studied. They deserve

protection and does not want them to turn into unprotected NRAs.

Response

The process by which rivers are analyzed for protection under the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* is complicated and confusing. All streams and rivers in the Royal Gorge Planning Area were analyzed for eligibility under the specific provisions included within the Act. Only the Arkansas River, segments 1 through 4, and Beaver Creek were determined to be eligible. The remainder, including Grape Creek, Badger Creek, Fourmile Creek, and Eightmile Creek were determined not to be "free-flowing" nor to have "outstandingly remarkable" resources. This determination was made according to specific criteria included within the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* and Interior guidance. Further consideration by a team of resource specialists also determined the Arkansas River and Beaver Creek to be "suitable" for designation.

The management decision is not to recommend either the Arkansas River or Beaver Creek for designation because BLM believes it is not a realistic option for providing protection to the streams. Beaver Creek is protected currently by the existing wilderness study area boundary and the existing management agreement between BLM and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

For additional discussion regarding our rationale please refer to response to Comment 25-1.

Comments 90-1, 16-1, 19-1, 23-1, 30-1, 41-2, 51-2, 57-2, 61-2, 63-1, 64-1, 65-2, 66-1, 67-2, 70-2, 72-1, 74-1, 75-1, 76-1, 77-1, 80-2, 85-2, 88-1, 89-1, 90-1, 91-1, 94-2, 95-2, 96-2, 98-1, 104-2, 105-14, 105-15, 108-1, 109-1, 113-1, 114-2, 115-2, 117-1, 118-2, 119-1, 120-2, 126-3, 143-2, 146-1, 149-4, 150-1, 151-1, 152-1, 157-1, 158-3, 159-2, 160-1, 161-1, 164-1, 166-1, 169-2, 173-7, 175-34, 182-2,, 191-3, 198-2, 204-1, 216-5, 216-11, 262-1, 286-1, and H2-4-2

Concerned about the dam the city of Colorado Springs intends to construct on the Arkansas River. Absolutely against this and any future dams that would be considered on the Arkansas River from Leadville down through Cañon City.

Response

BLM analysis of the Arkansas River for wild and scenic river protection is an administrative process by which eligibility and suitability are determined. BLM does not have the resources to determine the validity of every claim within that process.

The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* requires protection and provision for valid and existing rights in Congressional designations. The city of Colorado Springs claims a right to the damsite, specifically reserved by the Federal government early in this century, north of Buena Vista for future development of domestic water. Their claim is clearly displayed in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report in the draft RMP, and an ultimate resolution will be needed. If subsequent determination is that the city does have a valid right, it would be accommodated in any designation.

If the Elephant Rock Dam is the preferred alternative selected by Colorado Springs, the project will be subject to the *National Environmental Policy Act* and an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required. A comprehensive analysis of the project proposal and resulting impacts will be completed as a preliminary step in the authorization of the project.

Comments 90-3, 97-2, 129-2, 143-2, 145-2, 167-2, and 186-3

The city of Colorado Springs needs to respect this land and the land that surrounds us; not to destroy it. There are many ways for the city to further conserve water (for instance, how many free car washes do you see in Colorado Springs).

Response

BLM does not have authority to require the city of Colorado Springs to practice conservation of water, although your comment has merit. Of the five alternative water delivery systems the Colorado Springs Utility Department considered relating to additional water use within their municipality, none addressed any type of water conservation. Many municipalities on the Front Range are looking at many conservation methods; e.g., changes in landscape plantings, reductions in public rights-of-way watering, domestic reduction devices, control of overuse through price structures, etc., to reduce the amount of water that would be brought to the city. BLM suggests you address this valid concern to the governing body of Colorado Springs. Also see response to Comment 90-1 for more information.

Comment 105-16

No mention is made in the draft of the other drastic negative economic consequences to the Upper Arkansas Valley of the proposed Elephant Rock Dam. These adverse effects include lower property values, less private residential land, lower tax base, increased property insurance.

Response

The purpose of the wild and scenic river study was for analysis and determination of the eligibility and suitability for wild and scenic designation, not to analyze the dam

proposal. As is stated in the study report, the dam site preceded the wild and scenic river analysis. The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* requires that pre-existing rights be considered within designated river segments. Recommendation by BLM for wild and scenic river designation would not necessarily eliminate this dam proposal.

Comment 110-1

Designation of Beaver Creek as W&S may impose additional regulations that might prohibit the city from modifying or repairing the reservoirs and these requirements may be extremely detrimental to the city's water distribution system. The city of Victor strongly supports the BLM position not to designate Beaver Creek wild and scenic.

Response

Thank you for your comment. Please see response to Comment 48-2 for more information.

Comment 123-1

Should support designation of Beaver Creek as part of the NW&SRS. Few low-altitude streams on the front range offer a combination of terrain, water quality, wilderness experience, and relatively undisturbed riparian habitat.

Response

Beaver Creek has been recommended by BLM for wilderness designation. The area is currently managed as a wilderness study area to maintain those values until Congress acts. BLM concurs that this area is outstanding along the front range. Please see response to Comment 25-1 for more information.

Comment 124-6

Agrees that Beaver Creek should not be designated as a W&SR.

Response

Thank you for your comment.

Comment 124-9

The entire discussion of Beaver Creek as eligible for the W&SR designation (through page L-12) is written in a one sided, subjective and biased manner. The views expressed on this page have, apparently, been rejected at page 3-51 and Beaver park supports that rejection. (L-7)

Response

Thank you for your comment.

Comment 124-10

Questions the statement that "20 miles of Beaver Creek are free-flowing" since it alters Beaver Creek stream flow in order to access its water in Skagway Reservoir or implement its exchange programs. (L-9)

Response

The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* clearly defines "free-flowing." The presence of a managed water flow does not exempt a stream from consideration as "free-flowing." A dam on either the immediate upper or lower end is also permissible.

Comment 130-1

I heard that there is legislation pending that would designate segments 1,2,3, and 4 of the Arkansas River as "recreational" under the W&SR Act. That would be great!

Response

There is no pending legislation to designate any portion of the Arkansas River as "recreational" under the W&SR Act. For more details regarding the present situation, please refer to response to Comment 25-1.

Comment 137-1

Creating another reservoir by choking another wild river will only postpone the inevitable. If we must have more water in reserve, why not enlarge the reservoirs we have, such as: Twin Lakes, Eleven Mile, Spinney Mtn., Antero, Tarryall, or Pueblo Reservoirs.

Response

The Arkansas River is not a "wild" river as defined by the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*. The river is among the most intensively managed in the nation. Assuming you are referencing the possible construction of a dam at the Elephant Rock site, other alternatives for water storage are being considered by Colorado Springs; Elephant Rock Dam is one alternative. Enlargement of Pueblo Reservoir and creation of additional storage off of the main stem of the river are others. Selection of a storage alternative is not within the authority of BLM. They are development alternatives of the city of Colorado Springs.

Comment 137-2

Recommend for congressional designation, the Arkansas River from the Lake Creek inlet, through the Royal Gorge, including the "Numbers" section, as "recreational."

Response

The Royal Gorge was not included in the BLM analysis for wild and scenic river consideration because BLM does not manage that property. BLM believes the Arkansas River is deserving of protection for values present. For further explanation of BLM rationale, please see response to Comment 25-1.

Comment 168-1

Agree with decision not to recommend Arkansas River for W&S designation. BLM's reasons for its decision are valid, as the Arkansas is truly a multiple-use river, and the degree of cooperation among all users is unprecedented. We also agree with the decision not to designate Beaver Creek as a W&SR as this tributary to the Arkansas contains many important adjudicated water rights and the imposition of a FRWR could be devastating to those municipal and agricultural users who rely on this water.

Response

Thank you for your comment.

Comments 170-42, 170-40, and 170-41

We suspect Congressmen perceived a river to be at least a body of flowing water that would float at least a kayak or canoe as a means of transport over some reasonable distance to enjoy the "wild and scenic" experience. We doubt legislators anticipated bureaucrats would extend the authority to miles of perennial creeks that one would have to wade to partake of the "scenic" experience. One can imagine a good BLM manager could send out his "herd" of "wild and scenic river specialists" into the withdrawn wilderness areas of Colorado and find many creeks the specialists could describe to meet "criteria" as well as the Beaver Creek drainage basin.

Response

The Act nominates by name a number of rivers, including the Conejos in Colorado, which are more accurately described as "creeks." BLM has attempted to analyze the streams, regardless of their size, according to the law established by the United States Congress. BLM is apologetic that you do not agree with the process or our method; however, note in

the Preferred Alternative, Chapter 3 of the draft RMP, that none of the streams or rivers in the RGRA are recommended for designation under the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*.

Comment 171-16

Appendix K - W&S designations on various river canyons is not possible (existing degradation of river with roads, railroads, etc.).

Response

"Recreational" classification criteria allows roads, railroads, etc. This criteria, shown in Appendix L (Wild and Scenic River Study Report), was used by BLM in making their decision.

Comment 175-1

BLM is withdrawing its long-standing W&SR recommendations for Beaver Creek and for the Arkansas River. Although the delineation of values supports designation, BLM does not explain why it reached a no designation decision.

Response

BLM has never recommended either the Arkansas River or Beaver Creek to Congress for wild and scenic river designation. The analysis of these streams and others for potential designation was, indeed, a long process and perhaps this is what you have mistaken for a recommendation. You are correct in stating BLM did not provide an adequate explanation for the disparity between the study report and the management recommendation. Please see response for Comment 25-1 and the complete rationale in Chapter 1 of this document for more information.

Comment 179-1

Please register my strong opposition of the scenic designation of the Arkansas River in any sector, but especially in that area from Cañon City to the Pueblo Reservoir.

Response

BLM did not conduct an analysis of the Arkansas River from the Royal Gorge downstream to Pueblo Reservoir because BLM does not manage that property. The segments that were analyzed were not recommended for designation. Please see response to Comment 25-1 for more information.

Comment 196-12

No justification is given for not recommending both the Arkansas River and Beaver Creek for designation. We strongly recommend that the final RMP not try to justify, but to reverse that nonrecommendation for both rivers. Appendix L documentation of eligibility and suitability for the rivers is, in fact, strong argument that a positive recommendation to Congress be made.

Response

BLM apologizes for not including the justification for our decision in the draft RMP. Please see response to comments 25-1 and 48-2.

Comment 196-13

In the case of Beaver Creek, the resource conflicts with potential actions upstream by the city of Colorado Springs are only short term and could likely be mitigated with proper planning, project execution, and minimal expense on their part.

Response

BLM agrees that the actions on Beaver Creek regarding maintenance of facilities will be only short term in nature. Please see response to Comment 48-2 for more information and Chapter 1 of this document for the complete rationale regarding the BLM management decision.

Comment 216-7

The plan reduces the scope of protection in the Beaver Creek watershed and does nothing to protect it from threats which have devastated the entire Arkansas River drainage for decades.

Response

Beaver Creek is and will continue to be managed as a wilderness study area and has been recommended to Congress for designation as wilderness. The RMP does not reduce the current level of protection in the Beaver Creek watershed. Without more specific information regarding the threats to which you allude, BLM cannot provide more specific information. Please see response to Comment 48-2 for more information on Beaver Creek.

Comment 216-10

The most pressing threat to the Arkansas today is the proposed Princeton Dam and Elephant Rock Reservoir

projects. The plan does nothing to protect the Arkansas from these projects.

Princeton Dam would have devastating effects on recreational use of the Arkansas, by completely eliminating two popular whitewater sections - Granite and Pine Creek. While these areas are less popular with commercial users than some others, they are of critical importance to private boaters. Pine Creek offers the hardest whitewater on the Arkansas and is widely used by advanced to expert boaters.

Response

Elephant Rock Dam and Princeton Diversion are water development alternatives under consideration by the city of Colorado Springs. Your comments on these alternatives should be addressed to them. Please see response to Comments 25-1 and 90-3 for more information.

Comment H3-3-5

Agrees with the National Recreation Area designation; believes use of W&S designation would not be appropriate as it could limit Buena Vista, Salida, and Cañon City from future development and use of water rights.

Response

Thank you for your comment. For more details on BLM rationale for recommendation of NRA designation, refer to response for comments 11-2 in the NRA section and 25-1 in this section.

Off-Highway Vehicle Use***Comment 9-2***

I am in favor of leaving all existing OHV trails and rights-of-way unchanged.

Response

Current policy requires BLM to designate off-highway vehicle (OHV) opportunities within three management classes: open, limited, or closed. An open designation allows OHV opportunities to continue unrestricted. A limited designation may impose certain restrictions such as time of season when use is allowed. These limitations are typically placed on areas where there is concern for wildlife (birthing areas, critical winter habitat). OHV limitations can be initiated to protect critical vegetation areas such as riparian and alpine tundra areas. These limitations may not restrict OHV use except to specify that OHVs must remain on existing or designated roads and trails. OHV closures would be imposed in all wilderness study areas until the areas are released by Congress from further

wilderness consideration. All roads and trails within the resource area are subject to limitations or closures if significant resource damage is occurring. Activity planning will be done for OHV areas prior to any designation of roads or trails. An important component of the OHV program will be to continue the development of partnerships with OHV groups to enhance opportunities and promote a positive and responsible "Tread Lightly" riding ethic. This approach will allow BLM to continue to offer increased opportunities for motorized recreation enthusiasts throughout the resource area.

Comments 10-2, 83-2, and 195-3

Would like to see expanded ROWs without losing existing ROWs, such as OHV opportunities on Mosquito Pass. Your plan to enhance 56 miles of ROW would be received with open arms by OHV users.

Response

ROWs are issued to individuals, companies, etc., for a variety of reasons. ROWs are used for a very specific purpose such as utilities or roads. The plan proposes access improvements to BLM-administered lands by acquiring easements and constructing new roads totaling approximately 56 miles. These access routes would enhance OHV opportunities.

The road traversing Mosquito Pass is a county road and is under the jurisdiction of the respective counties. OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails in the Mosquito Pass Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This limitation is in place to protect special plant community populations.

Comments 14-3, 24-4, and 24-7

Motorized vehicles should be limited to existing roads in ACECs.

Response

Some type of OHV limitations will be placed on 558,802 acres of BLM-administered land. OHV use will be limited to existing roads and trails until integrated activity plans (IAPs) are established for areas, at which time use in those areas will be limited to designated roads and trails. OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails in the following areas after completion of IAPs: ACECs, riparian areas including stream fishery habitat, developed recreation sites, and big game birthing areas.

Comment 29-9

Propose closing all ACECs, W&SR study corridors, riparian areas, big game birthing areas, critical winter habitat and other sensitive areas to all motor vehicles.

Response

Motorized vehicle use (OHV) is a viable use of BLM-administered lands. OHV use can continue to occur in the above mentioned areas, however, there will be certain limitations; i.e., seasonal limitations and use limited to designated roads and trails only. The values for which the above mentioned areas were recognized can still be enjoyed and managed to the benefit of the resource by imposing these OHV limitations.

Comments 135-7 and 138-2

Motor vehicles should be eliminated from any sensitive area such as ACECs, big game birthing and critical winter habitat, and riparian areas. There are plenty of roads now for motorized vehicles.

Response

All existing roads in sensitive areas; i.e., ACECs, big game birthing areas, critical winter habitat, and riparian areas will be evaluated to determine if public road access is needed. Roads identified as necessary for public access and/or for management purposes will have limitations. These roads will either be limited seasonally (travel will only be allowed during certain times of the year) or travel will be allowed only on designated roads and trails. Roads and trails identified as no longer needed for public access will be closed to motorized vehicle use. Consultation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and other groups and agencies has determined that big game species and their habitat can be protected through the above mentioned limitations.

Comment 141-5

A serious oversight in the environmental consequences (p 4-49) is recognition that roads typically cause deterioration of wildlife habitat by opening areas to a wide range of disruptive uses.

Response

The environmental consequences shown on page 4-49 in the draft RMP state a loss to OHV opportunities of 107,573 acres. This represents the area that would be lost for OHV use because of protection of big game birthing and critical winter habitat. Page 4-12 of the draft RMP under Wildlife Habitat Management identifies a positive benefit to wildlife through

the seasonal closure of critical winter and big game birthing habitat. OHV use in these critical wildlife habitat areas will be limited to designated roads and trails. Seasonal and designated road limitations will provide adequate protection for wildlife and their habitat during these critical periods. OHV use is a viable use of the BLM-administered lands when it does not cause significant impacts to the natural resources or species dependent on these resources. OHV use of these areas during the time of the year when seasonal limitations (closures) are not in place are not expected to cause an additional impact to wildlife or their habitat. Additionally, 77,842 acres of BLM-administered lands in five wilderness study areas will be closed to OHV use.

Comments 149-6, 69-2, 173-36, and 263-8

All BLM WSAs, ACECs, W&SR study corridors, and big game critical winter and birthing habitat must have limited motorized vehicle use on designated roads. As we jeep around the Fourmile area, we are appalled at the dramatic deterioration and erosion caused by the literally hundreds of needless roads proliferating daily through BLM's negligent policy of uncontrolled access.

Response

Motorized vehicle use in ACECs, riparian areas (including stream fishery habitat), and big game birthing areas will be limited to designated roads and trails. Areas identified as WSAs will be closed to motorized vehicle use. Portions of those WSAs not designated by Congress as wilderness are included in various ACECs, and motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. Motorized vehicle use throughout the planning area will be limited to designated roads and trails when integrated activity plans (IAPs) are completed. Until completion of IAPs, motorized vehicle use will be limited to existing roads and trails. The "Tread Lightly" program will be emphasized to encourage sound motorized use ethics. Partnerships with motorized recreation groups will be strengthened to assist BLM in protecting sensitive resources.

Comment 173-37

Ask BLM to base OHV management on an overall ecosystem approach; where use by motor vehicles would interfere with protection of the values in cores, limited use areas, and corridors, the areas should be closed to OHV use.

Response

Integrated activity plans will be developed on the basis of an ecosystem management approach for specific areas throughout the planning area. Roads and trails will be inventoried, and those roads and trails needed for public access and not in conflict with the goals of the plan will remain; use will be limited to designated roads and trails. All specific OHV designations within an integrated activity plan will be consistent with ecosystem management. All WSAs will be closed to motorized vehicle use.

nations within an integrated activity plan will be consistent with ecosystem management. All WSAs will be closed to motorized vehicle use.

Comment 196-14

Strongly supports Alternative B with the additional limitation to designated road only (not trails) in the areas listed on p. 3-53.

Response

Limitations on use must continue on trails and not just roads. Many of the trails throughout the planning area will continue to be managed as multiple use trails that allow OHV use. Alternative B in the draft RMP effectively limits all use to those designated roads and trails. The Preferred Alternative allows for some areas to remain open if OHV use is not detrimental to the resource. An open designation still does not allow the use to degrade the natural resources present. These areas will continue to be monitored and, if resource impacts occur, actions can be taken to limit use.

Recreation Management

Comment 6-16

Preferential treatment has been given to commercial use on the river since joint management by BLM and DPOR, which has resulted in noncommercial users being increasingly eliminated. This draft does nothing to rectify the situation.

The Final Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan put in place specific regulations designed to protect the safety and enjoyment of noncommercial whitewater enthusiasts, who were in jeopardy of being excluded from the river. Those regulations have been ignored, and BLM is aware of the result.

Response

All use of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) is being managed under the decisions in the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP). This plan identified a variety of uses in different sections of the Arkansas River, as well as established carrying capacities for both private and commercial boating. The decisions on carrying capacities went through a full public involvement process, including a protest period. Both private and commercial boaters were extensively involved in this process. It is acknowledged that the Arkansas River is heavily used by commercial boaters; however, the private boater has not been eliminated. Monitoring of use has shown that the private boater has tended to avoid the Arkansas River in years with low flows. Private boating use went up substantially during the 1993 season, as flows were much higher than in previous years.

The decisions in the ARRMP will continue to be implemented and are carried forward into the proposed RMP.

Comment 6-17

Safety is also deteriorating; over the last 10 years the Arkansas River has led the nation in whitewater fatalities (F:13). According to Charlie Walbridge, the leading authority in river safety, enforcing the current regulations would improve the situation, since "a rafting launch window is a sensible way to reduce the potential for fatal accidents while preserving the access rights for both groups."

Response

Safety on the Arkansas River is a major concern of both BLM and Colorado State Parks. The high level of use on the Arkansas River is a contributing factor to safety concerns, as is the technical nature of portions of the river. The first 4 years of the partnership between BLM and State Parks have led to an ever increasing on-the-ground presence on the Arkansas River. Colorado State Parks is fulfilling their responsibility for enforcement of river regulations.

Comments 6-18 and 216-13

BLM is not only ignoring the demise of the noncommercial paddler, it is contributing to it (A:2-86). Why is there no mention of the 14,000 noncommercial boaters who BLM actually counted in 1992? What about the thousands of boaters who did not get counted (kayakers avoid crowds; we rarely see one of the staffers assigned to counting duty).

The commercial launch windows are being flaunted, and access in Segment 1 is still not achieved. Clearly, there is a divergence between BLM policy and reality.

Response

Use of the Arkansas River by noncommercial boaters is included in Table 2-37 in the draft RMP under the heading of boating. It is acknowledged that some noncommercial boaters are not counted because of the hours of use as compared to the hours that counters are on the river. The text has been changed to reflect more current information on noncommercial boating.

BLM does not believe the commercial launch windows are being flaunted in Segment 1, but will give additional attention to use in this area. The probable cause for this assumption is commercial rafts launching within the launch window (11 a.m.), but beginning their trip at Granite. With a lunch stop, these rafts may still be legally within the segment in the afternoon.

BLM and state parks have both made efforts to acquire additional access in Segment 1. The major problem is the lack of willing sellers. If any properties become available from willing sellers, both agencies will evaluate their budgets to determine who will pursue the acquisition. Both agencies are committed to acquiring better access.

Comment 6-22

The river is the most heavily used recreational river in the U.S., and river based recreation is the driving force of the Arkansas Valley economy. The RMP must recognize and allow for the different needs of each of the relevant user groups: anglers, rafters, kayakers, and canoeists. For the most part, we all get along and share a love for the river, but our needs are quite different. We can all be accommodated and should be.

Response

The Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan attempted to recognize and allow for the different needs of each of the relevant user groups. The decisions in the river plan are being implemented. No single user group got all they wanted from the river plan. Many compromises were made so all user groups could continue to use the Arkansas River.

Comment 6-23

Continue to improve access and sanitation at the heavy-use commercial sites below Buena Vista. Provide noncommercial access in Segment 1. Post signs explaining etiquette for boaters who encounter anglers. Manage the flows to meet the existing political needs, while improving the benefit for recreation and aquatic biota.

Response

Specific recreation sites are being developed by Colorado State Parks to improve access and sanitation. Funding limitations are the only constraint affecting how fast these sites are developed. Both BLM and state parks are committed to acquiring additional access in Segment 1. The major constraint here has been a lack of willing sellers. Information on boating etiquette is being provided, not only when encountering anglers but also when encountering other boaters and private property owners. BLM and state parks have worked closely with the Bureau of Reclamation, water right owners, and the Division of Wildlife in the management of flows.

Comment 8-2

The Arkansas River Corridor and the emphasis on expanded recreation usage are impacts on the future of western Fremont

County. We encourage you to blend the traditional activities and rights of property owners with the new use demands.

Response

The Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP), incorporated into this RMP, attempted to do just as you said. Many compromises were made in the ARRMP to recognize and provide for the traditional activities and rights of property owners. BLM-administered land boundaries have been signed to lessen the potential for trespass on private lands. New public access has been obtained from willing sellers in two locations in western Fremont County to handle increased recreation use. A few additional properties may be considered for acquisition in the future.

Comment 9-3

Favors any well thought-out plan to enhance the existing trail systems in your jurisdiction.

Response

Both motorized and nonmotorized trail development will be emphasized throughout the planning area. BLM will depend to a large extent on local clubs and service groups to assist in the development of a trail system. Volunteer projects have been and will continue to be an important asset for the development of trails. BLM will continue to look for alternate funding sources to help with trail development such as Colorado lottery and OHV program grants. All designated roads and trails will be recommended for inclusion in the Colorado Master Trails Plan. This will allow BLM trails to compete for funding through the above mentioned grants.

Comment 84-2

Information on the Gold Belt SRMA, page 2-87, should be amended to include the extension of the Gold Belt Tour along Teller Highway 1 from Evergreen Station to the town of Florissant, which includes a section through the national monument.

Response

Thank you for your comment. The Gold Belt Tour Extension will be included in the proposed plan.

Comment 105-5

Any form of recreation should be curtailed or eliminated if it causes long-term damage to the resource. Specific management personnel and facilities required for a particular use should be paid for from use fees charged to the users.

Response

The demand for recreational opportunities continues to increase in the resource area. Population growth in the major metropolitan areas along the front range adds to the demand of recreation use on BLM-administered lands. The intent of recreation management in the RGRA is to continue to provide a broad range of recreation opportunities for the public. Monitoring recreational activities allows us to determine the impact a particular activity is having on the resource. Activities causing long-term damage to resources will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and management techniques will be implemented to reduce the impact. Imposing use restrictions by determining carrying capacities, closing areas seasonally to particular uses, restricting certain activities, developing education programs, providing appropriate facilities, establishing partnerships with various user groups to assist in monitoring, completing resource reclamation projects, and instilling a use ethic are all methods that could be implemented to reduce impacts from recreational use. Recreation is a viable use of BLM-administered lands, and opportunities will continue to be provided for the public.

User fees are typically not charged for recreational activities, but can be charged at developed facilities such as campgrounds. Fees are also collected for commercial recreational permits issued for activities such as outfitting and guiding, special events (motorized and nonmotorized races), and other activities where a company or group is generating a profit from their activity occurring on BLM-administered lands. These revenues are returned to the office where they are generated to support personnel and facility maintenance.

Comment 173-34

Recreation management should be compatible with the ecosystem approach proposed here. Motorized recreation should not be allowed where it could disturb wildlife and affect habitat. Some areas should be closed to all forms of recreation if required to protect biodiversity.

Response

Recreation management is an integral part of the ecosystem management planning, and integrated activity plans will be developed to incorporate recreation management goals. All human activities bring change to an ecosystem since people are an essential part of all ecosystems. Recreation management will be planned with the growth and stability of the ecosystem in mind, and recreational activities with a direct adverse impact on the biodiversity of an ecosystem could be curtailed.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) limitations have been established to protect critical big game birthing areas and winter

habitat. OHV use in these areas will be limited to designated roads and trails.

Comment 173-35

We disagree that BLM should be "aggressively" marketing the area to attract visitors (p. 2-84) given the intensity of the use on the river (i.e., bumper to bumper rafts) and elsewhere in the RA.

Response

Marketing, if done properly, can provide great benefits to the economy of local communities. The local communities along the river and throughout the resource area are very dependent on tourism. Marketing is an effective tool to bring visitors to an area. It can also be targeted towards a specific audience or group of people to ensure those visitors to the area understand the opportunities available and that those looking for that experience are the ones who visit. If done improperly, however, marketing an area or an attraction can upset the balance between the expected experience of the visitors and the experience they actually receive. A sound marketing plan for any area or attraction that addresses the expected visitor experience is more essential than the number of visitors coming to an area or attraction. The key to effective marketing is persuading a visitor to return to the area or attraction or to leave with a positive impression. BLM, in partnership with the Colorado State Parks, assists in the marketing of the river. Local chambers of commerce and other tourism oriented businesses also pursue marketing efforts. The main role for BLM in working with these marketing groups is to ensure that correct information is conveyed to the public.

The Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan established carrying capacities for boating to ensure overcrowding and excessive impacts to the natural environment do not occur. Only two subsections along the river have reached commercial boating capacities. Rationing of commercial boating use within these areas were implemented for the first time during the 1994 boating season.

Comment 196-15

Strongly support Alternative B, especially for its emphasis on semiprimitive and primitive nonmotorized settings in portions of the Arkansas River, Gold Belt, and Grape Creek SRMAs and the Royal Gorge ERMA.

Response

The Gold Belt SRMA is the only area where a primitive setting is present. Emphasis to continue offering opportunities in this setting will be reflected in the proposed plan. Management for semiprimitive opportunities will continue in the other SRMA

and the ERMA. The emphasis may not be as strong in the Preferred Alternative, however, these settings will continue to be an important component when planning for recreational opportunities throughout the planning area.

Comments 216-1 and 216-2

Recreation 2000 provides for implementation, between now and the year 2000, of five goals:

Provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities while protecting sensitive resources

Maintain recreational facilities to high standards

Expand and improve visitor services and information

Inform publics about recreational opportunities on Public Lands

Enhance recreational opportunities through land ownership and access adjustments.

As drafted, this plan and the corresponding EIS fail to achieve almost all of these BLM objectives.

Response

Recreation 2000 is currently going through a mid-course evaluation. Many of the goals identified in the original report have been and continue to be implemented by BLM.

Under an ecosystem management approach, BLM will prepare integrated activity plans to establish coordinated efforts, partnerships, and cooperative relationships with adjacent landowners/managers to implement management solutions. BLM will, therefore, continue to provide quality recreational opportunities sensitive to the natural resources, which will fulfill the goals of *Recreation 2000*.

Many examples of implementation of *Recreation 2000* in the Cañon City District are evident; e.g., the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. The draft RMP emphasizes continued implementation of the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan. Rest rooms and change facilities at several locations along the river are completed, as well as a watchable wildlife structure and a complete reconstruction of the Five Points recreation site. The river plan has set carrying capacities on boater use, and a rationing plan has been developed for commercial use. Five major acquisitions occurred along the river with BLM and Colorado State Parks involvement. The draft RMP emphasizes continuation of land acquisitions for recreation.

The Gold Belt Tour National Back Country Byway is another example of how partnerships can help address issues both on and off BLM-administered lands. This is a community project

intended to provide the best services to both the area residents and visitors.

The majority of BLM attention, resources, and budget will be focused on the Arkansas River and Gold Belt SRMAs. BLM management will continue to follow the *Recreation 2000* initiative as stated in the draft RMP. Your assistance in ensuring adequate budgets continue to be received by this office will allow for our continued success in providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities for the public.

Comment 216-14

This draft does nothing to help balance river use, nor to enhance recreational opportunities for noncommercial river users. In fact, it fails to even recognize earlier regulations which did address this situation. Without this balance, the draft fails to adequately manage the existing problems or future needs of the resource.

Response

The draft RMP was not intended to balance river use or to enhance recreation opportunities for noncommercial river users. Those issues and many others were addressed in the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP), which was incorporated into the draft RMP without change. Implementation of the ARRMP resulted in the establishment of regulations, which BLM believes adequately address your concerns. Completion of the ARRMP was a long and complicated effort that involved all user groups. Many compromises were made by these users of the Arkansas River, resulting in a plan that attempted to balance all uses and users.

Comment 216-15

The draft must address and manage the following issues:

Existing and future needs, and resource protection, must be developed on an interagency-wide watershed basis, which addresses each threat to the Arkansas River.

Recognition and balancing for each relevant user group.

Improvement of access and facilities to help alleviate the high use enjoyed by the Arkansas, and to address the expected increases for the future.

Address the full impacts of future dam construction, both for recreational and environmental health of the river.

Response

BLM has proposed a national recreation area (NRA) for the BLM-administered lands in the upper Arkansas watershed. Other agencies in the watershed are being consulted as to their

participation in the NRA. A larger NRA including many of the other agency lands in the upper Arkansas watershed could answer your concerns. The advent of ecosystem-based management by BLM and other agencies in the watershed should also address your concerns.

The need to recognize and balance each user group is answered in response to Comment 216-14.

Improvements are being made for access and facilities as funds become available and under the guidance of the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan. Expected increases in future use are also addressed in the plan.

The subject of dam construction is addressed in response to Comments 90-1 and 216-10.

National Recreation Area Designations

Comments 11-2, 24-2, 29-3, 47-3, 56-2, 69-5, 70-2, 105-12, 113-2, 126-2, 131-3, 136-3, 138-5, 149-3, 153-2, 155-2, 158-5, 173-9, 185-2, 190-3, 191-3, 193-3, 197-2, 216-5, 216-12, 263-3, H2-9-1, H2-10-1, and H3-4-1

Proposal to recommend NRA status does not offer the same level or consistency of protection for the Arkansas River as does the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*.

Response

You are correct regarding the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* and levels of protection for a designated river. At this time, it is difficult to say what language would be in Congressional legislation for the national recreation area. There are no overriding protective laws in establishing an NRA as there are for wild and scenic rivers. Congress, therefore, especially the Colorado delegation, will be looking for the appropriate level of protection to include in any legislation. BLM will work closely with the delegation and will stress the importance of protective language for the river. Including specific language in the enabling legislation for an NRA can provide protection similar to that of a wild and scenic river. Appendix C displays potential language for an Arkansas River NRA.

Comment 132-5

NRA designation is recommended instead of W&SR for the Arkansas. The effect of this would be to turn the Arkansas into the opposite of a W&S river. All the NRAs I know are characterized by acres and acres of blacktop parking areas, trailer camps, and boat ramps. They are so developed there is virtually nothing natural left. I would be distressed to see the beautiful Arkansas consigned to this tawdry fate.

Response

It is not the intention of BLM to turn the Arkansas River into what you have described. The goal is to retain the decisions in the current Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP). If additional lands are added to those now managed under the ARRMP, management would be in accordance with the language in the enabling legislation. BLM is committed to protecting the natural qualities that make this area the outstanding recreation attraction it is. BLM will encourage Congress to include protective language in the enabling legislation. Also see response to Comments 11-2 and 25-1 for more information.

Comments 141-6 and 148-1

The micro-management approach of the Preferred Alternative fails to ensure the long-term protection of this resource (W&S river), and is likely to be subject to everything from political whims to funding shortfalls. Alternative B offers the best long-term guarantees.

Response

BLM will support protective language in the enabling legislation for an Arkansas River NRA. Congress, however, will determine what specific language is or is not included in the legislation. BLM agrees with your concerns about protection of the valuable resource on the Arkansas River. For more details, also see Comments 11-2 and 25-1.

Comment 168-2

Serious consideration should be given to the creation of a NRA on the Arkansas River. The city will work in cooperation with BLM to investigate this designation, while at the same time protecting our property rights.

Any NRA legislation needs to be crafted to allow for existing and continued utilization of these water resources and protection of these property rights.

Response

Thank you for your support. BLM will be working with all entities in the affected area on the proposed legislation. Also see response to Comment 11-2.

Comment 196-16

We do not support an Arkansas NRA.

Response

Thank you for your comment. Please refer to response for Comments 11-2 and 25-1.

Comment 217-3

NRA status would benefit the Arkansas and Beaver Creek if the designation actually required the preservation of these ecosystems. However, it doesn't.

Response

See response to Comment 11-2. NRA status has not been proposed for Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek has been recommended for wilderness designation; however, Congress will make the final decision regarding designation.

Miscellaneous

Comment 84-6

The fold-out map at the back of the document and other places throughout the document refer to "Bents Fort National Monument." The correct title is "Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site."

Response

This name change has been noted on the edit copy of the map and will be changed on future editions. The name change is also shown as a change in Chapter 1, Table 1-1, of this document.

Comment 124-5

What is the real reason for the absence of a ranked resource/value table for the preferred alternative? The explanation in the first paragraph of page 3-3 makes no sense and seems deceptive.

Response

An alternative with a true mix of uses based on multiple use would have been very difficult, if not impossible, to write. Multiple use management should provide as many opportunities for use and users as possible with the least amount of disturbance or degradation to other resources and values. A ranked value table, therefore, would slant these uses/users instead of allowing them to occur in the most appropriate areas at the most appropriate times.

Comment 136-1

Our chapter of 300 members did not receive any communication from BLM regarding this matter. We request that in the future you provide us with an opportunity to be directly involved in the early stages of public input in planning for resource management. Meetings are once a month, and we need some lead time for response. Comments are my personal opinion since our Directors have not had a chance to discuss the draft plan.

Response

We regret that your particular group was unable to make comments on the Royal Gorge Draft Resource Management Plan\ Environmental Impact Statement. Mark Emmer of the "Heart of the Rockies Audubon Society" and Dave Johnson of the "Arkansas Valley Audubon Society" were involved in several of our open houses, public input groups, etc. We were not aware they had discontinued their involvement in your organization. Your name has been added to our mailing list, and you will receive all future documents in this planning effort.

Comments 170-4 and 171-2

In the revised plan, we urge BLM to replace all acronyms in the text with the words the initials are defined to represent. We can think of no excuse for the writer to distract the reader by forcing him to lose his train of thought by cluttering the text with unfamiliar acronyms the casual reader must look up in order to comprehend the implication of the message.

Response

We apologize if the acronyms displayed in the draft caused you inconvenience in reading and understanding the context. A list of acronyms is provided at the beginning of the document for review to help the reader prior to reading the plan. Also, in most cases, the acronyms are written out the first time they are used in each chapter. The more common ones; i.e., BLM, probably are not as consistently repeated as some of the less known acronyms.

As you are probably aware, BLM is limited to a certain amount of pages in management plans, and space is conserved as much as possible, without compromising the material necessary for the reader to make informed comments. Using acronyms for terms repeated over and over in the draft is one way of conserving space and reducing the number of pages without omitting pertinent information necessary for the plan itself.

Comments 170-5 and 176-1

We suggest BLM restructure the body of the final into four major parts:

1. Inventory of its perception of values, with evidentiary support.
2. Alternative plans for managing the use of the values.
3. EIS for each alternate plan, with a clear statement of the cost to the public for each alternative.
4. Appendix containing credible information on which the proposal is substantially founded.

Response

Thank you for your suggestions regarding the structure of our plan. BLM planning guidance is specific in the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act* of 1976 and our National Planning Guidance. BLM believes all four of your suggested parts are included in our existing process and are covered in different degrees within the draft document.

Comments 173-1 and 175-2

Plan was very hard to analyze. Most RMPs of the USFS and BLM have shown the alternatives, especially the preferred, on maps and show the prescriptions that determine resource allocation for each area. The only large scale map in this plan shows only land and mineral ownership. It does not show BLM WSAs, W&S river study segments, ACECs, or other information including many major roads. Without some graphic representation of the alternatives on usable maps showing specific uses each block of land will host, it is very difficult to understand the effects of the alternatives. We ask the plan be redone with alternatives mapped so they can be understood by the public.

Response

BLM realizes the smaller maps do not illustrate the specific details as well a large format color map. Printing the 37 page-size maps as large scale color maps would potentially have added \$60,000 to \$75,000 per alternative to the printing cost of the draft plan. Funds were not available to do that. The large color map in the back of the draft plan does show major roads, highways, most cities and towns, land ownership for BLM, USFS, state, etc., and was provided to allow the reader to use it as a geographic reference map only. Page 2-7 shows wilderness study areas on Map 2-3; page 2-9 shows areas of critical environmental concern on Map 2-9; specific maps for each of the river segments are in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report. To assist you and other readers in better understanding the decisions within the

proposed plan/final environmental statement, seven large scale one-color maps are in the back of this document.

Comment 174-6

The following typos, inconsistencies, and missing location information:

Table 2-5, p. 2-22, typo under 1980/90 percent change for El Paso County

Table 2/33, p. 2-68 shows Lake and Kiowa Counties with same BLM surface acres.

Table 2-34, p. 2-73 does not list Mosquito Pass ACEC as shown on Map 2-9

Table G-7, p. G-28 shows 163 Federal wells; text on the same page describes 79 exploratory and 91 development wells (total of 170 wells)

Maps 1-3, 2-3, 2-8, 2-9, 4-3 through 4-8 and 4-12 need grid identified with T&R nos.

Maps 2-10 and 2-11 need T&R grid and nos identifiers

Maps 2-5 and 4-1 should show county boundaries.

Response

Thank you for your comments relating to missing and incorrect information and inconsistencies.

Table 2-5, page 2-22 has been corrected and is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 of this document.

The acreage discrepancy on Table 2-33; i.e., Lake and Las Animas Counties were both shown with 17,443 acres; Las Animas should be 8,532 acres. This change has been noted and shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 of this document.

A change for Table 2-34, page 2-73, adding Mosquito Pass is shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1, of this document.

The narrative on page G-28, first column, A. under Exploratory Wells has been changed to "72 wells. . . ." and the second column, E. changed to ". . . over 20-year period is 144 acres." Same page, second column under Development Wells, last paragraph, first sentence changed to ". . . over the 20-year life of the RGRMP is 381 acres." These changes are also shown in Chapter 1, Table 1-1 of this document.

Large fold-out maps showing township and range numbers as well as county boundaries are inserted in the back of this document.

Comment 177-1

Direct economic considerations to the Bureau should have increased weight in considering alternatives. Since the office is not self sufficient, but taxpayer dependent, for its operating funds, it needs to be forthcoming as to the economic impact of each of the alternatives.

Response

The Bureau of Land Management, as an agency, is more than self-sufficient; the Bureau produces five to six times more income into the Federal budget than it currently uses on an annual basis. This income comes from mineral leases and sales, timber sales, and other minor recreational and livestock grazing permits. Each alternative does have a summary economic cost factor shown on page 4-3 of the draft. For the Existing Alternative a benefit/cost ratio of 10.5 to 1 is shown, the Resource Conservation Alternative shows a benefit/cost ratio of 9.9 to 1, the Resource Utilization Alternative a benefit/cost ratio of 10.6 to 1, and the Preferred Alternative a benefit/cost ratio of 11.6 to 1. Comment H1-1-6.

Comment H1-1-6

We (Roz and Norm Mullen) had the impression that the range of alternatives may not be wide enough to present an authentic choice.

Response

BLM believes that four alternatives tied to the various potential but realistic management directions that could feasibly occur on BLM-administered lands provide an acceptable range of alternative choices. The analyses covers the existing management situation, a strong conservation oriented direction, a strong production oriented direction, and an alternative with a reasonable mix of all three options; therefore, the extent of coverage is believed to be adequate. Only a few concerns regarding the range of alternatives were received from 286 commentors responding on the draft RMP/EIS.

CHAPTER 3

PROPOSED PLAN AND IMPACTS



CHAPTER 3

PROPOSED PLAN AND IMPACTS

Introduction

Decisions in the final RMP/EIS will be made by eco-subregion (ESR). Each ESR is somewhat similar in land, vegetation, and management goals and may have particular issues or management concerns in common. In the final document, the resource condition objective, land use allocation, and the management action decisions will be described on the basis of these ESRs (Map 3-1).

The following 10 ESRs have been identified:

- 1 - Arkansas River
- 2 - Collegiate/Sangre
- 3 - Badger Creek
- 4 - South Park
- 5 - Gold Belt
- 6 - Waugh Mountain/Tallahassee Creek
- 7 - Grape Creek
- 8 - Huerfano
- 9 - Cucharas Canyon
- 10 - Other Lands

A general area description, listing of possible issues/concerns, and general land management objectives related to the proposed plan are shown for each ESR.

Management Guidance/ Assumptions Common to All Eco-Subregions

The management guidance common to all eco-subregions described in this section by resources and resource uses are not carried into the specific decisions in the individual eco-subregions. They are, however, of significant concern to the Bureau.

In most cases, the common measures described for these resources and resource uses reflect Bureau policies and regulatory mandates and, therefore, will be the same throughout the plan. Some resources and resource uses may be partially discussed both in this section and under the individual eco-subregion discussions as specific decisions.

Climate

Management will be the same in all eco-subregions. Climatic variance throughout the planning area, and over time, affects the management options for several resources. Climatic conditions will be monitored and analyzed when appropriate. For example: rangeland vegetation condition assessments will analyze both climatic and grazing management, and mineral development plans will analyze both climatic and mineral development reclamation.

Air Quality

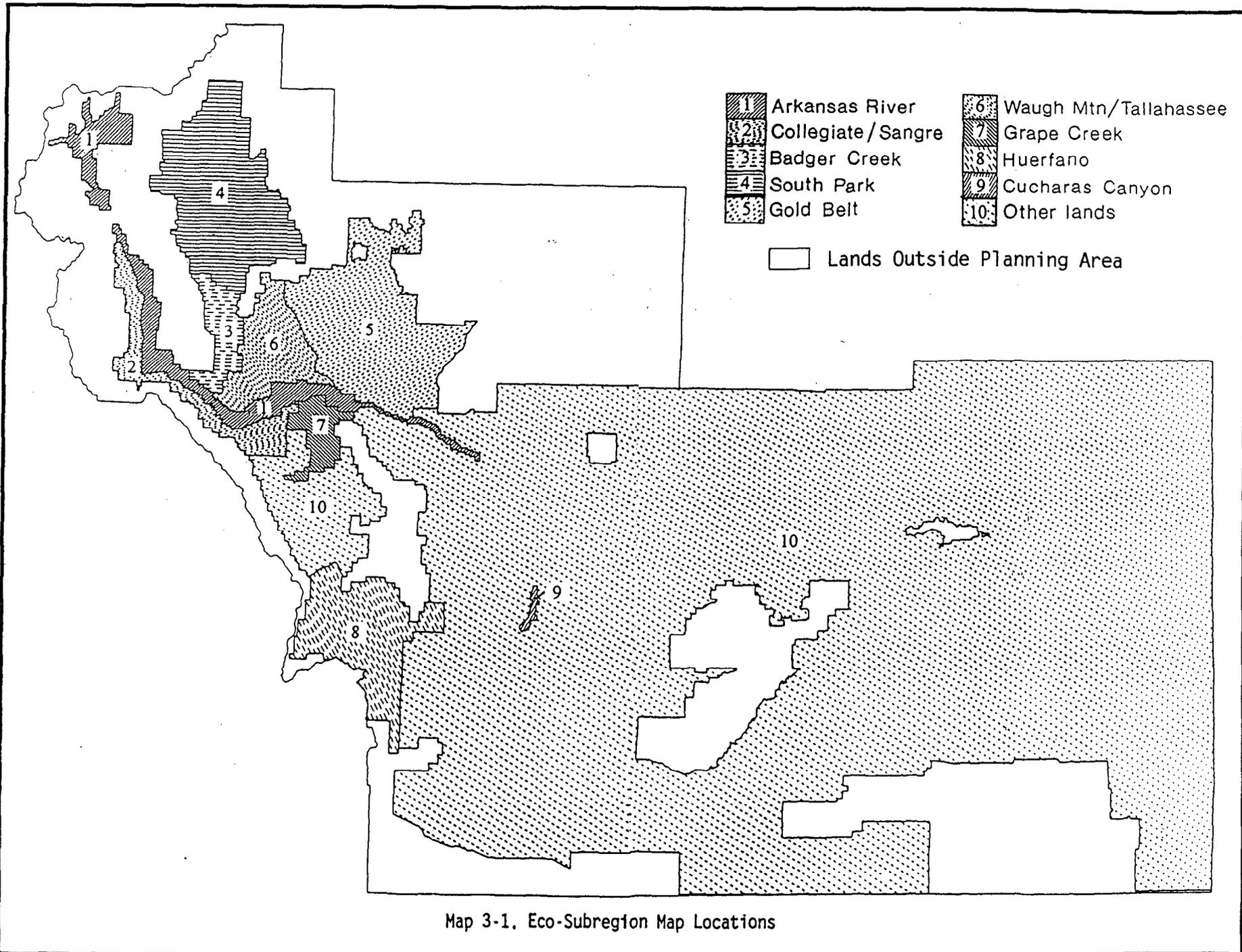
Management for this resource value will not differ in any eco-subregion. Air quality degradation will be minimized through strict compliance with Federal, state, and local regulations and implementation plans. Air quality impacts from prescribed burns are limited by BLM Manual 7723 (Air Quality Maintenance Requirements), which requires a state-approved open burning permit prior to implementation. Prescribed burns will be small in scale and dispersed throughout the planning area. Increasing off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in open areas might accelerate soil erosion and increase fugitive dust emissions; however, dust suppression and control devices would not be practical. Additional management activities include monitoring, analysis, and impact mitigation on a project-specific basis, which ensures compliance with applicable regulations and implementation plans.

Sensitive Soils

Surface-disturbing activities including construction of roads, trails, utility lines, and special use facilities; grazing; mineral development; forest and woodland management, and OHV use will be managed to avoid soil erosion and loss of watershed values throughout the planning area during the life of the plan. Allotment grazing adjustments and standards with stipulations for other resource actions will decrease erosion and potentially enhance watershed characteristics.

Water Rights

In compliance with state law, water rights will be acquired to use water in support of BLM programs, including the water needs of BLM recreation sites, commercial and concession facilities, special plant and animal habitat areas, establishment of state and local government recreation and public purposes lease areas, livestock management allotments, and wildlife habitat areas. An implicit Federal reserved water right is included in the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* and will apply to any designated segments.



The Bureau water use inventory and water rights program within the planning area will continue to be implemented. As new projects are completed and old ones are maintained, re-evaluating and updating will be required.

Water Quality

Minimum state water quality standards will be followed for all activities. Water quality will continue to be maintained or improved in accordance with state and Federal standards. BLM will consult with the appropriate state agencies. Management actions on BLM-administered land within designated municipal watersheds will continue to be designed to protect water quality and quantity. Monitoring selected ground water and surface water stations will continue in cooperation with USGS.

Watershed activity planning will interface with existing plans as appropriate and will be implemented on areas where livestock grazing plan adjustments will not fully correct any determined water quality problem. Cooperation with the range program in the development, implementation, evaluation, and modification of IAPs as affected by watershed values will continue as a top priority in the watershed program.

Monitoring and evaluating water quality and quantity, as well as controlling erosion and sediment production, will remain high priority management goals. Emphasis will be to continue all watershed activities that provide protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the watershed resources, including the support watershed provides to other resource programs and activities.

BLM in Colorado will continue to take an active role in control of nonpoint source pollution on BLM-administered lands. BLM is an active participant on the state of Colorado Nonpoint Source Taskforce and Agriculture/Silviculture Subcommittee. BLM is also, and will continue to be, involved with the Badger Creek and Threemile Creek study groups. Through these organizations, BLM will identify nonpoint source pollution areas for the updating of the Colorado Nonpoint Assessment Report. BLM policy is to protect, maintain, restore and/or enhance the quality of waters on BLM-administered lands. Implementation of best management practices will be utilized to help achieve this goal. Funds will be requested for planning and project implementation for nonpoint source control with emphasis on the priority watersheds identified in the Colorado Nonpoint Source Management Program report. Nonpoint source control projects will be implemented as funding and manpower allow.

Hazards Management

All hazard sites/areas will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and management will be the same in all eco-subregions. Management of all other resources will always involve remediation/reclamation of known hazard sites/areas. Hazard management

will be incorporated into all appropriate integrated activity plans (IAPs).

Existing sites/areas from past mineral development considered to be potentially hazardous because of high side walls, deep pits, etc., will be reclaimed in coordination with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board hazard abatement program. The goal of this long-term project is to eliminate the hazards of these sites/areas, and BLM will continue to fully cooperate with this agency in this effort. Trespass dumping on BLM-administered lands will continue to be controlled through signing and monitoring these sites/areas and increasing public awareness. An area-wide hazards management activity plan will provide the details as to onsite closures, signing, site reclamation needs, etc., to implement hazard abatement. Hazardous materials emergencies will be handled according to the District Emergency Response Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan, which requires six steps:

1. Discovery and notification
2. Education and initiation of action
3. Emergency treatment of contaminated personnel or public
4. Containment
5. Cleanup and disposal
6. Procurement, documentation, and possible cost recovery

Topography and Geology

The topography of the resource area will not change significantly in any of the eco-subregions; therefore, management will be the same.

Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds will be managed the same throughout the planning area according to the principles of integrated pest management (IPM) and the *Colorado Undesirable Plant Act*. Cooperative efforts with county weed boards to control infestations will be developed. Methods used will include chemical, cultural, mechanical, and biological control. Environmental assessments will be tiered to the *Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands Final EIS 1991*.

Fire Management

All BLM-administered lands in the resource planning area will be managed for total fire suppression. No conditional suppression acres are considered in this plan. The fractured land pattern present in the planning area and the extensive private property development, including mountain subdivisions, preclude the conditional suppression of wild fire. There is no anticipated rotational use of prescribed fire within the planning area. Prescribed fire could be used as a management tool to enhance other resources. Prior to fire

Chapter 3

prescription, DPC will be described and fire projects will be initiated through IAPs. A specific burn plan, including NEPA documentation, will be prepared in advance of a prescribed burn.

Economic Conditions and Social Environment

The contribution in employment and earnings to the economic study area (ESA), including setting the estimated national values to the year 2010, will be analyzed. A determination has been made regarding the local and regional impact of employment related to expenditures on BLM-administered lands in the planning area. A cost/benefit ratio has been determined comparing the costs to benefits. Economic analysis mainly involves the sale of forestry products and provision for recreation user opportunities and livestock production.

Other benefits not being analyzed are the estimated values of preserving the natural and cultural resources, the estimated market values of minerals, and the potential values of maintaining viable wildlife populations. A determination of the potential cumulative impacts on the local and regional economy/social environment has been accomplished.

The socio-economic analysis is adequate to analyze local/regional social and economic effects; effects on the BLM Royal Gorge Resource Area management costs; and effects on national values for recreation activities.

Currently there are no up-to-date models specific to the ESA that could be used to measure total employment and income changes for this plan. The Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Input-Output Modeling System (RIMS II), however, has multipliers for Colorado, which are used in this analysis. Management will affect employment, population, and income in the area. Most of the effects will occur because of impacts on the forestry sector, and retail and service sectors. These economic sectors will be affected by changes in grazing, forestry, and recreation opportunities occurring from the land uses in the plan. The potential economic impacts are insignificant as they relate to local and regional impact.

The expenditure data is used to measure economic effects on the ESA, and national values are defined as the net economic gain from an activity. Expenditures are important to local and state economies, but they do not reflect the total recreation values of the resource, which include the personal benefits one receives from participation in that activity. Thus, national values measure these additional benefits. For example, the net gain or national values from a recreation activity are what the recreator is willing to pay over their actual costs to participate in the activity. Net gains are portrayed on an annual basis for this analysis.

These national values are estimates of "willingness to pay" (wtp). Wtp values are easy to determine when goods

and services are bought and sold in well-defined markets. Recreation wtp values, however, usually have to be estimated from secondary sources.

No significant population change will result from land use allocation. The impacts tend to be site-specific and confined to a particular type of user group. Any decision will usually produce trade-offs with social advantages for some persons or groups and social disadvantages for others.

All of these values were estimated as wtp values. Some of the values were determined by observation of goods and services bought and sold in well-defined markets. For example markets exist for grazing; however, other resources such as recreation do not have established markets. These values were based on various wtp studies.

Examples of other benefits not assigned monetary values include the value to future generations of protection and preserving cultural resources, the benefits of maintaining viable populations of wildlife species, and the satisfaction derived by those who do not have any intention of seeing these populations.

Mineral values are also not considered. Mineral activity on BLM-administered lands responds mostly to changes in market prices over time, rather than to changes in land management plans. Price changes in minerals or the amount of minerals that can be produced in the future on these lands cannot be predicted. Thus minerals are not valued for the trade-off analysis, but are considered during the decision making process.

The average rate for an animal-unit month on nonirrigated privately-owned lands in the 11 western states is about \$8. This value is used as a correlative equal value for ranch income per AUM on BLM lands.

The BLM resource area base cost of \$1.7 million per year is not expected to change. The actual dollar amount may change because of inflation. In terms of 1991 dollars, however, the \$1.7 million is not expected to increase.

Land tenure adjustments will primarily occur on a case-by-case basis and are unpredictable; therefore, impacts cannot be determined. Basically land tenure adjustments will insignificantly affect county PILT money. Consideration will be made of the social and economic impact of each exchange.

Recreational economic benefits in this plan will result in 283 potential new jobs. In this plan, impacts to the national values will be about \$22 million or 11.6 percent increase. The BLM Royal Gorge Resource Area costs can be compared to the benefits over time using 8-7/8 percent discount rate. In this plan, a benefit/cost ratio of about 11.6 to 1 (\$22 million in benefits to 11.7 million in costs) will occur.

Vegetation Management

Overall vegetative management objectives will be to attain a stable watershed and soil condition based on site potential. Vegetation manipulation practices or other techniques will also be used, if necessary. An ecological site inventory will be conducted by priority on most lands in the resource area. Ecological site descriptions will be developed on a priority basis for riparian areas, critical watersheds, and critical wildlife habitat. Site-specific resource objectives, including specific desired plant community (DPC) will be identified in integrated activity plans and individual activity plans, and in most cases will be a diverse community of grasses, shrubs, and trees that could be reasonably achieved.

Overall trend, condition, and forage production are expected to improve and will be monitored. Impacts from soil-disturbing activities will be mitigated with standard operating practices for re-habilitation of disturbed sites. Maintenance, improvement, and/or manipulation of the existing vegetation will continue to be a priority concern for all actions. Forage is not currently distributed to wildlife or watershed; however, because of current season-of-use, utilization restrictions, and topography, approximately 20,000 AUMs of forage not distributed to livestock are presently being used by big game or as watershed cover.

Vegetation (253 acres) will be disturbed annually by harvest, thinning, or other silvicultural treatment resulting in a change in plant succession. Vegetation on existing developed recreation sites will be disturbed as well as future developed recreation sites.

Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock grazing management will be based on the *1981 Royal Gorge Area Grazing Environmental Impact Statement* in all eco-subregions. The valid decisions will be included in the RMP. (See Appendix A for more details.)

Adjustments in the actual AUMs (temporary increase or decrease) will be authorized and made when warranted by weather or other conditions. An environmental assessment (EA) will be needed before a term permit is issued for acquired land outside the existing allotment boundary. Temporary livestock grazing could be allowed, pending an EA on completion of acquisition of these lands.

Typical range improvements are listed in Appendix A. Traditionally allotment management plans (AMPs) have been used to prescribe management objectives and achieve the grazing management programs. AMPs will continue to be used on an interim basis until replaced with integrated activity plans (IAPs).

Monitoring studies will be continued or established depending on management category, which will determine monitoring intensity. The highest intensity monitoring studies will

occur on Improve category allotments. The specific type of studies will be determined by the IAP objectives. All grazing allotments in the planning area have been assigned to one of three management categories. The Maintain category allotments generally will be managed to maintain current satisfactory resource conditions; Improve category allotments generally will be managed to improve resource conditions; and Custodial category allotments will receive custodial management to prevent resource deterioration (see Appendix A). The management category for an allotment could be replaced through a range program summary (RPS) after the RMP/EIS is completed only if the category criteria status of the allotment and/or monitoring studies, plus an allotment evaluation, indicate a change is warranted.

Based on monitoring studies, corrective action will be taken if IAP objectives are not being met. Livestock use adjustments will most often be made by changing one or more of the following: class of livestock, season of use, stocking rate, or the grazing management system. Although most livestock use adjustments will occur in the Improve category allotments, use adjustments could occur in the Maintain and Custodial category allotments. Changes will be made through an EA or AMP revision.

Types of grazing systems being implemented in the planning area are described in Appendix A and will be implemented by an IAP. Plans will generally be prepared in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the permittee and other affected parties to meet multiple use and land use plan objectives.

Grazing capacity accuracy on Custodial category allotments will be determined. Current poor condition allotments with ecological site inventory (ESI) data will be re-evaluated and appropriateness of management levels of use to meet current objectives will be determined. ESI will be conducted on allotments with conflicts, and stocking rates and season of use will be adjusted accordingly.

Cattle drift from BLM-administered land onto uncontrolled adjacent private land will be controlled. Livestock grazing will be excluded in historical sites, if a threat of damage exists, and in developed recreation sites.

Current trends in livestock market conditions in the planning area will continue for the life of the plan. Livestock values will, therefore, fluctuate the same as at present. Assessments of impacts to vegetation are based on expectations of normal precipitation during the life of the plan. Long-term grazing use levels are based on the effectiveness of the allotment management plan (AMP) process, through evaluation of monitoring information (e.g., utilization studies and actual use data) and modifications of those use levels as the need occurs.

Grazing decisions in this RMP replace grazing EIS decisions and range program documents (summary updates). These RMP decisions will be implemented after the approved RMP/ROD is signed.

Riparian Area Management

In all eco-subregions the minimum legislative requirements will be met; i.e., *Clean Water Act*. Riparian areas will be managed to maintain or achieve a properly functioning level. Riparian areas will be inventoried on a priority basis.

Management will continue to improve with implementation of the new Bureau guidance to maintain and/or improve current conditions in riparian zones, which will be a significant and positive effect. Prior to implementation, all actions within riparian areas will be assessed for the effects on the resource.

Grazing will be eliminated on approximately 325 acres of riparian habitat in poor condition. These areas are scattered throughout the planning area in numerous places and have not been identified because the inventory is incomplete. The amount of acreage is estimated at 50 percent of existing riparian in poor condition. These areas, because of topography and other factors, can be improved only through exclusion of livestock grazing.

Fluid mineral operations will be limited by conditions of approval in standard stipulations or controlled surface use in accordance with Appendix B in this document. More information is also in Appendix G of the draft RMP.

Forest and Woodland Management

Forest and woodland management will be implemented on an extended rotation, even-age basis. Uneven-age management is not precluded, but will not occur on significant acreage. Silvicultural and site preparation methods that result in natural regeneration will be the primary reforestation methods and will be the emphasis in sale design. In all disturbed sites, DPC will be determined. Commercial forest and operable woodlands will be managed to enhance special status animal habitat. Forest lands allocated for other resource values (not subject to planned timber harvest) are available for retention, maintenance, and/or re-establishment of old growth and mature forests.

Timber stand quality will continue to decline on old harvest areas, and pests and disease problems will increase if the infected residual stands remain. Appropriate timber stand harvest and improvement (e.g., proper silviculture practices) will enhance most other resources. Typically rangeland resources (e.g., wildlife and livestock forage) will not be affected. Timber harvesting and wood gathering will occur in special status animal habitat only for enhancement of the protected species. New road construction will benefit management through reduction of transportation costs, which will reduce harvest costs. New easements will open previously unavailable harvest areas. An adverse activity for forest and woodland management is one that either reduces available acreage for intensive management; i.e., lands available for intensive management (LAIM), or eliminates certain intensive practices; i.e., reduce potential volume per acre.

Wildlife Habitat Management

All BLM-administered lands (653,000 acres) are considered for protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat values. Limitations on fluid minerals are based on 2.5 million acres of subsurface, which includes the 653,000 acres of BLM-administered surface land. Other limitations are based only on surface acres. Monitoring of the existing habitat management plans (HMPs) and crucial big game winter range, birthing areas, and raptor sites will continue until integrated activity plans (IAPs) are prepared. All other non-game wildlife will be managed consistent with *Wildlife 2000*. In all vegetation manipulation areas, DPC will be determined.

Any quality changes in wildlife habitat could cause an increase or decrease in populations dependent on that habitat. A direct relationship exists between the quality (e.g., condition and trend) of wildlife habitat and the wildlife populations (e.g., numbers of animals) using that habitat.

Fishery Habitat Management

Existing stream fisheries will be maintained. Improvements in condition and stability will be accomplished through riparian, wildlife, forestry, grazing, and recreation programs where the potential exists. Fishery habitat is on BLM-administered surface lands only and not on mineral estate lands.

Supplemental releases and re-introduction of native fish species could be authorized by the area manager following environmental analysis.

Any quality changes in fishery habitat could cause an increase or decrease in populations dependent on that habitat. A direct relationship exists between the quality (e.g., stream condition and trend) and populations.

Special Status Plant/Community Species Management

Threatened and endangered and sensitive species and plant communities will be inventoried and monitored as necessary to provide information for proper management. Management of uses in areas with special status plants will be in compliance with the *Endangered Species Act*. Any reintroduction of Federal or state listed endangered, threatened, candidate, and sensitive species will be achieved following environmental analysis and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP), and other affected parties. Federal agencies are directed by the *Endangered Species Act* to avoid actions that further jeopardize listed and sensitive species and to enhance these species when possible. DPC will be determined in vegetation manipulation areas to enhance habitat for the species.

In all cases, full compliance with Sec. 7 of the *Endangered Species Act* (1973) will be completed before invoking specific actions resulting from RMP decisions. This requires mandatory consultation and coordination with the USFWS and clearance of lands inhabited by these species. Inventory analysis and monitoring will be done for special status plant/community species. Clearances for special plant species will be completed for all proposed management actions.

Intensive recreation development will be limited to protect existing and potential special animal status habitat.

Special Status Animal Species Management

Threatened and endangered and sensitive species will be inventoried and monitored as necessary to provide information for proper management. Limitations on fluid minerals are based on 2.5 million acres of subsurface, which includes the 653,000 acres of BLM-administered surface land. Other limitations are based only on surface acres. Supplemental releases and reintroduction of Federal and state listed endangered, threatened, candidate, and sensitive species will be achieved following environmental analysis and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW), and other affected parties. Federal agencies are directed by the *Endangered Species Act* to avoid actions that further jeopardize listed and sensitive species and to enhance these species when possible.

In all cases, full compliance with Sec. 7 of the *Endangered Species Act* (1973) will be completed before invoking specific actions resulting from RMP decisions. This requires mandatory consultation and coordination with the USFWS and clearance of lands inhabited by these species. Inventory analysis and monitoring will be done for special status animal species. Sensitive animal species habitat will be retained in public ownership. Clearances for special animal species will be completed for all proposed management actions.

Intensive recreation management will be limited to protect existing and potential sensitive species habitat.

Fluid Minerals Management

One of the primary purposes of the RMP is to determine what BLM-administered mineral estate within the 2.5 million acres of the planning area is available for fluid mineral leasing. Decisions also consider which, if any, additional mitigative measures or stipulations are necessary for protection of the environment and other resource values. These stipulations, in Appendix B, are in addition to those contained in the standard lease terms, regulations, and conditions of approval for operations conducted following lease issuance. Federal mineral estate will be open to leasing as identified in each eco-subregion with the

exception of the following nondiscretionary closure: WSAs (76,316 acres) within the planning area pending final designation by Congress. Wilderness lands will be withdrawn from all forms of minerals appropriation subject to valid existing rights in accordance with Sec. 4(d)(3) of the *Wilderness Act*. Lands not designated wilderness will return to multiple use management subject to the applicable leasing decisions of this plan.

The reasonably foreseeable development indicates that the projected disturbance resulting from fluid mineral operations is approximately 20 acres annually or a total of about 400, which is less than .02 percent of the BLM-administered mineral estate in the planning area.

Wilderness designation will not result in any significant impacts to mineral resources because of the low mineral potential of these particular lands. Geophysical exploration operations will be subject to relatively the same management decisions and subsequent effects as identified for fluid mineral leasing and development. Although existing fluid mineral leases will not be modified by the decisions of this plan during the term of each lease, lessees and operators will be encouraged to voluntarily comply with such requirements if and when operations are conducted.

Most mineral rights on BLM-administered lands identified for disposal will be retained. In some instances disposal of lands with low-value minerals could occur. This could, however, potentially create a split-estate situation; i.e., surface estate separated from the subsurface minerals. Exploration and development in these areas could cause some additional operational requirements; however, because of the assumed low-mineral values, the effect will be insignificant.

Locatable Minerals Management

Locatable minerals will continue to be managed under 43 CFR 3809 regulations. All areas within the planning area, unless specifically withdrawn from mineral entry or seasonally limited, are open. Closures will be made through withdrawals. Operations conducted under 3809 regulations shall conform with specified seasonal limitations to avoid unnecessary and undue degradation. In all disturbed areas, DPC will be determined. Operations failing to follow or provide reasonable mitigation may be subject to the nonconformance provisions as identified in 43 CFR 3809.3-2. Those areas identified within WSAs (76,316 acres) will be managed under the 43 CFR 3802 regulations. Locatable minerals within any area designated wilderness will be managed according to the specific wilderness legislation. Class I paleontological areas and developed recreation sites are closed to mineral entry. Mineral availability could increase through land acquisition.

Mineral Materials Management

Salable minerals will continue to be managed under the 43 CFR 3600. In all disturbed areas, DPC will be determined. Disposal of mineral materials will not occur within WSAs

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(76,316 acres). Class I paleontological areas and recreation sites are closed to disposal of mineral materials. Mineral availability could increase through land acquisition.

Coal Minerals Management

Existing leases will be continued. In all disturbed areas, DPC will be determined. The coal screening process will be used to determine areas to be further considered for leasing. Only areas with potential for development will be considered; areas that meet the 20 standard coal unsuitability criteria will be further considered; areas that pass the surface owner screen will then further be considered. Areas acceptable for coal leasing will be prioritized for timely scheduling and completion of data collection.

Mineral availability could increase through land acquisition, and high potential minerals will be retained. All coal leasing for surface/underground mining will be affected.

Paleontological Resources

Paleontology will be managed in accordance with existing BLM manual guidance, which requires clearances and necessary mitigation in class I areas identified as having potential for discovery of scientifically significant fossils. Guidance also outlines procedures required for paleontological permitting. Cyclic inventories of class I and some class II paleo areas will be conducted. Existing inventories will be updated as needed. Various educational programs using paleontological resources could be developed on a case-by-case basis.

Under current circumstances, paleontological resources will continue to deteriorate through natural forces, public visitation, and vandalism if no corrective nor preventive action is taken. Full compliance and implementation of the laws, regulations, and Bureau policy will be completed before beginning any actions resulting from approved RMP decisions; however, there will still be a net adverse effect to this resource.

Historical Resources

All historical sites/districts will receive protection in compliance with procedures in Secs. 106 and 110 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*.

Under current circumstances, historical resources will continue to deteriorate through natural forces and from public use and vandalism if no corrective nor preventive action is taken. Identified potential National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites will remain in BLM-administration. The remaining historical values could be lost even though recording and mitigation will occur prior to disposal. Clearance is required pursuant to 36 CFR 800. Full compliance and enforcement of Sec. 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act* (1966) will be completed before beginning any

actions resulting from approved RMP decisions; however, there will still be a net adverse effect to this resource.

Archaeological Resources

All archaeological sites/districts are managed in compliance with procedures in Sec. 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*. NRHP sites/districts will be retained in BLM-administration.

Under current circumstances, archaeological resources will continue to deteriorate through natural forces and from public use and vandalism if no corrective nor preventive action is taken. Inventory, evaluation, and determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places are required pursuant to 36 CFR 800. Full compliance and enforcement of Sec. 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act* (1966) will be completed before beginning any actions resulting from approved RMP decisions; however, there will still be a net adverse effect to this resource. Development of recreation areas and construction of waterpower and storage facilities will cause increased destruction of sites; e.g., vandalism, theft, and alteration of the landscape. "Significance thresholds" were not calculated for archaeological resources since the loss of potential scientific information is not measurable. The loss of a single artifact could be potentially significant. Cumulative effects are also not measurable since the resource is fragile and nonrenewable. NRHP sites will be retained in BLM-administration.

Transportation and Access Management

Access to BLM-administered lands will be primarily provided by county roads. Other means of obtaining public access will be investigated and documented within the transportation plan. Miles shown in the tables are the maximum expected and may include multiple routes believed necessary for adequate access. Acres are the approximate land area presently inaccessible that will become accessible. Roads and trails on BLM-administered lands will be maintained by the appropriate holder of rights. BLM will maintain those transportation system roads and trails needed for agency resource management and public use. Unneeded and unmaintained roads and trails will be closed and reclaimed. Vehicle use will be limited seasonally, as needed, by public notice. Comprehensive transportation planning will be maintained.

Acquisition of all identified access proposals will improve administration of resource programs. Also BLM collector and local roads will continue to be maintained, and BLM resource roads will not be routinely maintained. An active signing/barricading program will also be implemented on road closures and problem areas. Some roads will be system roads maintained by BLM for public benefit and general administration. System roads are those necessary for significant administration. Some nonmaintained BLM-system roads will be closed. Cattleguards will be required

for public roads on lands allocated for grazing. Roads will avoid historical/archaeological sites if possible; if not, sites will be recorded and mitigated.

Rights-of-Way Management

Existing rights-of-ways (ROWs) and the 1993 Western Utility Group (WUG) study will be considered when designating utility corridor locations.

Corridors for major ROWs. The preferred location for future major ROWs (greater than 115,000 volt powerlines and greater than 8-inch diameter gas pipelines). Corridors outside exclusion and avoidance areas will be 3 miles wide.

Avoidance areas for major ROWs. Areas with values that *could* be adversely affected by new major ROWs. Major ROWs and areal sites (i.e., communication sites and reservoirs) could be granted only when a feasibly designated corridor is unavailable. Existing corridors along major facilities through avoidance areas recommended for designation by WUG will be only one-half mile in total width. New corridors proposed through avoidance areas will be diverted around the area if possible.

Exclusion areas for major ROWs. Areas with values that *will* be adversely affected by new major ROWs. Major ROWs and areal sites will not be granted, unless mandated by law. WSAs will be treated as exclusion areas.

Minor ROWs. Local purpose powerlines, pipelines, communication lines and sites, and other types of ROWs will be allowed only when a clear need is demonstrated, and the beneficial environmental effects outweigh the costs. They will be authorized on a case-by-case basis utilizing criteria for ROW Objectives in each specific eco-subregion.

Concentrated areas with existing major utility facilities and proposed corridors of the Western Regional Corridor Study (WRCS) are established as designated utility corridors. Future major rights-of-way (ROWs) will be restricted to these corridors unless appropriate justification is provided to do otherwise. Avoidance areas are designated where siting and construction are difficult and detailed analysis will be required to develop stipulations. Exclusion areas are designated where siting is virtually impossible, only a thorough review and EIS analysis could justify locations in these areas, and significant stipulations are necessary. Developed recreation sites (80 acres) and potential new developed sites will be avoidance areas in all eco-subregions.

Land Ownership Adjustments

Land ownership adjustment opportunities (by sale, exchange, or acquisition) will be used to improve BLM-administered land patterns for management efficiency to enhance public values and to reduce potential for land use conflicts. In addition, sales of BLM-administered lands

must be consistent with the criteria established in FLPMA, Sec. 203. Acquisition from willing sellers will occur to meet priority needs for resource management. Suitability for disposal by specific authority will be determined on a case-by-case basis through NEPA compliance.

In all land ownership adjustments, it is desirable to avoid splitting surface and mineral estate, and it is also desirable to reunite split estate through acquisition or disposal when opportunities arise and appropriate regulatory requirements are met. High potential mineral resources will be retained even if the estate is split. Developed recreation sites will be retained in public ownership.

Land ownership adjustments (e.g., increases and/or decreases in BLM-administered lands) will be made. Preference will be given those adjustments that provide the most benefits to the public. Emphasis will be on increasing usable public resources (e.g., access or riparian zones). Various methods of landownership adjustment will be considered and will be accomplished according to FLPMA. In all cases, fair market value will be received for lands sold, and lands or interests of equal value will be received in exchanges.

All land adjustments identified will be completed during the life of the plan. Also the adjustments will block up BLM-administered lands and isolated BLM tracts will be available for disposal. Disposal of wilderness study areas, developed recreation sites, NRHP eligible cultural and historic sites, and special status species plant and animal habitat (nesting/fledgling areas) will not occur.

Withdrawals and Classifications

All classifications and withdrawals will be reviewed periodically to determine whether they should be continued, modified, or revoked/terminated.

Withdrawals to protect special values such as recreation and wildlife preclude settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2). Withdrawals to protect waterpower/storage values preclude settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws. Mineral entry, however, will be permitted under the provisions of P.L. 359. Withdrawals for Public Water Reserves will prevent any activities that disturb or destroy Federal interest in waters on BLM-administered lands. These withdrawals are not open to nonmetaliferous mineral entry. Most withdrawals for other agencies (approximately 158,000 acres) are subject to periodic review. If withdrawals of BLM-administered land are relinquished, these lands will be managed according to applicable management prescription described in this plan.

Classifications for R&PP transfers (patents) will be allowed only on Category I lands as prescribed in the Land Ownership Adjustment section. Classifications for R&PP leases will be allowed on Category I, II, and III lands as prescribed in the Land Ownership Adjustment section. *Classification*

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and *Multiple Use Act* (CMU) classifications will be reviewed and replaced, as appropriate, by more recent authorities.

Review of each withdrawal and classification will be completed following guidance of the RMP and appropriate action taken to continue, modify, or revoke/terminate. Any change in classification or withdrawal is a change in the planned land use for that particular area. Change in availability of the land for application of the public land laws and the mineral laws is the greatest impact of revoking or modifying a withdrawal or classification. In addition, protective withdrawals revoked or modified could adversely affect the resource intended for protection by allowing conflicting use. Class I paleo areas and developed recreation sites will be classified and segregated from public land laws and mining laws.

Waterpower/Reservoir Resources

All waterpower/reservoir withdrawals have been reviewed to determine if they are still warranted. Appropriate action has been taken to continue or recommend revocation. Levels of management are as follows: *Intensive*: Areas where waterpower/reservoir is the priority use among a number of others. *Restricted*: Areas where other resource uses are emphasized in lieu of a permit or license application. *Unsuitable*: Areas where development of waterpower or reservoirs is excluded or recommended for exclusion.

Waterpower/storage site withdrawals will continue to be made on sites that meet the qualifying criteria for waterpower/storage.

Location and evaluation of new waterpower/storage sites will continue and will be added to the inventory. Land acquisitions of waterpower/storage sites meeting the criteria will be completed as needed and subsequent waterpower/storage site withdrawals will be made where appropriate.

Areas of Critical and Environmental Concern Designations

All areas designated an ACEC will have all off-highway vehicle travel limited to designated roads and trails. Visual rating will be re-evaluated to ensure existing rating is appropriate to protect any outstanding scenic qualities of the area. All ACECs will be included as part of an IAP, which will be completed during the early years of RMP plan implementation. This integrated plan will replace and supersede any multiple overlapping single use activity plans completed on the same area.

Future areas may be nominated, screened, and recommended. An EA/plan amendment will be prepared for future designated areas.

Off-Highway Vehicle Use

All BLM-administered lands in all eco-subregions will be formally designated in the *Federal Register* as open, limited, or closed. The authorized officer (district manager) will determine on a case-by-case basis special restrictions to be imposed on off-highway vehicle (OHV) related activity causing significant damage to wildlife, cultural, historical, paleontological, or other natural resources. OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails when seasonal stipulations are not in effect. Exemptions to the road and trail restrictions may be granted by the authorized officer for BLM employees to perform administrative tasks, and for others who are authorized through grazing permits, timber sale contracts, etc., to conduct business on BLM-administered land. Motorized events requiring a special recreation permit could be allowed in areas with limitations at the discretion of the authorized officer and completion of required NEPA documentation. Direct travel to a suitable parking site within 300 feet of an existing or designated road or trail will be authorized if damage to the land or streams will not occur. Emergency limitations or closures (not a part of the OHV designation process) could be imposed by the authorized officer to protect all resource values (43 CFR 8341.2). Colorado State laws regarding motorized vehicle use will be enforced on all BLM-administered lands. In all areas disturbed by OHV activities, the desired plant community (DPC) will be determined, and necessary actions taken to mitigate the impact. Until congressional action occurs, all WSAs (62,657 acres) will be closed to OHV activity. Management actions identified within WSAs will conform with wilderness interim management policies until congressional decision is made regarding designation. If WSAs are not designated wilderness by Congress, OHV travel in these areas will be managed for other uses.

Areas shown in this plan as limited to OHV use will be limited to existing roads and trails until road designations are determined within activity plans.

Visual Resource Management

Visual management objective classes have been assigned to all BLM-administered lands in the planning area. Contrast rating forms are required for high impact projects or proposed projects in highly sensitive areas. A brief narrative visual assessment will be completed for all projects that require an environmental assessment or impact statement. Designated wilderness areas will be managed as VRM Class I. Maintenance of high quality visual resources on the BLM-administered lands is important to local economies in areas with sensitive scenic values.

Recreation Management

Intensive recreation management will continue to be provided on lands along the Arkansas River (109,063 acres) and the Gold Belt tour area (126,248 acres). These lands are identified

as special recreation management areas (SRMAs) and will be managed in accordance with existing and new plans and in accordance with BLM policy and *Recreation 2000* initiative. The remaining lands outside the SRMAs (approximately 417,689 acres) will be managed as an extensive recreation management area (ERMA). Primitive and semiprimitive nonmotorized settings will be maintained for all WSAs until a congressional decision is made. These values in designated wilderness areas will continue to be maintained.

In all SRMAs and the ERMA, a continued proactive approach in the use of volunteers and the development of partnerships will be pursued in support of recreational opportunities throughout the planning area. Visitor safety and resource protection will be provided as necessary. Existing developed sites will be withdrawn from mineral entry and those recreation sites over 10 acres will be leased for fluid minerals with NSO stipulations, closed to livestock grazing if conflicts occur, excluded from major ROW/corridor development, and retained in public ownership. Developed recreation sites less than 10 acres in size will be protected with standard stipulations.

Royal Gorge Extensive Recreation Management Area: Management of this area will provide for a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities and experiences (camping, hunting, hiking, OHV use, biking, and horseback riding) in semiprimitive motorized, nonmotorized, and primitive settings. Facility development will be less intensive than in the SRMAs and will provide for reduction of user conflicts and impacts to the natural resources and public health and sanitation. New initiatives or demands will continue to be evaluated for benefits to the public and impacts to the natural resources. Appropriate management actions will accommodate new activities and provide opportunities for the public.

Based on documentation in the *Colorado Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)*, visitor use on BLM-administered lands is expected to significantly increase over present rates. New technology will result in growth of activities, which cannot be anticipated (e.g., rock climbing). Opportunities for interpretation of special plant and animal species and historical and archaeological resources will be enhanced to varying degrees.



Eco-Subregion 1 (Arkansas River)

Description

- 124,876 acres BLM
- 7,534 acres private
- 8,703 acres state

This area includes private, state, and BLM-administered lands around Leadville, Colorado, and down the Arkansas River corridor to the upper end of Pueblo Reservoir. The corridor consists of those lands directly affected by the river and river associated uses. Riparian vegetation is highly variable depending on the elevation, topography, and amount of human change that has occurred over the past two or more centuries. At the upper elevations, mountain meadow grasses, willows and sedge/rush are the dominant riparian vegetation normal for these high, cold elevations. Along the middle and lower stretches of the river corridor, the riparian vegetation is dominated by grass species associated with warmer climates, a variety of shrubs (several nonnative), and cottonwood and willow trees. On the uplands bordering the riparian vegetation, piñon/juniper woodlands, oak, and other mountain shrub species occur with aspen, fir, spruce, and ponderosa pine trees at the upper elevations. U.S. Highways 50 and 285, as well as the railroad, have been a major influence within this area. Most of the corridor to Cañon City, Colorado, is dominated by steep-walled canyons with a few wide floodplains; the topography then opens onto the Great Plains (see Map 3-2).

Management Issues and Concerns

Land ownership adjustments, land access acquisition/transportation, areas of critical environmental concern, national recreation area designation, off-highway vehicle use, regional tourism, fluid mineral/locatable mineral management, recreation management, waterpower/reservoir management, special status plant/animal species management, historical resources, riparian area management, livestock grazing management, fishery and wildlife habitat management, visual resource management, rights-of-way management, withdrawals and classifications, and forest and woodlands management were issues and concerns in this eco-subregion.

Management Guidance/Assumptions

The following guidance/assumptions apply to this eco-subregion and address Bureau policy and regulatory mandates for resources and resource uses.

Wilderness Management

Browns Canyon and a portion of McIntyre Hills WSAs (11,945 acres) in the RGPA will be managed under BLM *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* (IMPG) until Congress makes a decision on wilderness recommendations for the Cañon City District. If these WSAs are not designated as wilderness, they will return to other types of multiple use management as prescribed in this land use plan. Desired plant community (DPC) will be determined for WSAs returned to other types of multiple use management. In accordance with Sec. 603 of FLPMA, BLM is required to manage all identified wilderness study areas under the nonimpairment mandate. Valid existing rights must be recognized and are an exception to the nonimpairment mandate. Grazing uses and mining operations occurring as of October 21, 1976, may continue in the same manner and degree as long as they do not cause unnecessary or undue degradation. Uses and operations proposed after this date, however, are subject to the nonimpairment requirements for all operations proposed.

Browns Canyon WSA is recommended by BLM for wilderness designation in the *Final Cañon City District Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement* dated December 1987, and will be managed in accordance with BLM and congressional directives. This area will be returned to other multiple use management if not designated wilderness by Congress.

Water Quality

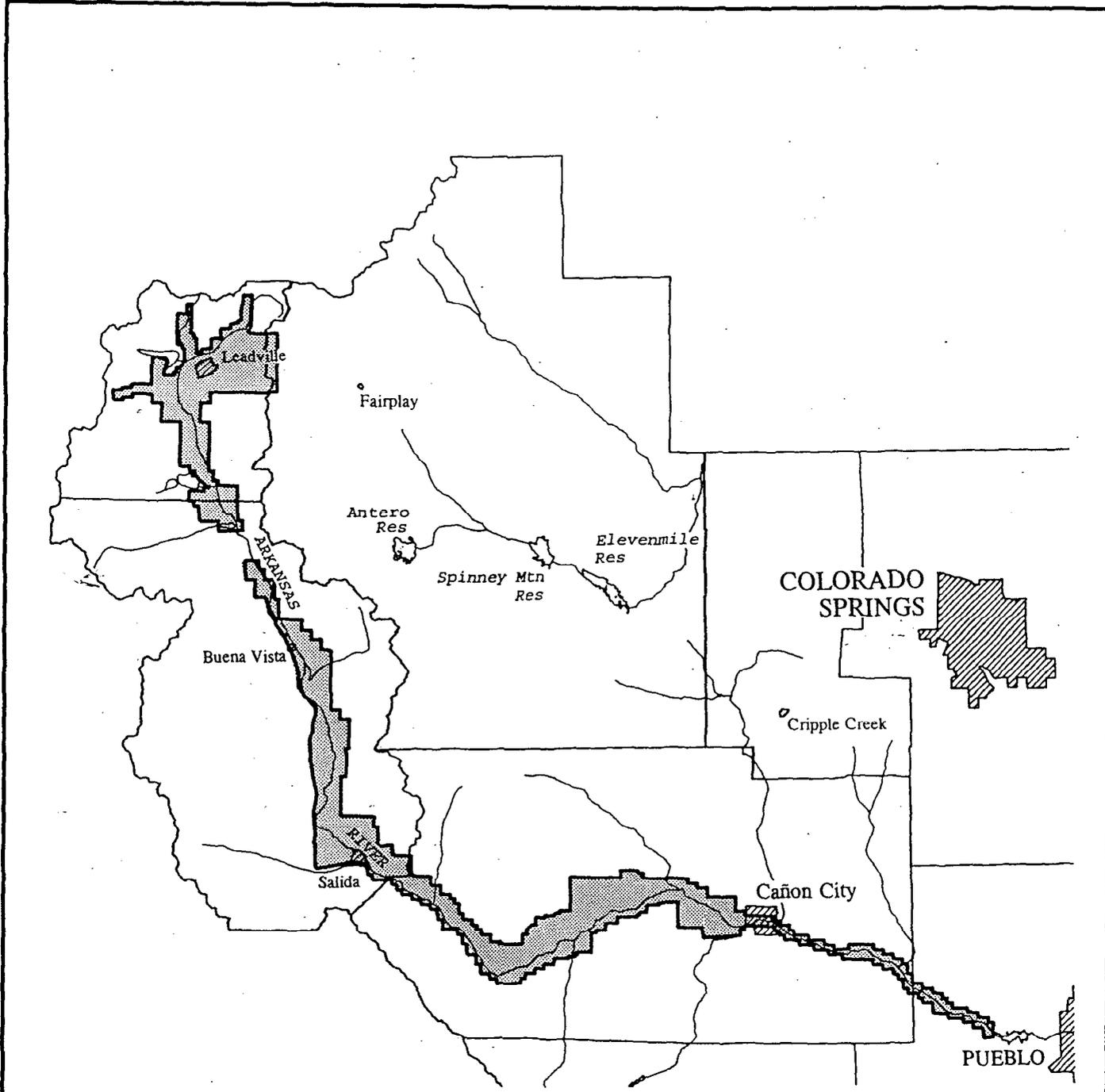
The Arkansas River Initiative, a group currently headed by the Environmental Protection Agency, is working to consolidate previous studies, coordinate and standardize current studies, and provide a method to share the information obtained. Additional data collection is also anticipated. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) is currently studying instream flow requirements for biological needs on the Arkansas River. This study was requested by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and will be used to establish minimum streamflow requirements. BLM has initiated a water needs assessment through the Denver Service Center, in partnership with Colorado Department of Natural Resources, USFS, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, to determine water flow needs for biological, hydrological, and recreational resources, including whitewater boating.

Areas of Critical Environment Concern

Lands within the Twin Mountain and Wellsville areas (1,466 acres) and resources (i.e., significant and unique geological features) will not receive special management under ACEC designation.

Recreation Management

Arkansas River Special Recreation Management Area: Management for this SRMA will provide upland recrea-



Scale 1:1,000,000

Map 3-2. Eco-Subregion 1 (Arkansas River) Location Map

Chapter 3

tional opportunities that compliment the water-based opportunities in semiprimitive, rural, semiprimitive motorized, and nonmotorized settings (i.e., watchable wildlife, natural resource interpretation, hiking, biking, and OHV use). A supplementary plan to the *Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP) and Environmental Analysis* will be completed emphasizing upland opportunities outside the 5,000 acres in the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR)/BLM cooperative management agreement (CMA) area. Additional recreation and public purpose (R&PP) leases within the CMA area will be issued if the following criteria are met: 1) The site should be programmed for capital investment including permanent facilities and services for the benefit of the public; 2) Proposals for use of a site should satisfy an identified need; 3) Proposals for use of a site should accomplish the management objectives outlined in the ARRMP for that location; 4) The site should be of minimum acreage needed to accomplish what is proposed; 5) Proposals for use of a site should alleviate existing environmental impacts and prevent future impacts; 6) Proposals for use and development of a site should be suitable for the selected location; and 7) The proposal must meet the requirements of the *R&PP Act*. All decisions in the existing ARRMP and decision record will be carried forward in this plan. Semiprimitive nonmotorized settings in the Browns Canyon and McIntyre Hills WSAs (5,461 acres) will be maintained.

National Recreation Areas

River recreation values within the Arkansas River Corridor will continue to be managed jointly by the DPOR and BLM as detailed in the ARRMP. This joint management will continue whether or not the river corridor is designated a national recreation area (NRA) by Congress.

The NRA proposal will include the Arkansas River and adjacent public lands in the Canon City District, Royal Gorge Resource Area and comprises approximately 125,000 acres.

It is assumed that whether or not management as a special recreation management area (SRMA) continues or manage-

ment is under a congressional designation of NRA, recreational values in the river corridor will continue to be enhanced for public use. It is also assumed that a potential NRA designation will include the same approximate area and the same recreation values currently managed within the SRMA.

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-1 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.



**TABLE 3-1
Eco-Subregion 1 (Arkansas River)**

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian-Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i>	<p>Improved vegetation management will result in new forage, which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Management for enhancement of other resource values on 13,206 acres of forest lands will occur.</p>	DPC objectives will be developed for IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 119,347 acres. Vegetation will not be grazed on 5,490 acres.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 81,941 acres could be disturbed by mineral development.</p> <p>42,035 acres will be protected.</p> <p><i>Historical and recreation resources</i> - Vegetation on 1,493 acres will be enhanced by fencing, if conflicts occur.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - 108,031 acres will be open to disturbance, which could result in a change in plant succession.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 115,470 acres (93%) will be protected by closure or limitation of travel to designated roads and trails. 9,406 acres (7%) will not be protected</p>
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas, critical wildlife habitat, and two ACECs.	<p>Grazing will be authorized on 42 allotments (119,347 acres).</p> <p>Grazing will be excluded on Mosquito Pass ACEC (4,036 acres) and restricted on a portion of High Mesa Grasslands (1,454 acres).</p> <p>Grazing will be excluded on 1,493 acres (149 AUMs) on developed recreation sites and NRHP sites if conflicts occur.</p>	<p>Livestock "drift" onto uncontrolled private land will be eliminated through a combination of BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing. Allotments will be categorized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve allotments 25 - Maintain allotments 3 - Custodial allotments 32 - Unallotted allotments 2. 	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Livestock grazing will be diminished on 10,800 acres because of low productivity of forage from DPC. Livestock grazing will be enhanced by vegetative manipulation on 4,000 acres resulting in an increase of 800 AUMs.</p> <p><i>Livestock grazing, riparian areas, wildlife habitat</i> - Range improvement funds will be spent on Improve category allotments for fences and vegetation treatment to increase forage production on 61,561 acres on 25 allotments.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Livestock grazing (continued)				<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/lessees for fence construction on 14 Improve and Maintain category allotments and on an unknown number of Custodial category allotments. More public funding will be used on boundary fence construction resulting in less funds for range improvement projects.</p> <p><i>Historical resources and recreation resources</i> - Livestock grazing could be lost on 1,493 acres.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Livestock grazing will occur on 4,036 acres and be diminished on 1,510 acres.</p>
Riparian areas	<p>Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.</p>	<p>Perennial riparian areas (838 acres) will be limited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral materials disposal - withdrawals for waterpower/reservoir sites will be recommended for revocation - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. 	<p>Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.</p>	<p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - Perennial riparian (838 acres) will be protected. Intermittent riparian (198 acres) will not be protected.</p> <p><i>Waterpower/reservoir resources</i> - 1,036 acres will be protected by recommending revocation of withdrawals.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 838 acres will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails 198 acres could be degraded.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Forest and woodlands	Productive forest land will be managed for sustained-yield.	A portion of the 13,206 acres of forested lands will be available for intensive management.	In the 5-year sale plan, stands will be prioritized for harvest consideration in the following order: -enhancement of vegetation goals - insect or disease - timber production - other multiple resource values. Funding will be solicited from other activities to support the 5-year sale plan and all IAPS.	<i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Disposal of 13,206 acres of productive forest land to the private sector could occur.
Wildlife habitat	Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals.	<p>Big game birthing habitat on 1,884 surface acres will be limited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails. <p>Big game birthing and critical winter habitat on 6,584 acres will be avoided by major ROWs.</p> <p>Big game critical winter habitat with identified conflict will be addressed through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with no surface occupancy stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 472 subsurface acres. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within three IAPs.	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 123,383 acres. 1,493 acres will not be enhanced.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Raptor fledgling/ nesting habitat on 472 subsurface acres will be protected by NSO stipulations. Big game critical winter, birthing, and wild turkey winter habitat on 7,970 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations. Big game winter habitat on 87,018 subsurface acres will be protected under standard lease stipulations only.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 1,884 surface acres will be closed to mineral entry. Big game critical winter, raptor nesting/fledgling, and wild turkey winter habitat on 6,506 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat (continued)		<p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter on 5,638 subsurface acres (12/1-4/30) - big game birthing habitat on approximately 1,570 subsurface acres (by species) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elk calving and deer fawning 4/16-6/30 -- pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 - bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - wild turkey winter habitat on 762 acres 12/1-4/1. <p>Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat on 4,700 surface acres 12/1-4/30 - raptor nesting and fledgling habitat on 1,055 surface acres 3/1-7/31 - wild turkey winter habitat on 751 acres 12/1-4/1. 		<p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 1,884 surface acres will be closed to disposal of mineral materials. Big game critical winter, raptor nesting/fledgling, and wild turkey winter habitat on 6,506 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat on 6,584 acres could be degraded by construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat could be lost through land disposal; acquired lands could provide additional habitat.</p> <p><i>Waterpower/reservoir resources</i> - Wildlife habitat on 7,996 acres will be protected through recommending withdrawal of revocations.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Wildlife values on 39,713 acres within Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek, and Arkansas Canyonlands ACECs will be enhanced.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat on 7,208 acres will be protected through seasonal limitations. Big game birthing habitat on 1,884 acres will also be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions / <i>its</i>	Action Decisions	Impacts
Fishery habitat	Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.	All streams (56 miles) will be protected as follows: - standard lease terms for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials - off-highway vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails on 363 acres.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (363 acres) will be protected. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Fishery habitat quality on 172 acres will improve. <i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (363 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.
Special status plant/community species	Special status plants will be protected by special management actions, including elimination of identified and verified conflicting uses.	The relict plant community in High Mesa Grasslands (1,510 acres) and <i>Eutrema pendlandii</i> on Mosquito Pass (4,036 acres) will be protected as follows: - ACEC designation - no surface occupancy - closed to mineral entry - no disposal of mineral materials - OHV restrictions.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - Sensitive plant species on Mosquito Pass (4,036 acres) will be protected through exclusion of grazing. Sensitive plant species will be protected in High Mesa Grasslands (1,510 acres) through stocking rates and season-of-use adjustments. <i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Sensitive plant species in Arkansas Canyonlands (High Mesa Grasslands) and Mosquito Pass ACECs (5,594 acres) will be protected. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Sensitive plant species on 5,546 acres will be protected. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive plant species in Arkansas Canyonlands (High Mesa Grasslands) and Mosquito Pass ACECs (5,546 acres) will be protected.

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Special status animal species	Protection and enhancement of special status animals will be continued by eliminating identified and verified land uses that conflict with these species.	Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing in conformance with the T&E Act as follows: - peregrine falcon nesting habitat on 73 acres.	Activity planning will be accomplished within an IAP.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 73 subsurface acres will be protected. .</p> <p>Sensitive species habitat on 42,109 subsurface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 73 surface acres will be protected from mineral entry.</p> <p>Sensitive species habitat on 50,301 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification. .</p> <p>Mineral materials - Sensitive species habitat on 73 surface acres will be protected from mineral materials disposal.</p> <p>Sensitive species habitat on 50,301 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 21,867 acres will be protected.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 50,301 acres will be protected through seasonal limitations.</p>
		Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations as follows: - ferruginous hawk nesting and fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15 - bald eagle winter roosting habitat on 9,525 subsurface acres 11/16-4/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 38,500 subsurface acres 2/1-7/31 - peregrine falcon habitat on 73 subsurface acres 3/16-7/31.		
		Special status animal habitat will be closed to mineral entry and mineral materials disposal as follows: - peregrine falcon nesting habitat on 73 surface acres.		
		Special status animal habitat will be seasonally limited for mineral operations as follows: - ferruginous hawk nesting and fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15 - bald eagle winter roosting habitat on 9,525 surface acres 11/16-4/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 36,692 surface acres 2/1-7/31 - peregrine falcon habitat on 73 surface acres 3/16-7/31.		

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Fluid minerals	Development will be authorized through standard lease procedures with additional mitigation applied where necessary to protect other natural values.	<p>11,945 subsurface acres will not be leased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs. <p>73 subsurface acres will be available for leasing in conformance with the T&E Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peregrine falcon nesting <p>6,783 acres will be leased with NSO stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting and fledgling habitat (one-eighth mile buffer). - sensitive status plants (High Mesa Grassland and Mosquito Pass) - Chaffee County landfill - developed recreation sites - reservoir rights-of-way <p>63,692 acres will be leased with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elk calving and deer birthing 4/16-6/30 - bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-4/30 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/2-4/1 - bald eagle winter roosting habitat (one-half mile buffer) 11/16-4/15 - peregrine falcon nesting habitat 3/16-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15. <p>77,383 acres will be leased with controlled surface use stipulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VRM Class II areas. 	None.	<p><i>Wilderness study areas and special status animals</i> - Restrictions will preclude leasing operations by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11,945 acres of low. <p><i>Wildlife habitat, special status plants, withdrawals/classifications, and recreation</i> - NSO stipulations could result in severe restrictions or potentially eliminate leasing operations by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 503 acres of low - 6,280 acres of none. <p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Seasonal stipulations could result in moderate to severe restriction based on the length of the limitation and the operation scheduling needs by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40 acres of high - 113 acres of moderate - 15,454 acres of low - 48,085 acres of none. <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Controlled surface use stipulations could result in minor to moderate restriction on the following resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31 acres of high - 6,849 acres of low - 70,503 acres of none.

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Locatable minerals	<p>Areas open to mineral entry will be administered under the existing regulations and limited by closure if necessary. Special mitigation will be developed to protect other identified values on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>4,653 acres will be open to mineral entry under standard mineral operating practices.</p> <p>65,145 acres will be open with seasonal limitations through claimant notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - bald eagle winter roosting areas 11/16-4/15 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15. <p>55,078 acres will be closed to mineral entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs - 3 potential NRHP sites - big game birthing areas - peregrine falcon nesting - portions of 5 ACECs - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial) - developed recreation sites. 	<p>Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Mineral entry will not occur in wilderness study areas (11,945 acres).</p> <p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 838 surface acres; the remaining 198 surface acres will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on big game birthing areas (1,884 surface acres).</p> <p>Mineral entry will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 6,506 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 363 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral entry will be seasonally restricted on 50,301 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on three potential NRHP sites (960 surface acres).</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Mineral entry will not occur in portions of five ACECs (39,778 acres).</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 533 acres.</p>
Mineral materials	<p>The area will be open to development; mitigation or closures will be applied if necessary to protect other natural values. Preferred areas of sales will be identified.</p>	<p>4,653 acres will be available for mineral disposal under standard mineral operating practices.</p>	<p>Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs.</p> <p>Analysis to locate and establish community mineral material pits will be completed within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Wilderness study areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 11,945 acres.</p> <p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 838 surface acres; the remaining 198 surface acres will be open.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Mineral materials (continued)		<p>65,145 acres will be available with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - bald eagle winter roosting areas 11/16-4/15 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15. <p>55,078 acres will be closed to mineral entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs - 3 potential NRHP sites - big game birthing areas - peregrine falcon nesting - portions of 5 ACECs - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial) - developed recreation sites. 		<p><i>Wildlif habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur in big game birthing areas (1,884 surface acres). Mineral material disposal will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 6,506 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 363 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral material disposal will be seasonally restricted on 50,301 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur in three potential NRHP sites (960 acres).</p> <p><i>ACEC designation</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on portions of five ACECs (39,778 acres).</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 533 acres.</p>
Historical resources	<p>Information potential will be used for interpretation and scientific values. Sites will be used for their interpretive value.</p>	<p>Conservation of historical resources will be provided through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - designation of Browns Canyon and Arkansas Canyonlands ACECs (39,778 acres). <p>Conservation of 3 potential NRHP sites (Leadville Stage Road, 320 acres; Midland RR railbed, 460 acres; DeReemer Forts, 160 acres) will be provided through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standard lease stipulations for fluids - closed to mineral entry - no mineral materials disposal - OHV use limited to designated roads and trails. 	<p>Information potential will be promoted through involvement with educational institutions.</p> <p>Active programs for interpretive scientific and recreational use of the historic site will be developed within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Resources on three potential NRHP sites (960 acres) will be protected.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Designation of Browns Canyon and Arkansas Canyonlands ACECs will enhance protection of historical values on 39,778 acres.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Historical resources (continued)		Conservation of 3 potential NRHP sites (Leadville Stage Road, 320 acres; Midland RR railbed, 460 acres; DeReemer Forts, 160 acres) will be provided as follows: - standard lease stipulations for fluids - closed to mineral entry - no mineral materials disposal - OHV use limited to designated roads and trails.		<i>Off-highway vehicle use and recreation resources</i> - Three NRHP sites (960 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated road and trails. Signs, fences, interpretation, and visitor education will provide some protection for three identified potential NRHP sites (960 acres). Some damage could occur to the Midland RR railbed in the Arkansas Canyon from hiking activities.
Archaeological resources	Information potential will be developed to the maximum extent possible through appropriate study.	Conservation of archaeological resource will be provided through designation of Browns Canyon and Arkansas Canyonlands ACECs (39,778 acres).	Information potential will be promoted through involvement with interested educational institutions. Active programs for interpretive and recreational use of archaeological sites will be developed within IAPs.	<i>ACEC designations</i> - Designation of Browns Canyon and Arkansas Canyonlands ACECs will enhance protection of historical values on 39,778 acres.
Transportation and access	Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed.	Permanent transportation system will include: - BLM roads - 39 miles - 313 acres - BLM trails - 8 miles - 12 acres. New access by easement acquisition or new construction will include: Priority areas: - Arkansas River sites - 2 miles; 4,000 acres - potential additional access resulting from NRA designation.	Update map through IAPs.	<i>Forest and woodlands, fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access. <i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Road construction will be limited and could restrict additional public access. <i>Visual resources</i> - Minor restrictions on road development within ACECs will reduce public access. <i>National recreation area designations</i> - Increased opportunities could occur through designation.

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	<p>New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS). Public (exclusive) easements will be used where ever public resources are available and public access is needed. Administrative (non-exclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need and only BLM employee, contractor, and licensee access is needed. Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open. Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPNM - 5-mile access points - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points. 			

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Rights-of-way	<p>WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted for major rights-of-way (ROWs) with addition of existing transportation utility corridors.</p> <p>Minor ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when outside exclusion areas.</p> <p>Minor ROWs could be authorized in the avoidance areas only when stipulations protect the criteria resources and values.</p>	<p>Exclusion areas (16,845 acres) will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs - raptor nesting/fledgling areas - special status plants - special status animals (nesting/ fledgling areas only) - NRHP sites . <p>Avoidance areas (80,721 acres) will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat - VRM II in ACECs - developed recreation sites <p>Designated corridors (66,409 acres).</p> <p>Nonexcluded areas (108,031 acres/87 percent of ESR).</p>	None.	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs in WSAs (11,945 acres)</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from raptor nesting/fledgling areas (1,055 acres).</p> <p>Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating routes to avoid big game birthing and critical winter habitat on 6,584 acres.</p> <p><i>Special status plants</i>- Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from special status plant habitat (2,813 acres).</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from special status animal habitat (73 acres).</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from three potential NRHP sites (960 acres).</p> <p><i>Visual resources</i> -Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating major ROWs to avoid VRMII in three ACECs (5,320 acres).</p> <p>Increased costs will not occur in locating major ROWs on VRM II (68,284 acres).</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating major ROWs to avoid developed recreation sites (533 acres).</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Land ownership adjustments	<p>Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange could be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public and BLM management will be improved. Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.</p>	<p>Category I lands (1,999 acres) will be identified for disposal if not valued for the following resource: - WSAs</p> <p>Category II lands (100,556 acres) will be identified for retention or exchange.</p> <p>Category III lands (22,321 acres) will be identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer until identified as Category I or II.</p>	None.	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Disposal of 11,945 acres of WSAs will not occur.</p>
Withdrawals and classifications	<p>Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.</p>	<p>Existing BLM withdrawals will be: - other withdrawals -- continued (3,932 acres) -- revoked (0 acres) - waterpower/reservoir withdrawals -- continued (0 acres) -- revoked (7,996 acres)</p>	None.	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> -Perennial acres (838 acres) will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws; 198 acres of intermittent will be available. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - 1,884 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - 363 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws <i>Special status plants</i> - 2,813 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Special status animals</i> - 73 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Historical resources</i> - Three potential NRHP sites (960 acres) will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Withdrawals and classifications (continued)		<p>New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riparian areas (perennial) - 838 acres - big game birthing habitat - 1,884 acres - fishery habitat - 363 acres - special status plant habitat - 2,813 acres - special status animal habitat - 73 acres - 3 potential NRHP sites - 960 acres - portions of 5 ACECs - 39,778 acres - VRM II in ACECs (5,320 acres) - developed recreation sites - 533 acres - recreation values within Arkansas River corridor - 7,996 acres. 		<p><i>ACEC designations</i> - 39,778 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p> <p><i>Visual resources</i> - 5,320 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - 533 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p> <p><i>Visual and recreational resources</i> - 7,996 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p>
Waterpower/reservoir resources	Management for waterpower/reservoir resources will not occur.	<p>Waterpower/ reservoir sites will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - suitable for intensive management (0 acres) - suitable for restricted management (0 acres) - unsuitable for management (7,996 acres) 	Initiate recommendation for revocation of unsuitable water/reservoir resources.	<i>National recreation area designations</i> - Existing withdrawals (7,996 acres) with significant potential for development will not be available.
Areas of critical and environmental concern designations	All or portions of Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Droney Gulch, Grape Creek, and Arkansas Canyonlands ACECs will be managed to protect and enhance special values. These areas will receive special management as ACECs.	<p>39,778 acres will be designated ACECs and managed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - livestock grazing will be excluded on 4,036 acres and adjusted on 1,454 acres - timber harvesting and wood gathering will be allowed for enhancement of protected resources - 5,594 acres will be leased with NSO stipulations 	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - 4,036 acres will be protected from grazing; 1,454 acres will have limited grazing; the remaining 34,232 acres will not be protected.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Portions of five ACECs (39,778 acres) will be protected from mineral development.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Areas of critical environmental concern designations (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 39,778 acres will be closed to mineral entry and mineral materials disposal - 5,320 acres of VRM II will be avoided for major ROWs - 39,778 acres will remain in public ownership - 27,830 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails for OHV use - 11,948 acres within WSAs will be closed to OHV use. 		<p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - 5,320 acres of VRM II will be protected through avoidance; the remaining 34,458 acres will not be protected from potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Special values on 39,779 acres will be retained in public ownership.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Special values on 39,778 acres will be protected through closure or limitation of travel to designated roads and trails.</p>
Off-highway vehicle use	<p>Motorized recreation OHV opportunities will be enhanced. OHV use will be managed through limitations or closures in areas with special natural or primitive recreational values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged throughout this unit where use is allowed.</p>	<p>9,406 acres will be open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OHV recreational areas in Grand Canyon Hills, Reese Gulch, and Texas Creek Gulch. <p>103,525 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails or seasonally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riparian areas (perennial) - fishery habitat - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat - 3 potential NRHP sites - ACECs - developed recreation sites. <p>11,945 acres will be closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs (Browns Canyon, McIntyre Hills, and Beaver Creek). 	<p>Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>Media, informational materials, and possibly physical barriers will be used to encourage users to stay on existing roads in open and limited areas.</p> <p>Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into IAPs.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities.</p> <p>Trail heads and motorized/multiple use trails will be established to meet public demand.</p> <p>Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - OHV opportunities will not be available within WSAs (11,945 acres).</p> <p><i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 838 acres of perennial; opportunities will be available on the remaining 198 acres of intermittent.</p> <p><i>Forest and woodlands</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 13,206 acres through new road construction.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 7,639 acres through limitations of seasonal or designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Fishery habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 363 acres.</p> <p><i>Special status plants</i> - OHV opportunities on 2,813 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Off-highway vehicle use (continued)				<p><i>Special status animals</i> - OHV opportunities on 50,301 acres will be diminished through seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 960 acres through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Transportation and access</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 2 miles/4,000 acres through easement acquisition or new road construction.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 39,778 acres through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on approximately 6,927 acres of semiprimitive nonmotorized areas through limiting use to designated roads and trails. OHV opportunities will be diminished on 533 acres of recreation sites through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p>
Visual resources	Existing VRM classes will be utilized to guide resource management actions on BLM-administered lands. Adherence to criteria will occur according to respective class rating.	<p>VRM Class II areas (77,383 subsurface acres) will be protected by CSU stipulations.</p> <p>VRM Class II areas within ACECs (5,320 surface acres) will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - avoided by major ROW corridor development - limited for OHV use to designated roads and trails - retained in public ownership. 	Visual ratings in ACECs will be re-evaluated to ensure rating is appropriate to protect outstanding qualities of the area. Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Class II areas (77,383 subsurface acres) will be protected from leasing through CSU stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (5,320 surface acres) will be closed; 68,284 acres will not be protected from entry.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Class II areas within ACECs (5,320 surface acres) will be closed; mitigation measures will be provided on a case-by-case basis on 68,284 acres.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Visual resources (continued)				<p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (5,320 acres) will be avoided in locating major ROW/ corridors; the remaining 68,284 acres could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (5,320 acres) will be retained in public ownership; the remaining 68,284 acres will be available for disposal.</p> <p><i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Class II areas within ACECs (5,320 acres) will be protected through limiting use to designated roads and trails; the remaining 68,284 acres will not be protected.</p> <p><i>National recreation area designations</i> - Class II areas will be protected through designation of NRA.</p>
Recreation management	<p>A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to semiprimitive nonmotorized) will be maintained. Additional opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, OHV use, interpretation, and horseback riding, will be provided. Facility development will reduce user conflict. Development will be provided to enhance visitor health and sanitation.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunities on 109,063 acres will be managed as a special recreation management area and recommended as a national recreation area.</p> <p>Recreation opportunities in semiprimitive nonmotorized settings on 6,927 acres will be maintained.</p>	<p>Address river corridor and upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on balance between resource protection and tourism within IAPs. Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups.</p> <p>Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Aquisitions/easements to enhance water-based recreation, mountain biking, OHV use, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and natural resource interpretation opportunities will be considered and pursued.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Recreation sites (10 acres or more) will be protected by NSO stipulations.</p> <p>Recreation sites less than 10 acres will be protected with standard stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals, mineral materials, livestock grazing, rights-of-way, land ownership adjustments, and off-highway vehicle use</i> - Recreation sites will be protected.</p> <p><i>Transportation and access</i> - Recreation access opportunities will be enhanced on 4,000 acres.</p> <p><i>National recreation area designation</i> - Additional funding for enhancement of river recreation will occur on approximately 125,000 acres.</p>

Table 3-1 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Recreation management (continued)		Developed recreation sites on 533 acres will be managed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excluded from livestock grazing - leased for fluids with NSO stipulations - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral material disposal - avoided by major ROWs - limited for OHV use to designated roads and trails. 		
National recreation area designations	River corridor recreation values will be managed in accordance with language in congressional legislation to establish NRA designation.	Approximately 125,000 acres in the river corridor will be recommended for designation by Congress as an NRA and managed as follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - revocation of waterpower reservoir withdrawals on 7,996 acres - initiate recommendation for protective withdrawals on 125,000 acres. 	An integrated activity plan will be developed for the designated corridor as specified by Congress.	<i>Withdrawals and classifications and waterpower reservoir resources</i> - River corridor recreation values will be protected through recommendation of revocation of withdrawals on 7,996 acres. <i>Visual resources</i> - Values could be protected on 125,000 acres through language in legislation for NRA designation. <i>Recreation resources</i> - River corridor recreational opportunities on 125,000 acres will be developed and enhanced through NRA designation; i.e., long-term protection of existing values inherent to the overall experience, additional funding for more intense management.

Eco-Subregion 2 (Collegiate/Sangre)

Description

- 56,376 acres BLM
- 20,612 acres private
- 13,155 acres state

Topography of this eco-subregion is represented by valley floor and foothills at the base of the Collegiate Mountains in the northwestern portion and rugged, rocky hills in the eastern part. Vegetation is predominantly piñon/juniper woodlands intermixed with oak, other mountain shrubs, and widely scattered grassy openings in the woodlands of the eastern portion. The northwestern part is again mostly piñon/juniper with a larger portion of the northwest made up of grasses, forbs, and low growing shrubs (see Map 3-3).

Management Issues and Concerns

Land ownership adjustments, land access acquisition/transportation, areas of critical environmental concern, off-highway vehicle use, fluid minerals/locatable minerals/mineral materials management, recreation management, special status plant/animal species management, vegetation management, riparian area management, livestock grazing management, fishery and wildlife habitat management, visual resource management, rights-of-way management, withdrawal and classifications, and forest and woodlands management.

Management Guidance/Assumptions

Hazards Management

Chaffee County: R&PP lease for this landfill is listed on the Federal Facilities Docket. Preliminary assessment and site investigation have been completed. Site is currently slated for no further remedial action. Will not be considered further for national priority list (Superfund).

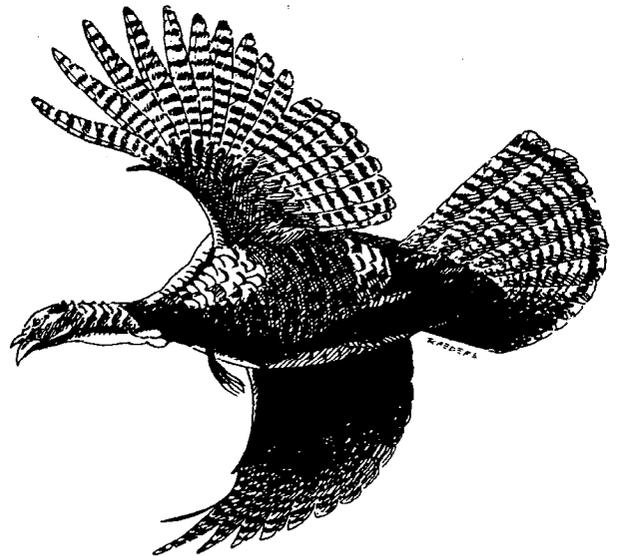
Wilderness Management

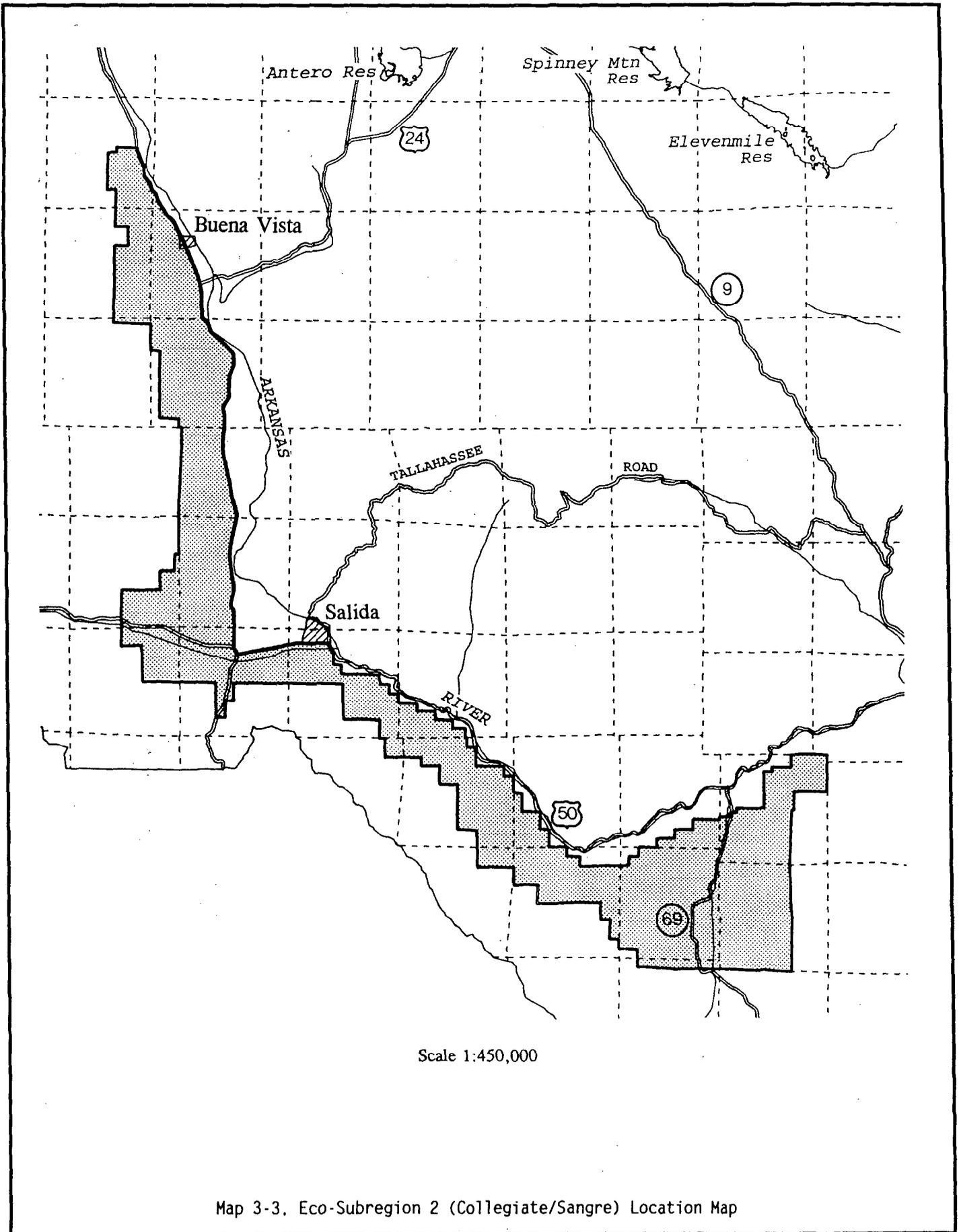
McIntyre WSA (7,341 acres) in the RGPA will be managed under BLM *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* (IMPG) until Congress makes a decision on wilderness recommendations for the Cañon City

District. If the WSA is not designated wilderness, it will return to other types of multiple use management as prescribed in this land use plan. Desired plant community (DPC) will be determined for this WSA if it is returned to other types of multiple use management. In accordance with Sec. 603 of FLPMA, BLM is required to manage all identified wilderness study areas under the nonimpairment mandate. Valid existing rights must be recognized and are an exception to the nonimpairment mandate. Grazing uses and mining operations occurring as of October 21, 1976, may continue in the same manner and degree as long as they do not cause unnecessary or undue degradation. Uses and operations proposed after this date, however, are subject to the nonimpairment requirements for all operations proposed.

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-2 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.





Map 3-3. Eco-Subregion 2 (Collegiate/Sangre) Location Map

TABLE 3-2
Area 2 (Collegiate/Sangre)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian-Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i>	Improved vegetation management will result in new forage which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program). Management for enhancement of other resource values on 4,538 acres of forest lands will occur.	DPC objectives will be developed for IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 56,376 acres. Vegetation will not be grazed with adjustments on 705 acres. <i>Livestock grazing (allotment categorization)</i> - One allotment, 2,178 acres, (4%) in unsatisfactory resource condition or with conflicts currently managed on a custodial basis will be managed for improvement. <i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 54,9968 acres could be disturbed by mineral development. 1,408 acres will be protected. <i>Rights-of-way</i> - 48,779 acres will be open to disturbance, which could result in a change in plant succession. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 56,376 acres (100%) will be protected by closure or limitation of travel to designated roads and trails or closed.
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas, critical wildlife habitat, and one ACEC.	Grazing will be authorized on 35 allotments (56,376 acres). Stocking rates and season-of-use will be adjusted in Droney Gulch ACEC (705 acres).	Livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land will be eliminated through a combination of BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing. Allotments will be recategorized from Custodial to Improve and from Improve to Maintain because of riparian wildlife, and watershed conflicts: - Improve allotments 13 - Maintain allotments 5 - Custodial allotments 17 - Unallotted allotments 0.	<i>Vegetation</i> - Livestock grazing will be diminished on 2,250 acres because of low productivity of forage from DPC. <i>Livestock grazing, riparian areas, wildlife habitat</i> - Range improvement funds will be spent on Improve category allotments for fences and vegetation treatment to increase forage production on 42,197 acres on 13 allotments.

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Livestock grazing (continued)				<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/ lessees for fence construction on 9 Improve and Maintain category allotments and on an unknown number of Custodial category allotments. More public funding will be used on boundary fence construction resulting in less funds for range improvement projects.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - An estimated 450 acres (45 AUMs) allocated to big game will result in a loss of forage.</p> <p>Vegetative manipulation on 2,500 acres will increase AUMs by 500.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Livestock grazing will be diminished on 705 acres (70 AUMs).</p>
Riparian areas	Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.	Perennial riparian (67 acres) will be limited as follows: - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral materials disposal - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.	Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.	<p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i>- Perennial riparian (67 surface acres) will be protected.</p> <p>Intermittent (153 surface acres) will not be protected.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 67 acres will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails; 153 acres could be degraded.</p>
Forest and woodlands	Productive forest land will be managed for sustained-yield.	A portion of the 4,538 acres of forested lands will be available for intensive management.	In the 5-year sale plan, stands will be prioritized for harvest consideration in the following order: -enhancement of vegetation goals - insect or disease - timber production - other multiple resource values. Funding will be solicited from other activities to support the 5-year sale plan and all IAPS.	<i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - 4,538 acres of productive forest land could be lost through disposal to the private sector.

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat	<p>Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals.</p>	<p>Big game birthing habitat on 214 surface acres will be limited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - excluded from major ROWs - limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails. <p>Big game critical winter habitat with identified conflict will be addressed through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter on 21,704 subsurface acres (12/1-4/30) - birthing habitat on 222 subsurface acres (by species) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- elk calving and deer fawning 4/16-6/30 -- pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 -- bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - wild turkey winter habitat on 4,386 subsurface acres 12/1-4/1. 	<p>Activity planning would be accomplished within one IAP.</p>	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 56,376 acres.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Big game critical winter, birthing, and wild turkey winter habitat on 26,312 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations.</p> <p>Big game winter habitat on 47,705 subsurface acres will be protected under standard lease stipulations only.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 214 surface acres will be closed to mineral entry.</p> <p>Big game critical winter and wild turkey winter habitat on 16,527 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 214 surface acres will be closed to disposal of mineral materials.</p> <p>Big game critical winter and wild turkey winter habitat on 16,527 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat on 14,035 acres could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat could be lost through land disposal; acquired lands could provide additional habitat.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Wildlife values on 414 acres within the Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC will be enhanced.</p>

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat (continued)		Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows: - big game critical winter habitat on 13,821 surface acres 12/1-4/30 - wild turkey winter habitat on 2,706 acres 12/1-4/1.		<i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Big game critical winter and birthing habitat on 14,035 acres will be protected through seasonal limitations. Big game birthing habitat on 214 acres will also be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails.
Fishery habitat	Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.	All streams (11 miles) will be protected as follows: - standard lease terms for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials: - OHV use limited to designated roads and trails on 74 acres.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (74 acres) will be protected. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Fishery habitat quality on 12 acres will improve. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (74 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.
Special status plant/community species	Special status plants will be protected by special management actions, including elimination of identified and verified conflicting uses.	<i>Eriogonum brandegei</i> will be managed in Droney Gulch (705 acres) through ACEC designation as follows: - limit livestock grazing - no surface occupancy - closed to mineral entry - no disposal of mineral materials - OHV use limited to designated roads and trails.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - Sensitive plant species in Droney Gulch (705 acres) will be protected through stocking rates and season-of-use adjustments. <i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Sensitive plant species in Droney Gulch (705 acres) will be protected. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Sensitive plant species on 705 acres will be protected. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive plant species in Droney Gulch (705 acres) will be protected.

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Special status animal species	Protection and enhancement of special status animals will be continued by eliminating identified and verified land uses that conflict with these species.	<p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bald eagle winter roosting habitat on 146 subsurface acres 11/16-4/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 22,907 subsurface acres 2/1-7/31. <p>Special status animal habitat will be seasonally limited for mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bald eagle winter roosting habitat on 9 surface acres 11/16-4/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 16,229 surface acres 2/1-7/31 - peregrine falcon habitat on 935 surface acres 3/16-7/31. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 23,053 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 17,173 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 17,173 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 403 acres will be protected</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 17,173 acres will be protected through seasonal limitation.</p>
Fluid minerals	Development will be authorized through standard lease procedures with additional mitigation applied where necessary to protect other natural values.	<p>7,341 subsurface acres will not be leased as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs <p>699 subsurface acres will be leased with NSO stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sensitive status plans (Droney Gulch). 	None.	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Restrictions will preclude leasing operations in wilderness study areas by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7,341 acres of low. <p><i>Special status plants</i> - NSO stipulations could result in severe restrictions or potentially eliminate lease operations by resource potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 699 acres of none. <p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Seasonal stipulations could result in moderate to severe restriction based on the length of the limitation and the operation scheduling needs by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4,747 acres of low - 45,553 acres of none.

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Fluid minerals (continued)		<p>50,300 acres will be leased with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elk calving and deer birthing 4/16-6/30 - bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - big game critical winter habitat 2/1-4/30 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - bald eagle winter roosting habitat (one-half mile buffer) 11/16-4/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31. 		<p><i>Visual resources</i> - Controlled surface use could result in minor to moderate restriction on the following resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18,304 acres of low - 29,983 acres of none.
Locatable minerals	<p>Areas open to mineral entry will be administered under the existing regulations and limited by closure if necessary. Special mitigation will be developed to protect other identified values on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>48,287 acres will be leased with controlled surface use stipulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VRM Class II areas. <p>14,060 acres will be open to mineral entry under standard mineral operating practices.</p> <p>33,414 acres will be open with season limitations through claimnant notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - bald eagle winter roosting 12/1-4/1 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7/31. 	<p>Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Mineral entry will not occur in wilderness study areas (7,341 acres).</p> <p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 67 surface acres of perennial riparian; 153 acres of intermittent riparian will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on big game birthing areas (214 surface acres). Mineral entry will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 13,821 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 74 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral entry will be seasonally restricted on 17,173 surface acres.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on two ACECs (1,054 acres).</p>

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Locatable minerals (continued)		8,902 acres will be closed to mineral entry - WSA - big game birthing areas - 2 ACECs - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial).		
Mineral materials	The area will be open to development; mitigation or closures will be applied if necessary to protect other natural values. Preferred areas of sales will be identified.	14,060 acres will be available for disposal under standard operating practices. 33,414 acres will available with seasonal limitations: - big game winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - bald eagle winter roosting 12/1-4/1 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7/31. 8,902 acres will be closed to mineral materials disposal - WSA - big game birthing areas - two ACECs - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial).	Closures and limitations will be reviewed, and changes will be made within IAPs. Analysis to locate and establish community mineral material pits will be completed within IAPs.	<i>Wilderness</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur in wilderness study areas (7,341 acres). <i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 67 surface acres of perennial riparian; 153 acres of intermittent riparian will be open. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on big game birthing areas (214 surface acres). Mineral material disposal will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 13,821 surface acres. <i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 74 surface acres. <i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral material disposal will be seasonally restricted on 17,173 surface acres. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on two ACECs (1,054 acres).

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access	<p>Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed.</p> <p>New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS). Public (exclusive) easements will be used wherever public resources are available and public access is needed.</p> <p>Administrative (nonexclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need and access is only needed by BLM employee, contractor, and licensee.</p> <p>Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open.</p>	<p>Permanent transportation system will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLM roads - 52 miles - 417 acres - BLM trails - 6 miles - 9 acres. <p>New access by easement acquisition or new construction will include:</p> <p>Priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calcite area - 1 mile; 1,800 acres.. 	Update map through IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, mineral materials, and forest and woodlands</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Road construction will be limited and could restrict additional public access.</p> <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Minor restrictions on road development will reduce public access within ACECs.</p>

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	<p>Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPNM - 5-mile access points - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points. 			
Rights-of-way	<p>WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted with addition of existing transportation utility corridors. ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are protected and when additional stipulations protect resources and values not included in the criteria.</p>	<p>Exclusion areas (7,597 acres) will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs - special status plant habitat - special status animal habitat. <p>Avoidance areas (53,534 acres) will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VRM II in ACECs - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat. <p>Designated corridors (18,665 acres).</p> <p>Nonexcluded areas (48,779 acres/87 percent of ESR).</p>	None.	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs in WSAs (7,341 acres). <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating routes to avoid big game birthing and critical winter habitat (34,835 acres). <i>Special status plants</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from special status plant habitat (256 acres). <i>Visual resources</i> -Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating major ROWs to avoid VRM II in three ACECs (1,033 acres).</p>
Land ownership adjustments	<p>Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange could be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public and BLM management will be improved.</p>	<p>Category I lands (1,356 acres) will be identified for disposal if not valued for the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs - special status plant species 	None.	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Disposal of 7,341 acres will not occur. <i>Special status plans</i> - Disposal of 256 acres will not occur.</p>

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Land ownership adjustments (continued)	Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.	Category II lands (53,955 acres) will be identified for retention or exchange. Category III lands (1,065 acres) will be identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer until identified as Category I or II.		
Withdrawals and classifications	Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.	Existing BLM withdrawals are: - 0 acres. New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows: - riparian areas (perennial) - 67 acres - big game birthing habitat - 214 acres - fishery habitat - 74 acres - special status plants - 256 acres - portions of 2 ACECs - 1,054 acres - VRM II in ACECs (1,033 acres).	None.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - 67 acres of perennial riparian will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws 153 acres of intermittent riparian will be available. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - 214 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - 74 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Special status plants</i> - 256 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>ACEC designations</i> - 1,054 acres will be withdrawn/ segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Visual resources</i> - 1,033 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.
Areas of critical and environmental concern designations	All or portions of Droney Gulch and Arkansas Canyonlands ACECs will be managed to protect and enhance special values. These areas will receive special management as an ACECs.	1,054 acres will be designated ACECs and managed as follows: - livestock grazing will be excluded on 705 acres; - timber harvesting and wood gathering will be allowed for enhancement of protected resources.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - 705 acres will be excluded from grazing; the remaining 349 acres will not be protected. <i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Portions of two ACECs (1,054 acres) will be protected from mineral development.

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Areas of critical environmental concern designations (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 699 acres will be leased with NSO stips - 1,054 acres will be closed to mineral entry and mineral materials disposal - 1,033 acres of VRM II will be avoided for major ROWs - 1,054 acres will remain under BLM administration - 1,054 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails for OHV use. 		<p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - 1,033 acres of VRM II will be protected through avoidance; the remaining 21 acres will not be protected from potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Special values on 1,054 acres will be retained under BLM administration.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 1,054 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails.</p>
Off-highway vehicle use	<p>OHV use will be managed through limitations or closures in areas with special natural or primitive recreational values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged throughout this unit where use is allowed.</p>	<p>0 acres will be open.</p> <p>49,035 acres will be limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riparian areas - fishery habitat - 1 ACEC - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat - special status plants - special status animals - developed recreation sites. <p>7,341 acres will be closed (McIntyre Hills WSA).</p>	<p>Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>Media, informational materials, and possibly physical barriers will be used to encourage users to stay on existing roads in open and limited areas.</p> <p>Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into IAPs.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs and other agencies to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities.</p> <p>Establish motorized/multiple use trails to meet public demand.</p> <p>Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - OHV opportunities will not be available within WSAs (7,341 acres).</p> <p><i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 67 acres of perennial; opportunities will be available on the remaining 153 acres of intermittent.</p> <p><i>Forest and woodlands</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 4,538 acres through new road construction.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 14,035 acres through limitations of seasonal or designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Fishery habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 74 acres.</p> <p><i>Special status plants</i> - OHV opportunities on 256 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 17,173 acres through seasonal limitations.</p>

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Off-highway vehicle use (continued)				<p><i>Transportation and access</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 1 mile/1,800 acres through easement acquisition or new road construction.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 1,054 acres through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on approximately 3,066 acres of semiprimitive nonmotorized areas through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p>
Visual resources	<p>Existing VRM classes will be utilized to guide resource management actions on BLM-administered lands. Adherence to criteria will occur according to respective class rating.</p>	<p>VRM Class II areas (48,287 subsurface acres) will be protected by CSU stipulations.</p> <p>VRM Class II areas within ACECs (1,033 surface acres) will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - avoided by major ROW corridor development - limited for OHV use to designated roads and trails - retained under BLM administration. 	<p>Visual ratings in ACECs will be re-evaluated to ensure rating is appropriate to protect outstanding qualities of the area.</p> <p>Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Class II areas (48,287 subsurface acres) will be protected from leasing through CSU stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Class II areas within ACECs (1,033 surface acres) will be protected from mineral entry; 38,516 surface acres will not be protected.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (1,033 surface acres) will be protected from mineral materials disposal; mitigation measures will be provided on a case-by-case basis on 38,516 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (1,033 acres) will be avoided in locating major ROW/ corridors; the remaining 38,516 acres could be degraded by construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (1,033 acres) will be retained under BLM administration; the remaining 38,516 acres will be available for disposal.</p>

Table 3-2 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Visual resources (continued)				<i>Off-highway-vehicle-use</i> - Class II areas within ACECs (1,033 acres) will be protected through limiting use to designated roads and trails; the remaining 38,516 will not be protected.
Recreation management	A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to semiprimitive nonmotorized) will be maintained. Additional opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, OHV use, interpretation, and horseback riding will be provided. Facility development will reduce user conflict. Development will be provided for visitor health and other needs.	Recreation opportunities on 56,376 acres will be managed as an extensive recreation management area. Recreation opportunities in semiprimitive nonmotorized settings on 3,066 acres will be maintained.	Address river corridor and upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on balance between resource protection and tourism within an IAP. Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups. Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities.	<i>Transportation and access</i> - Recreation access opportunities will be enhanced on 1,800 acres.

Eco-Subregion 3 (Badger Creek)

Description

- 34,594 acres BLM
- 18,742 acres private
- 36,810 acres state

This is an important watershed within the Arkansas River drainage. Piñon/juniper and scattered mountain shrub species make up the normal vegetation of the lower (southern) portion of this watershed with the intermountain grasslands of the southern part of South Park dominating the upper watershed. Topography of the upper area is rolling hills with the lower portion consisting of steep canyon walls and rocky hills. No major highways cross the unit, and only scattered rural homes are in the area, with no towns nor shopping areas (see Map 3-4).

Management Issues and Concerns

Land ownership adjustments, land access acquisition/transportation, off-highway vehicle use, fluid minerals/

locatable minerals/mineral materials management, recreation management, special status plant/animal species management, vegetation management, riparian area management, livestock grazing management, fishery and wildlife habitat management, archaeological resource management, rights-of-way management, and forest and woodlands management.

Management Guidance/Assumptions

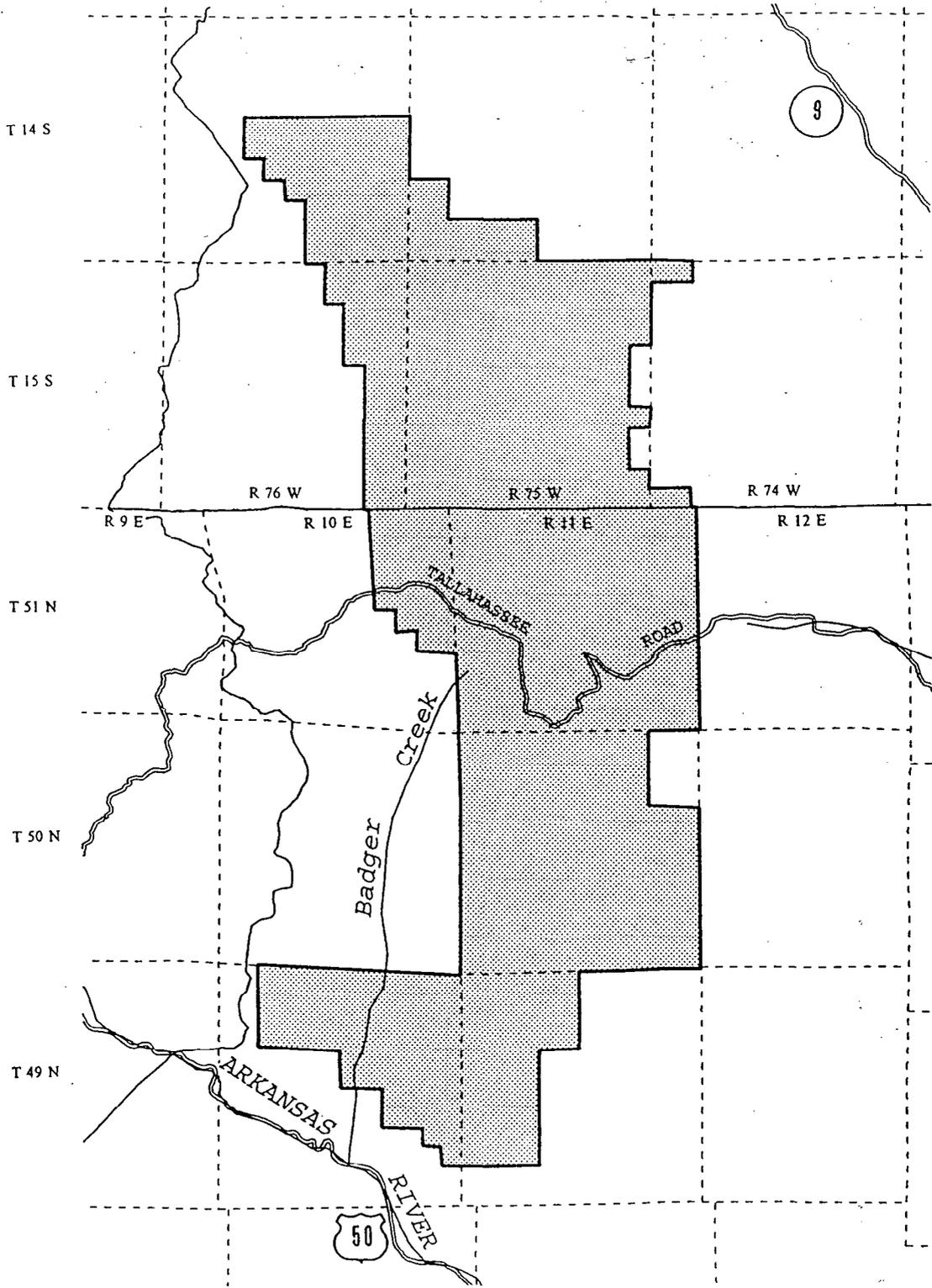
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Lands within the Badger Creek Area (28,660 acres) and resources (i.e., watershed, archaeological, riparian, and fisheries) will not receive special management under ACEC designation.

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-3 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.





Scale 1:250,000

Map 3-4. Eco-Subregion 3 (Badger Creek) Location Map

TABLE 3-3
Eco-Subregion 3 (Badger Creek)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian -Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i>	<p>Improved vegetation management will result in new forage, which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Management for enhancement of other resource values on 14,944 acres of forest lands will occur.</p>	DPC objectives will be developed for IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 27,394 acres. Vegetation will not be grazed on 28,660 acres.</p> <p><i>Livestock grazing (allotment categorization)</i> - Two allotments, 1,467 acres (4%) in unsatisfactory resource condition or with conflicts currently managed on a custodial basis will be managed for improvement.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 31,879 acres could be disturbed by mineral development. 2,715 will be protected.</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - Vegetation on 7,200 acres will be enhanced by fencing, if conflicts occur.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - 27,394 acres will be open to disturbance, which could result in a change in plant succession.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 34,151 acres (99%) will be protected by closure or limitation of travel to designated roads and trails. 443 acres (1%) will not be protected.</p>
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas and critical wildlife habitat.	<p>Grazing will be authorized on 22 allotments (27,394 acres).</p> <p>Grazing will be excluded on 1 NRHP district (7,200 acres) if conflicts occur.</p> <p>Stocking rates and season-of-use will be adjusted in Badger Creek (28,660 acres).</p>	<p>Allotments will be recategorized from Custodial to Improve and from Improve to Maintain because of riparian, wildlife, and watershed conflicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve allotments 12 - Maintain allotments 0 - Custodial allotments 10 - Unallotted allotments 0. 	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Livestock grazing will be diminished on 3,000 acres because of low productivity of forage from DPC. Livestock grazing will be enhanced by vegetative manipulation on 2,000 acres resulting in an increase of 400 AUMs.</p>

Table 3-3 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Livestock grazing (continued)				<p><i>Livestock grazing, riparian areas, wildlife habitat</i> - Range improvement funds will be spent on Improve category allotments for fences and vegetation treatment to increase forage production on 28,322 acres on 12 allotments.</p> <p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/lessees for fence construction on 12 Improve category allotments and on an unknown number of Custodial category allotments.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - An estimated 1,000 acres (100 AUMs) allocated to big game will result in a loss of forage.</p>
Riparian areas	<p>Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.</p>	<p>Perennial riparian areas (46 acres) will be limited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral materials disposal - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. 	<p>Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.</p>	<p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - Perennial (46 acres) will be protected.</p> <p>Intermittent (18 acres) will not be protected.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 46 acres will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails; 18 acres could be degraded.</p>
Forest and woodlands	<p>Productive forest land will be managed for sustained-yield.</p>	<p>A portion of the 14,944 acres of forested lands will be available for intensive management.</p>	<p>In the 5-year sale plan, stands will be prioritized for harvest consideration in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -enhancement of vegetation goals - insect or disease - timber production - other multiple resource values. <p>Funding will be solicited from other activities to support the 5-year sale plan and all IAPS.</p>	<p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - 14,944 acres of productive forest land could be lost through disposal to the private sector.</p>

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Table 3-3 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat	Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals.	<p>Big game birthing habitat on 2,538 surface acres will be available with the following limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - excluded from major ROWs - limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails. <p>Big game critical habitat with identified conflict will be addressed through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with no surface occupancy stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 650 subsurface acres. <p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter on 9,828 subsurface acres (12/1-4/30) - big game birthing habitat on approximately 2,830 subsurface acres (by species) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elk calving and deer fawning 4/16-6/30 -- pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 - bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15. <p>Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all big game critical winter habitat on 13,821 surface acres 12/1-4/30. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within one IAP.	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 27,394 acres. 7,200 acres will not be enhanced.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 650 acres will be protected by NSO stipulations.</p> <p>Big game critical winter and birthing habitat on 12,658 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations.</p> <p>Big game winter habitat on 32,733 subsurface acres will be protected under standard lease stipulations only.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 2,538 surface acres will be protected from mineral entry.</p> <p>Big game critical winter habitat on 2,649 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 2,538 surface acres will be protected from disposal of mineral materials.</p> <p>Big game critical winter habitat on 2,649 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat on 5,187 acres could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat could be lost through land disposal; acquired lands could provide additional habitat.</p>

Table 3-3 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat (continued)				<p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Big game critical winter and birthing habitat on 5,187 acres will be protected through seasonal limitations.</p> <p>Big game birthing habitat on 2,538 acres will also be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails.</p>
Fishery habitat	<p>Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.</p>	<p>All streams (20 miles) will be protected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standard lease terms for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials: - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails on 131 acres. 	<p>Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (131 acres) will be protected.</p> <p><i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (131 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.</p>
Fluid minerals	<p>Development will be authorized through standard lease procedures with additional mitigation applied where necessary to protect other natural values.</p>	<p>650 acres will be leased with NSO stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting and fledgling habitat (one-eighth mile buffer). <p>12,658 acres will be leased with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elk calving and deer birthing 4/16-6/30 - bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-4/30. 	<p>None.</p>	<p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - NSO stipulations could result in severe restrictions or potentially eliminate leasing operations by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 449 acres of low - 201 acres of none. <p>Seasonal stipulations could result in moderate to severe restriction based on the length of the limitation and the operation scheduling needs by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9,828 acres of low - 2,830 acres of none.

Table 3-3 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Locatable minerals	Areas open to mineral entry will be administered under the existing regulations and limited by closure if necessary. Special mitigation will be developed to protect other identified values on a case-by-case basis.	<p>22,012 acres will be open to mineral entry under standard mineral operating practices.</p> <p>9,933 acres will be open with seasonal limitations through claimnant notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31. <p>2,733 acres will be closed to mineral entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 potential NRHP district - big game birthing areas - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial). 	Existing closures will continue to be reviewed and those unnecessary will be removed.	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 46 surface acres; 18 surface acres will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on big game birthing areas (2,538 surface acres).</p> <p>Mineral entry will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 2,649 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 131 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Archaeological resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on one potential NRHP district (7,200 acres).</p>
Mineral materials	The area will be open to development; mitigation or closures would be applied if necessary to protect other natural values. Preferred areas of sales will be identified.	<p>22,012 acres will be available for disposal under standard mineral operating practices.</p> <p>2,649 acres will be available with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31. <p>9,933 acres will be closed to mineral materials disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 potential NRHP district - big game birthing areas - fishery habitat - riparian areas. 	Analysis to locate and establish community mineral material pits would be completed within IAPs.	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 46 surface acres; 18 acres will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur in big game birthing areas (2,538 surface acres).</p> <p>Mineral material disposal will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 2,649 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 131 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Archaeological resources</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on one NRHP district (7,200 acres).</p>

Table 3-3 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Archaeological resources	Information potential will be developed to the maximum extent possible through appropriate study. Resources will be preserved for the future.	Conservation of archaeological resources on 1 potential NRHP district (7,200 acres) will be provided as follows: - fluid minerals leased under standard stips - no entry for locatables - no disposal of mineral materials - OHV use limited to designated roads and trails.	Information potential will be promoted through involvement with interested educational institutions. Active programs for interpretive and recreational use of archaeological sites will be developed within IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Resources on one potential NRHP district (7,200 acres) will be protected. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - One potential NRHP district (7,200 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails. <i>Recreation</i> - Public awareness and importance of preservation will be enhanced through interpretation of one potential NRHP district (7,200 acres).
Transportation and access	Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed. New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS). Public (exclusive) easements will be used where ever public resources are available and public access is needed. Administrative (nonexclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need and only BLM employee, contractor, and licensee access is needed.	Permanent transportation system will include: - BLM roads - 14 miles - 115 acres - BLM trails - 0 miles - 0 acres. New access by easement or new construction will be provided.	Update map through IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, mineral materials, and forest and woodlands</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Road construction will be limited and could restrict additional public access.

Table 3-3 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	<p>Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open. Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPNM - 5-mile access points- - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points. 			
Rights-of-way	<p>WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted with addition of existing transportation utility corridors. ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are protected and when additional stipulations protect resources and values not included in the criteria.</p>	<p>Exclusion areas (7,200 acres) will include: - 1 potential NRHP district</p> <p>Avoidance areas (5,188 acres) will include: - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat.</p> <p>Designated corridors (24,769 acres).</p> <p>Nonexcluded areas (27,394 acres/79 percent of ESR).</p>	None.	<p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating routes to avoid big game birthing and critical winter habitat (5,187 acres). <i>Archaeological resources</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from one eligible NRHP district (7,200 acres).</p>

Table 3-3 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Land ownership adjustments	Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange could be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public and BLM management will be improved. Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.	<p>Category I lands (324 acres) are identified for disposal.</p> <p>Category II lands (24,975 acres) will be identified for retention or exchange.</p> <p>Category III lands (9,295 acres) will be identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer until identified as Category I or II.</p>	None.	None.
Withdrawals and classifications	Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.	<p>Existing BLM withdrawals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - other withdrawals -- continued (56 acres) -- revoked (0 acres). <p>New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riparian areas (perennial) - 46 acres - big game birthing habitat - 2,538 acres - fishery habitat - 131 acres - 1 potential NRHP district - 7,200 acres 	None.	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - 46 acres of perennial will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws; 18 acres of intermittent will be available.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - 2,538 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p> <p><i>Fishery habitat</i> - 131 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p> <p><i>Archaeological resources</i> - One potential NRHP district (7,200 acres) will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p>
Off-highway vehicle use	Motorized recreation OHV opportunities will be enhanced. OHV use will be managed through limitations in areas with special natural recreational values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged through-out this unit where use is allowed.	<p>443 acres will be open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OHV recreation area in Sand Gulch. <p>34,151 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails or seasonally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riparian areas - fishery habitat - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter - 1 potential NRHP district. 	<p>Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>Media, informational materials, and possibly physical barriers will be used to encourage users to stay on existing roads in open and limited areas.</p>	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 46 acres of perennial; opportunities will be available on the remaining 18 acres of intermittent.</p>

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Table 3-3 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Off-highway vehicle use (continued)		0 acres will be closed.	Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into IAPs. Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities. Establish motorized/multiple use trails to meet public demand. Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Forest and woodlands</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 14,944 acres through new road construction.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 5,187 acres through limitations of seasonal or designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Archaeological resources</i> - OHV opportunities on one potential NRHP district (7,200 acres) will be diminished through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on approximately 2,778 acres of semiprimitive non-motorized areas through limiting use to designated roads.</p> <p><i>Fishery habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 131 acres.</p>
Recreation management	A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to semiprimitive nonmotorized) will be maintained. Additional opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, OHV use, interpretation, and horseback riding will be provided.	<p>Recreation opportunities on 34,594 acres will be managed as an extensive recreation management area.</p> <p>Recreation opportunities in semiprimitive nonmotorized settings on 2,778 acres will be maintained.</p>	<p>Address upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on balance between resource protection and tourism within IAPs.</p> <p>Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups.</p> <p>Provide additional interpretation for the NRHP district. Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities.</p>	<p><i>Transportation and access</i> - Recreation access opportunities could be enhanced by potential new access.</p>

Table 3-3 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Recreation management (continued)			Aquisitions/easements to enhance water-based recreation, mountain biking, OHV use, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and natural resource interpretation opportunities will be considered and pursued.	

Eco-Subregion 4 (South Park)

Description

- 57,794 acres BLM
- 179,255 acres private
- 77,534 acres state

High mountain grasses and rolling hills are the predominant features of this large intermountain park. A few ridges with ponderosa pine and a variety of mountain shrubs are scattered around the valley floor. U.S. Highways 24 and 285 and Colorado State Highway 9 cross the park allowing good access to most of the area. The park is surrounded by high mountains with dense stands of mixed conifer and aspen trees; these mountains are topped with treeless alpine tundra. Three large reservoirs are within the unit (Antero, Spinney Mountain, and Elevenmile Reservoirs). Associated with these reservoirs are several hundred acres of wet meadows and marshes that provide a diverse high elevation ecosystem. The South Platte River connects these three reservoirs and then exits South Park from the southeastern corner to flow eastward through the mountains onto the Great Plains (see Map 3-5).

Management Issues and Concerns

Land ownership adjustments, off-highway vehicle use, fluid minerals/locatable minerals/mineral materials management, recreation management, special status plant/animal species management, riparian area management, livestock grazing management, fishery and wildlife habitat management, rights-of-way management, and forest and woodlands management.

Management Guidance/Assumptions

The following guidance/assumptions apply to this eco-subregion and address Bureau policy and regulatory mandates for resources and resource uses.

Hazards Management

Park County: R&PP lease audited for lease compliance in 1990. Audit results show no known nor suspected contamination.

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-4 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.



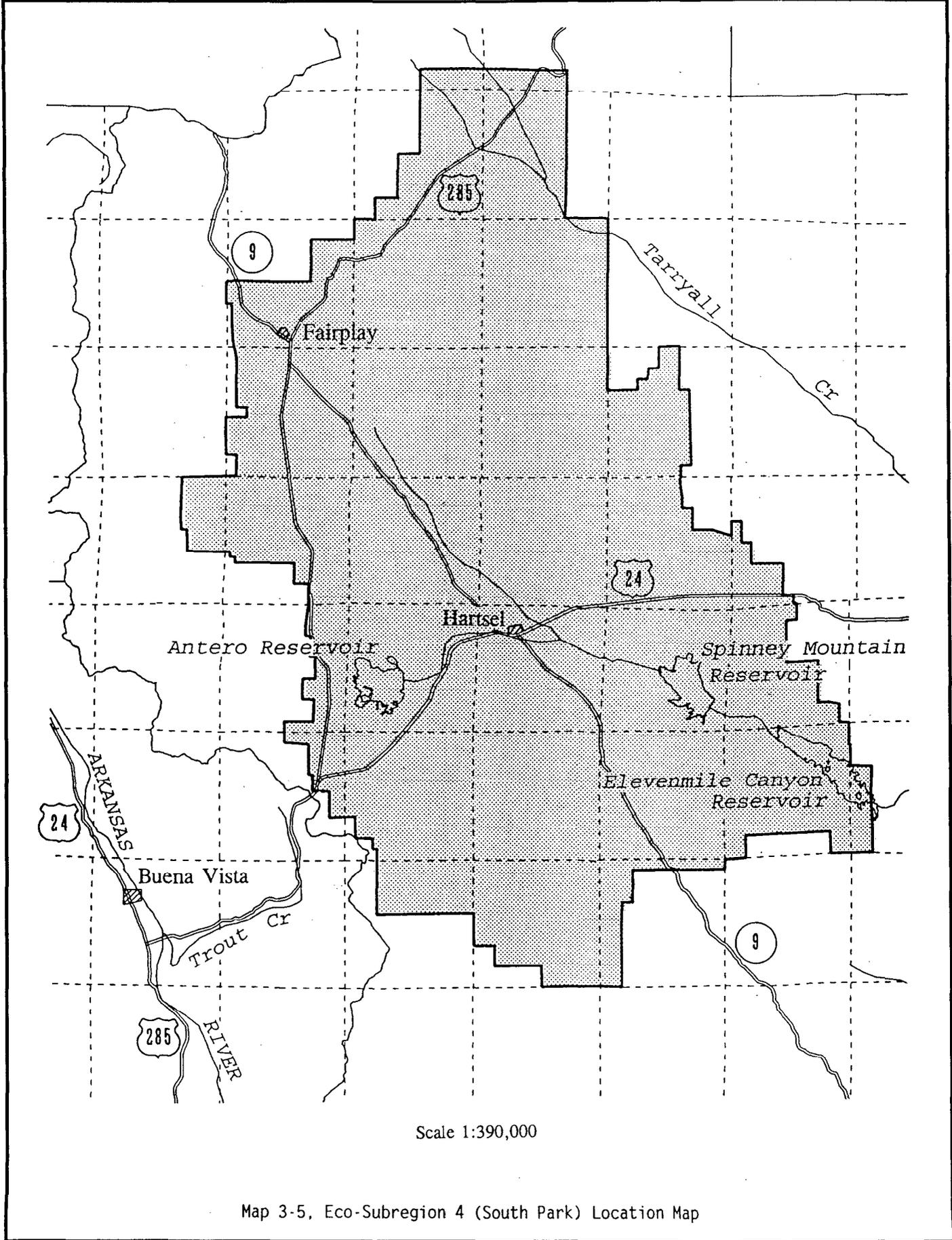


TABLE 3-4
Eco-Subregion 4 (South Park)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian-Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i> .	Improved vegetation management will result in new forage, which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program). Management for enhancement of other resource values on 4,346 acres of forest lands will occur.	DPC objectives will be developed for IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 57,794 acres. <i>Livestock grazing (allotment categorization)</i> - Five allotments, 19,811 acres (35%) in unsatisfactory resource condition or with conflicts currently managed on a custodial basis will be managed. <i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 52,047 acres could be disturbed by mineral development. 5,747 acres will be protected. <i>Rights-of-way</i> - 57,794 acres will be open to disturbance, which could result in a change in plant succession. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 57,794 acres (100%) will be protected by limitation of travel to designated roads and trails.
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas and critical wildlife habitats.	Grazing will be authorized on 49 allotments (57,794 acres).	Livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land will be eliminated through a combination of BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing. Allotments will be recategorized from Custodial to Improve and from Improve to Maintain because of riparian, wildlife, and watershed conflicts: - Improve allotments 8 - Maintain allotments 0 - Custodial allotments 39 - Unallotted allotments 2	<i>Livestock grazing, riparian areas, wildlife habitat</i> - Range improvement funds will be spent on Improve category allotments for fences and vegetation treatment to increase forage production on 23,914 acres on eight allotments. <i>Livestock grazing</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/lessees for fence construction on four Improve and Maintain category allotments and on an unknown number of Custodial category allotments. More public funding will be used on boundary fence construction resulting in less funds for range improvement projects.

Table 3-4 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Livestock grazing (continued)				<i>Wildlife habitat</i> - An estimated 1,250 acres (125 AUMs) allocated to big game will result in a loss of forage.
Riparian areas	Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.	Perennial riparian areas (58 acres) will be limited as follows: - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral materials disposal - off-highway vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails.	Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.	<i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - Perennial (58 acres) will be protected. Intermittent (31 acres) will not be protected. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 58 acres will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails. 31 acres could be degraded.
Forest and woodlands	Productive forest land will be managed for sustained-yield.	A portion of the 4,346 acres of forested lands will be available for intensive management.	In the 5-year sale plan, stands will be prioritized for harvest consideration in the following order: -enhancement of vegetation goals - insect or disease - timber production - other multiple resource values. Funding will be solicited from other activities to support the 5-year sale plan and all IAPs.	<i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - 4,346 acres of productive forest land could be lost through disposal to the private sector.
Wildlife habitat	Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals.	Big game birthing habitat on 5,583 surface acres will be limited as follows: - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - excluded from major ROWs - limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails. Big game critical habitat with identified conflict will be addressed through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 57,794 acres. <i>Fluid minerals</i> - Raptor nesting and fledgling habitat on 689 subsurface acres will be protected with NSO stipulations. Big game critical winter and birthing habitat on 26,143 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations. Big game winter habitat on 80,720 subsurface acres will be protected under standard lease stipulations only.

Table 3-4 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat (continued)		<p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following no surface occupancy stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 689 subsurface acres. 		<p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 5,583 surface acres will be protected from mineral entry.</p>
		<p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter on approximately 26,138 subsurface acres (12/1-4/30) - big game birthing areas on approximately 5 subsurface acres (by species) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- elk calving and deer fawning 4/16-6/30 -- pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 -- bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15. 		<p>Big game critical winter habitat on 8,688 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p>
		<p>Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat on 8,688 surface acres 12/1-4/30. 		<p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 5,583 surface acres will be protected from disposal of mineral materials. Big game critical winter habitat on 8,688 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p>
				<p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat on 14,271 acres could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p>
				<p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat could be lost through land disposal; acquired lands could provide additional habitat.</p>
				<p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Big game critical winter and birthing habitat on 14,271 acres will be protected through seasonal limitations. Big game birthing habitat on 5,583 acres will also be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails.</p>
Fishery habitat	<p>Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.</p>	<p>All streams (16 miles) will be protected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standard lease terms for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials: - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails on 106 acres. 	<p>Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (106 acres) will be protected.</p> <p><i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (106 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.</p>

Table 3-4 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Special status animal species	Protection and enhancement of special status animals will be continued by eliminating identified and verified land uses that conflict with these species.	<p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing in conformance with the T&E Act as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peregrine falcon nesting on 78 acres. <p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bald eagle winter roosting habitat on 3,064 subsurface acres 11/16-4/15. <p>Special status animal habitat will be seasonally limited for mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peregrine falcon nesting habitat on 428 acres 3/16-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting and fledgling habitat on approximately 10,000 acres 2/1-8/15. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 78 subsurface acres will be protected. Sensitive species habitat on 3,142 subsurface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on approximately 428 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Sensitive species habitat on approximately 428 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 428 acres will be protected through seasonal limitation.</p>
Fluid minerals	Development will be authorized through standard lease procedures with additional mitigation applied where necessary to protect other natural values.	<p>78 subsurface acres will be available for leasing in conformance with the T&E Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peregrine falcon nesting <p>1,407 acres will be leased with NSO stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting and fledgling habitat (one-eighth mile buffer). - Park County landfill - reservoir rights-of-way. 	None.	<p><i>Wildlife habitat, rights-of-way, withdrawals and classifications, and land ownership</i> - NSO stipulations could result in severe restrictions or potentially eliminate lease operations by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 127 acres of moderate - 1,250 acres of low - 264 acres of none. <p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Seasonal stipulations could result in moderate to severe restriction based on the length of the limitation and the operation scheduling needs by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12,046 acres of moderate - 17,221 acres of low - 368 acres of none.

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Table 3-4 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Fluid minerals (continued)		29,635 acres will be leased with seasonal limitations: - elk calving and deer birthing 4/16-6/30 - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-4/30 - bald eagle winter roosting habitat (1/2 mile buffer) 11/16-4/15 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15 - peregrine falcon nesting habitat 3/16-7/31.		
Locatable minerals	Areas open to mineral entry will be administered under the existing regulations and limited by closure if necessary. Special mitigation will be developed to protect other identified values on a case-by-case basis.	43,417 acres will be open to mineral entry under standard mineral operating practices. 8,688 acres will be open with seasonal limitations through claimant notification: - big game critical winter 12/1-3/30 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7-31. 5,689 acres will be closed to mineral entry. - big game birthing areas - fishery habitat - riparian areas.	Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 58 surface acres; 31 surface acres will be open. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on big game birthing areas (5,583 surface acres). Mineral entry will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 8,688 surface acres. <i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 106 surface acres. <i>Sensitive status animals</i> - Mineral entry will be seasonally restricted on approximately 428 surface acres.
Mineral materials	The area will be open to development; mitigation or closures will be applied if necessary to protect other natural values. Preferred areas of sales will be identified.	43,417 acres will be available for disposal under standard mineral operating practices.	Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs. Analysis to locate and establish community mineral material pits will be completed within IAPs.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 58 surface acres; 31 surface acres will be open. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur in big game birthing areas (5,583 surface acres). Mineral material disposal will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 8,688 surface acres.

Table 3-4 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Mineral materials (continued)		<p>8,688 acres will be open with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter 12/1-3/30 - ferruginous hawk nesting/ fledging habitat 12/1-3/30 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7/31. <p>5,689 acres will be closed to mineral materials disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing areas - fishery habitat - riparian areas. 		<p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 106 surface acres. <i>Sensitive status animals</i> - Mineral material disposal will be seasonally restricted on approximately 428 surface acres.</p>
Transportation and access	<p>Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed.</p> <p>New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS).</p> <p>Public (exclusive) easements will be used where ever public resources are available and public access is needed.</p> <p>Administrative (nonexclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need and only BLM employee, contractor, and licensee access is needed.</p>	<p>Permanent transportation system will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLM roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 miles - 66 acres - BLM trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 mile - 2 acres <p>New access by easement or new construction will be provided.</p>	Update map through IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, mineral materials, and forest and woodlands</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access. <i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Road construction will be limited and could restrict additional public access.</p>

Table 3-4 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	<p>Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open. Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPNM - 5-mile access points - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points. 			
Rights-of-way	<p>WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted with addition of existing transportation utility corridors. . . ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are protected and when additional stipulations protect resources and values not included in the criteria.</p>	<p>Exclusion areas (0 acres). Avoidance areas (14,271 acres) will include: - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat. Designated corridors (20,554 acres). Nonexcluded areas (57,794 acres/100 percent of ESR).</p>	None.	<p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating routes to avoid big game birthing and critical winter habitat (14,271 acres).</p>

Table 3-4 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Land ownership adjustments	Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange could be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public and BLM management will be improved. Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.	<p>Category I lands (15,858 acres) are identified for disposal.</p> <p>Category II lands (12 acres) will be identified for retention or exchange.</p> <p>Category III lands (41,924 acres) will be identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer until identified as Category I or II.</p>	None.	None.
Withdrawals and classifications	Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.	<p>Existing BLM withdrawals will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - other withdrawals -- continued (20 acres) -- revoked (0 acres) <p>New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riparian areas (perennial) - 58 acres - big game birthing habitat - 5,583 acres - fishery habitat - 106 acres 	None.	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - 58 acres of perennial will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws; 31 acres of intermittent will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - 5,583 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p> <p><i>Fishery habitat</i> - 106 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p>
Off-highway vehicle use	OHV use will be managed through limitations in areas with special natural recreational values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged throughout this unit where use is allowed.	<p>0 acres will be open.</p> <p>57,794 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails or seasonally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riparian areas (perennial) - fishery habitat - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat - special status animal habitat. <p>0 acres will be closed.</p>	<p>Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into an IAP.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities.</p> <p>Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed.</p>	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 58 acres of perennial; opportunities will be available on the remaining 31 acres of intermittent.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 23,307 acres through limitations of seasonal or designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Fishery habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 106 acres.</p>

Table 3-4 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Off-highway vehicle use (continued)			<p>Media, informational materials, and possibly physical barriers will be used to encourage users to stay on existing roads in open and limited areas.</p> <p>Establish motorized/multiple use trails to meet public demand. Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Forest and woodlands</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 4,346 acres through new road construction.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - OHV opportunities on 428 acres will be diminished through seasonal limitations.</p>
Recreation management	<p>A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to semiprimitive nonmotorized) will be maintained. Minimal onsite management will be provided to maintain opportunities.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunities on 57,794 acres will be managed as an extensive recreation management area.</p>	<p>Address upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on balance between resource protection and tourism within IAPs. Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups. Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Aquisitions/easements to enhance water-based recreation, mountain biking, OHV use, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and natural resource interpretation opportunities will be considered and pursued.</p>	<p><i>Transportation and access</i> - Recreation access opportunities could be enhanced by potential new access.</p>

Eco-Subregion 5 (Gold Belt)

Description

- 132,402 acres BLM
- 93,759 acres private
- 26,026 acres state

This large area extends from the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument on the north to the Arkansas River corridor on the south and from Colorado State Highway 9 on the west to Fort Carson on the east. Topography varies from the high mountains around Cripple Creek, Colorado, to the gentle rolling hills around the national monument. In the eastern portion of the eco-subregion are steep, rocky mountains and the spectacular Beaver Creek Canyon. To the west of this canyon, to Colorado State Highway 9, is an almost unbroken series of rugged mountains and hills with few roads, houses, or towns. Vegetation consists of mountain grasses, aspen, and ponderosa pine in the northern and central portions; piñon/juniper, blue grama grass, and oak are in the southern and eastern portions of the area. BLM-administered land encompasses most of the southern half with private control of almost all of the land in the northern half (see Map 3-6).

Management Issues and Concerns

Land ownership adjustments, land access acquisition/transportation, areas of critical environmental concern, off-highway vehicle use, regional tourism, fluid minerals/locatable minerals/mineral materials management, waterpower/reservoir management, recreation management, special status plant/animal species management, historical and paleontological resource management, riparian area management, livestock grazing management, fishery and wildlife habitat management, visual resource management, rights-of-way management, withdrawal and classifications, and forest and woodlands management.

Management Guidance/Assumptions

The following guidance/assumptions apply to this eco-subregion and address Bureau policy and regulatory mandates for resources and resource uses.

Wilderness Management

Beaver Creek WSA (28,172 acres) in the RGRA will be managed under BLM *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands*

Under Wilderness Review (IMPG) until Congress makes a decision on wilderness recommendations for the Cañon City District. If this WSA is not designated wilderness, it will return to other types of multiple use management as prescribed in this land use plan. Desired plant community (DPC) will be determined for this WSA if it is returned to other types of multiple use management. In accordance with Sec. 603 of FLPMA, BLM is required to manage all identified wilderness study areas under the nonimpairment mandate. Valid existing rights must be recognized and are an exception to the nonimpairment mandate. Grazing uses and mining operations occurring as of October 21, 1976, may continue in the same manner and degree as long as they do not cause unnecessary or undue degradation. Uses and operations proposed after this date, however, are subject to the nonimpairment requirements for all operations proposed.

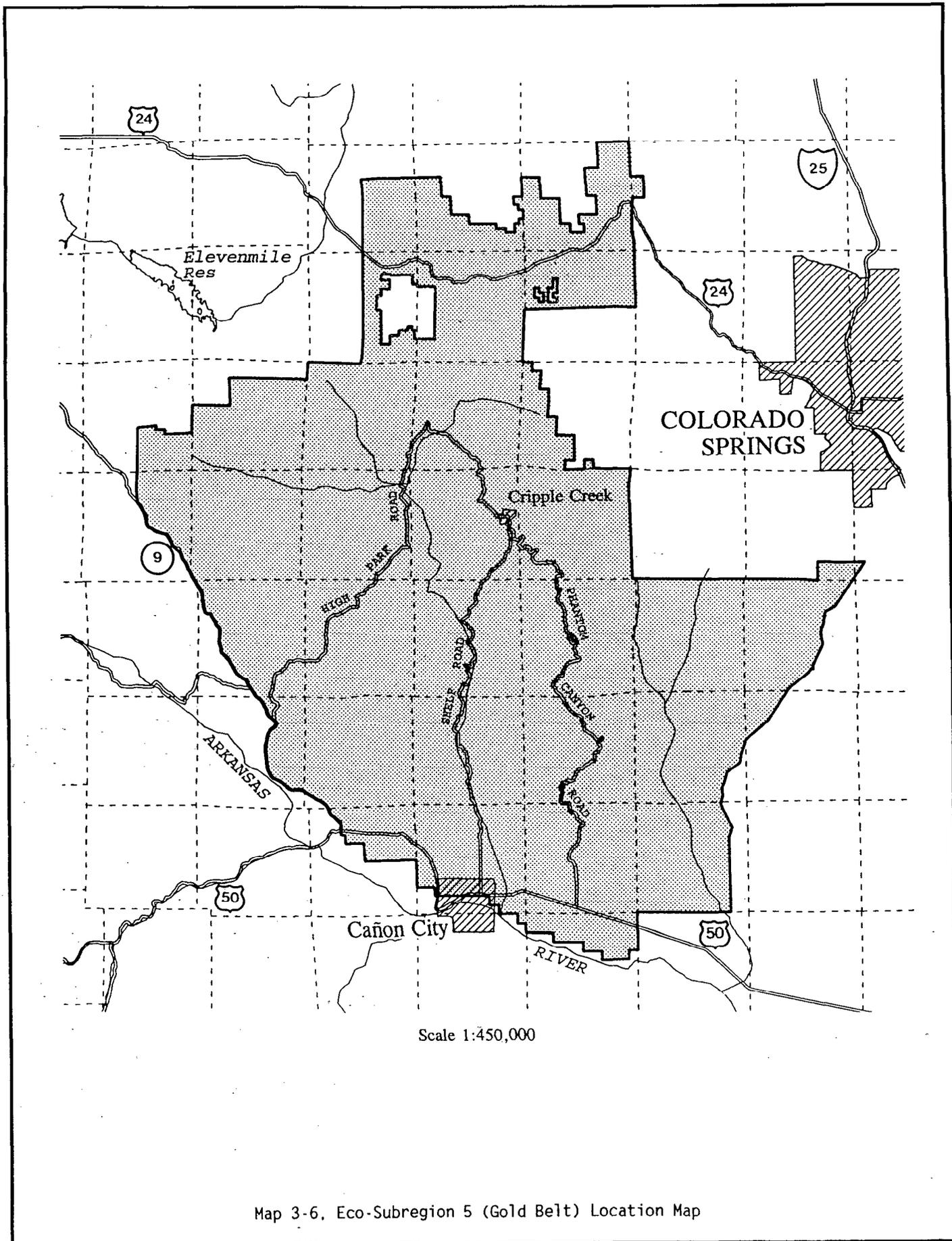
Beaver Creek WSA is recommended by BLM for wilderness designation in the *Final Cañon City District Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement* dated December 1987, and will be managed in accordance with BLM and congressional directives. This recommended area will be returned to other multiple use management if not designated wilderness by Congress.

Recreation

Gold Belt Special Recreation Management Area: Management of this SRMA provides a variety of land-based opportunities and experiences that compliment activities associated with the scenic byway (sightseeing, wildlife viewing cultural/paleo viewing, rock climbing, target shooting, back-country OHV travel) in urban, rural, roaded natural, semiprimitive motorized, semiprimitive nonmotorized, and primitive settings. The Gold Belt Tour National Back Country Byway will be managed and maintained. A Gold Belt Tour National Back County Byway partnership plan using Colorado Byway Commission planning guidelines will be completed and implemented for this SRMA, which will involve all partners and the public with interests in the Gold Belt Scenic Byway. Primitive and semiprimitive nonmotorized settings in the Beaver Creek WSA (20,492 acres) will be maintained.

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-5 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.



Map 3-6. Eco-Subregion 5 (Gold Belt) Location Map

TABLE 3-5
Eco-Subregion 5 (Gold Belt)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian-Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i> .	Improved vegetation management will result in new forage, which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program). Management for enhancement of other values on 29,962 acres of forest lands will occur.	DPC objectives will be developed for IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 125,286 acres. Vegetation will not be grazed on 5,755 acres. <i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 109,592 acres could be disturbed by mineral development. 22,9965 acres will be protected. <i>Historical and recreation resources</i> - Vegetation on 1,361 acres will be enhanced by fencing if conflicts occur. <i>Rights-of-way</i> - 96,806 acres will be open to disturbance, which could result in a change in plant succession. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 129,228 acres (98%) will be protected by closure or limitation of travel to designated roads and trails. 3,174 acres (2%) will not be protected.
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas, critical wildlife habitat, and three ACECs.	Grazing will be authorized on 113 allotments (125,286 acres). Grazing will be excluded on a portion of Beaver Creek ACEC (5,755 acres). Grazing will be excluded on 1,361 acres with developed recreation sites and eligible NRHP sites if conflicts occur. Stocking rates and season-of-use will be adjusted in Garden Park ACEC (2,728 acres).	Livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land will be eliminated through a combination of BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing. Allotments will be recategorized from Custodial to Improve and from Improve to Maintain because of riparian, wildlife, and watershed conflicts: - Improve allotments 35 - Maintain allotments 13 - Custodial allotments 73 - Unallotted allotments 2	<i>Vegetation</i> - Livestock grazing will be diminished on 11,250 acres because of low productivity of forage from DPC. Livestock grazing will be enhanced by vegetative manipulation on 5,000 acres resulting in an increase of 1,000 AUMs.

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Livestock grazing (continued)				<p><i>Livestock grazing, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat</i> - Range improvement funds will be spent on Improve category allotments for fences and vegetation treatment to increase forage production on 46,535 acres on 35 allotments.</p> <p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/lessees for fence construction on 10 Improve and Maintain category allotments and on an unknown number of Custodial category allotments. More public funding will be used on boundary fence construction resulting in less funds for range improvement projects.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - An estimated 500 acres (50 AUMs) allocated to big game will result in a loss of forage.</p> <p><i>Historical/archaeological resources and recreation</i> - Livestock grazing on 1,381 acres could be lost.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Livestock grazing will be lost on approximately 5,755 acres in Beaver Creek ACEC (575 AUMs) and diminished on 2,728 acres in Garden Park ACEC (270 AUMs).</p>
Riparian areas	<p>Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.</p>	<p>Perennial riparian areas (297 acres) will be limited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral materials disposal - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. 	<p>Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.</p>	<p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - Perennial (297 surface acres) will be protected.</p> <p>Intermittent (167 surface acres) could be degraded.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Perennial (297 acres) will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails; intermittent (167 acres) will be limited to existing roads and trails.</p>

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Forest and woodlands	Productive forest land will be managed for sustained-yield.	A portion of the 29,962 acres of forested lands will be available for intensive management.	In the 5-year sale plan, stands will be prioritized for harvest consideration in the following order: -enhancement of vegetation goals - insect or disease - timber production - other multiple resource values. Funding will be solicited from other activities to support the 5-year sale plan and all IAPS.	<i>Paleontological resources</i> - Class I areas (2,728 acres) will be closed to intensive forest management. <i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - 29,962 acres of productive forest land could be lost through disposal to the private sector.
Wildlife habitat	Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals.	Big game critical habitat with identified conflict will be addressed through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program). Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following no surface occupancy stipulations: - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 192 subsurface acres. Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations: - big game critical winter (12/1-4/30) - big game birthing areas on approximately 38,111 subsurface acres (by species) -- elk calving and deer fawning 4/16-6/30 -- pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 -- bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - wild turkey winter habitat on 4,848 acres 12/1-4/1.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPS.	<i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 131,041 acres. 1,361 acres will not be enhanced. <i>Fluid minerals</i> - Raptor nesting and fledgling habitat on 192 subsurface acres will be protected through NSO stipulations. Big game birthing, critical winter, and wild turkey winter habitat on 42,959 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations. Big game winter habitat on 185,686 subsurface acres will be protected under standard lease stipulations only. <i>Locatable minerals</i> - Big game critical winter, raptor nesting/fledgling, and wild turkey winter habitat on 12,010 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification. <i>Mineral materials</i> - Big game critical winter, raptor nesting/fledgling, and wild turkey winter habitat on 12,010 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations. <i>Rights-of-way</i> - Big game critical winter habitat on 8,292 acres could be degraded by construction of major ROWs.

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat (continued)		<p>Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat on 8,292 surface acres 12/1-4/30 - raptor nesting and fledgling habitat on 1,862 surface acres 3/1-7/31 - wild turkey winter habitat on 1,856 acres 12/1-4/1. 		<p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Big game critical winter habitat could be lost through land disposal; acquired lands could provide additional habitat.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Wildlife values on 2,906 acres within Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, and Beaver creek ACECs will be enhanced.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Big game critical winter on 8,292 acres will be protected through seasonal limitations.</p>
Fishery habitat	<p>Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.</p>	<p>All streams (60 miles) will be protected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standard lease terms for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials: - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails on 398 acres. 	<p>Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (398 acres) will be protected.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Fishery habitat quality on 128 acres will improve.</p> <p><i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (398 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.</p>
Special status plant/ community species	<p>Special status plants will be protected by special management actions, including elimination of identified and verified conflicting uses.</p>	<p><i>Eriogonum bradegei</i> in Garden Park ACEC (66 acres) will be protected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACEC designation - no surface occupancy - closed to mineral entry - no disposal of mineral materials - OHV restrictions. 	<p>An IAP will be developed for Garden Park.</p>	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Sensitive plant species in Garden Park ACEC (66 acres) will be protected through stocking rates and season-of-use adjustments.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Sensitive plant species in Garden Park ACEC (66 acres) will be protected.</p>

Table 3-5(continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Special status plant/community species (continued)				<p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Sensitive plant species on 66 acres will be protected.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive plant species in Garden Park (66 acres) will be protected.</p>
Special status animal species	<p>Protection and enhancement of special status animals will be continued by eliminating identified and verified land uses that conflict with these species.</p>	<p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing in conformance with the T&E Act as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peregrine falcon nesting with buffer on 2,827 subsurface acres. <p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with NSO stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexican spotted owl habitat (one-half mile buffer around core area) on 2,313 subsurface acres <p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 232,099 subsurface acres (2/1-7/31) - bald eagle winter winter roosting habitat on 463 subsurface acres (11/16-4/15) - peregrine falcon nesting habitat on 2,827 subsurface acres (3/16-7/31). <p>Special status animal habitat will be closed to mineral entry and mineral materials disposal as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peregrine falcon nesting on 1,704 surface acres - Mexican spotted owl nesting on 2,511 surface acres. 	<p>Activity planning will be accomplished within an IAP.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 5,140 subsurface acres will be protected. Sensitive species habitat on 235,389 subsurface acres will be protected under seasonal stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 4,215 surface acres will be closed to mineral entry. Sensitive species habitat on 157,214 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 4,215 surface acres will be protected from mineral materials disposal. Sensitive species habitat on 157,214 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Sensitive species will be protected in Beaver Creek and Phantom Canyon ACECs (13,216 acres).</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 157,214 acres will be protected through seasonal limitation.</p>

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Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Special status animal species (continued)		Special status animal habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows: - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 110,814 surface acres (2/1-7/31) - bald eagle winter roosting habitat on 313 surface acres (11/16-4/15) - peregrine falcon habitat on 46,086 surface acres (3/16-7/31).		
Fluid minerals	Development will be authorized through standard lease procedures with additional mitigation applied where necessary to protect other natural values.	21,872 subsurface acres will not be leased as follows: - WSAs. 2,827 subsurface acres will be available for leasing in conformance with the T&E Act - peregrine falcon nesting 5,842 acres will be leased with NSO stipulations: - sensitive status plants (Garden Park) - reservoir rights-of-way - raptor nesting and fledgling habitat (one-eighth mile buffer). - Mexican spotted owl nesting and fledgling habitat (one-half mile buffer) - developed recreation sites.	None.	<i>Wilderness and sensitive status animals</i> - Restrictions will preclude leasing operations by resource potential: - 30,999 of low. <i>Wildlife habitat, special status plants and animals, rights-of-way, and recreation</i> - NSO stipulations could result in severe restrictions or potentially eliminate leasing operations by resource potential: - 192 acres of low - 5,650 acres of none. <i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Seasonal stipulations could result in moderate to severe restriction based on the length of the limitation and the operation scheduling needs by resource potential: - 38 acres of high - 5,038 acres of moderate - 7,229 acres of low - 263,216 acres of none.

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Fluid minerals (continued)		<p>278,348 acres will be leased with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elk calving and deer birthing 4/16-6/30 - bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-4/30 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - bald eagle winter roosting habitat (one-half mile buffer) 11/16-4/15 - peregrine falcon nesting habitat 3/16-7/31. 		<p><i>Visual resources</i> - Controlled surface use stipulations could result in minor to moderate restriction on the following resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 acres of high - 911 acres of moderate - 2,270 acres of low - 123,777 acres of none.
Locatable minerals	<p>Areas open to mineral entry will be administered under the existing regulations and limited by closure if necessary. Special mitigation will be developed to protect other identified values on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>126,966 acres will be leased with controlled surface use stipulations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VRM Class II areas. <p>26,224 acres will be open to mineral entry under standard mineral operating practices.</p> <p>52,364 acres will be open with seasonal limitations through claimant notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15. - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - bald eagle winter roosting areas 11/16-4/15 - peregrine falcon nesting habitat 3/16-7/31 	<p>Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 28,172 acres.</p> <p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 297 surface acres; 167 surface acres will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral entry will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 12,010 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 398 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Special status plants</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 66 acres</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 4,215 surface acres.</p> <p>Mineral entry will be seasonally restricted on 52,364 surface acres.</p>

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Locatable minerals (continued)		53,814 acres will be closed to mineral entry. - WSAs - 3 ACECs - 2 potential NRHP sites - fishery habitat - riparian areas - peregrine falcon nesting - Mexican spotted owl nesting - developed recreation sites.		<i>Historical resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on two potential NRHP sites (1,280 acres). <i>ACEC designations</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on three ACECs (20,906 surface acres). <i>Recreation resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 81 acres.
Mineral materials	The area will be open to development; mitigation or closures will be applied if necessary to protect other natural values. Preferred areas of sales will be identified. Garden Park ACEC will be closed to disposal if inconsistent with intent of ACEC.	26,224 acres will be available for disposal under standard operating practices. 52,364 acres will be available with seasonal limitations: - big game winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - bald eagle winter roosting areas 11/16-4/15 - peregrine falcon nesting habitat 3/16-7/31. 53,814 acres will be closed to mineral materials disposal - WSAs - 3 ACECs (disposal could occur on 2,728 acres in Garden Park ACEC only if disposal enhances paleo values) - 2 potential NRHP sites - fishery habitat - perennial riparian areas - peregrine falcon nesting (with buffer) - Mexican spotted owl nesting - developed recreation sites.	Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs. Analysis to locate and establish community mineral material pits will be completed within IAPs.	<i>Wilderness</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 28,172 acres. <i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 297 surface acres; 167 surface acres will be open. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 4,906 surface acres. <i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 398 surface acres. <i>Special status plants</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 66 acres. <i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 4,215 acres. Mineral material disposal will be seasonally restricted on 157,213 surface acres. <i>Historical resources</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on two NRHP sites (1,280 acres). <i>ACEC designations</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on three ACECs (20,906 acres). <i>Recreation resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 81 acres.

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Paleontological resources	Utilization of paleo resources for educational, research, and other public uses such as tourism will be encouraged with special emphasis on the Garden Park Paleo Area.	<p>Conservation of Class I paleontological resources (2,728 acres) will be provided through ACEC designation (Garden Park Paleo Area) and managed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to timber harvesting and wood gathering - no surface occupancy - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal, unless disposal will enhance paleo values - retained in public ownership; - limited livestock grazing - OHV use limited to designated roads and trails. 	<p>Establishment of invertebrate collecting areas to provide fossil materials for public domain collections will be considered through integrated activity plans.</p> <p>A "discovery" center will be established for the Garden Park Paleo Area in cooperation with the Garden Park Paleontological Society.</p>	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Class I resources on 2,728 acres (98 percent) will be protected through stocking rates and season-of-use adjustments.</p> <p><i>Forest and woodlands</i> - Class I resources on 2,728 acres will be protected.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals, mineral entry, and mineral materials disposal</i> - Class I resources on 2,728 acres will be protected from mineral development.</p> <p><i>Land ownership</i> - Class I area (2,728 acres) will be retained.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Paleo values on 2,728 acres will be protected by limiting OHV use to designated roads and trails.</p>
Historical resources	Information potential will be used for interpretation and scientific values. Sites will be used for their interpretive value.	<p>Conservation of historical resources will be provided through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - designation of Phantom Canyon, Garden Park, and Beaver Creek ACECs (20,906 acres). <p>Conservation of two potential NRHP sites on 1,280 acres (Florence and Cripple Creek RR railbed segments, bridges, abutments/tunnels - 960 acres; Garden Park Historical Dinosaur dig sites - 320 acres) will be provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standard strips for fluids - closed to mineral entry - no disposal of mineral materials . - OHV use limited to designated roads and trails. 	Information potential will be promoted through involvement with interested educational institutions. Active programs for interpretive scientific and recreational use of historic sites will be developed within IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Resources on two potential NRHP sites (1,280 acres) will be protected.</p> <p><i>Paleontological and archaeological resources</i> - Damage and destruction will occur on most sites used for scientific use, particularly historic, archaeological; i.e., Garden Park (320 acres).</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Designation of three ACECs will enhance protection of historical values on 20,906 acres.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Two NRHP sites (1,280 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p>

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Historical resources (continued)				<p><i>Recreation resources</i> - Recreation development will give some protection to one potential NRHP site (320 acres) from weathering and deterioration. Damage will continue on the remaining potential NRHP site (960 acres). Signs, fences, interpretation, and visitor education will provide some protection for two potential NRHP sites (1,280 acres). Increased use resulting from interpretation signing, and visitor education will damage Garden Park and Florence and Cripple Creek Railroads.</p>
Transportation and access	<p>Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed.</p>	<p>Permanent transportation system will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLM roads - 47 miles - 377 acres - BLM trails - 5 miles - 8 acres. <p>New access by easement acquisition or new construction will include:</p> <p>Priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garden Park - 4 miles; 0 acres - Beaver Creek - 13.5 miles; 15,000 acres - Barnard Creek/Booger Red - 4 miles; 9,000 acres - Twin Mountain - 3.5 miles, 8,000 acres. 	Update map through IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, mineral materials, and forest and woodlands</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat, special status plants, and special status animals</i> - Road construction will be limited and could restrict additional public access.</p> <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Minor restrictions on road development within ACECs will reduce public access.</p>

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	<p>New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS). Public (exclusive) easements will be used where ever public resources are available and public access is needed. Administrative (nonexclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need and only BLM employee, contractor, and licensee access is needed.</p> <p>Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open.</p> <p>Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPNM - 5-mile access points- - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points. 			

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Rights-of-way	<p>WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted with addition of existing transportation utility corridors.</p> <p>ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are protected and when additional stipulations protect resources and values not included in the criteria.</p>	<p>Exclusion areas (35,596 acres) will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs - raptor nesting/fledgling areas - special status plant habitat - special status animal habitat - 2 potential NRHP sites. <p>Avoidance areas (80,721 acres) will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat - VRM II in ACECs - developed recreation sites. <p>Designated corridors (15,323 acres).</p> <p>Nonexcluded areas (96,806 acres/73 percent of ESR).</p>	None.	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs in WSAs (28,172 acres).</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from raptor nesting/fledgling areas (1,862 acres).</p> <p>Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating routes to avoid big game critical winter habitat (8,292 acres).</p> <p><i>Special status plants</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from special status plant habitat (66 acres).</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from special status animal habitat (4,215 acres)</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from two potential NRHP sites (1,280 acres).</p> <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating major ROWs to avoid ACECs (20,461 acres) with VRM II.</p> <p>Increased costs will not occur in locating major ROWs on VRM II (61,504 acres).</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating major ROWs to avoid developed recreation sites (81 acres).</p>

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Land ownership adjustments	<p>Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange can be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public, and BLM management will be improved. Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.</p>	<p>Category I lands (18,076 acres) will be identified for disposal if not valued for the following resource: - WSAs.</p> <p>Category II lands (108,662 acres) will be identified for retention or exchange.</p> <p>Category III lands (5,664 acres) will be identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer until identified as Category I or II.</p>	None.	<i>Wilderness</i> - Disposal of 11 acres of WSAs will not occur.
Withdrawals and classifications	<p>Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.</p>	<p>Existing BLM withdrawals are: - 0 acres.</p> <p>New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows: - riparian areas (perennial)- 297 acres - fishery habitat - 398 acres - special status plant habitat - 66 acres - special status animal habitat - 4,215 acres - 2 potential NRHP sites - 1,280 acres - portions of 3 ACECs - 20,906 acres - VRM II in ACECs - 20,461 acres) - developed recreation sites - 81 acres</p>	None.	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - 297 acres of perennial will be withdrawn/ segregated from public land laws and mining laws; 167 acres of intermittent will be available. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - 398 acres will be withdrawn/ segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Special status plants</i> - 66 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Special status animals</i> - 4,215 acres will be withdrawn/ segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Historical resources</i> - Two potential NRHP sites (1,280 acres) will be withdrawn/ segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>ACEC designations</i> - 20,906 acres will be withdrawn/ segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p>

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Withdrawals and classifications (continued)				<p><i>Visual resources</i> - 20,461 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - 81 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p>
Areas of critical environmental concern designations	All or portions of Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, and Beaver Creek ACECs will be managed to protect and enhance special values. These areas will receive special management as an ACECs.	<p>20,906 acres will be designated ACECs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - livestock grazing will be excluded on 5,755 acres and limited on 2,728 acres - timber harvesting and wood gathering will be allowed for enhancement of protected resources - 2,728 acres will be leased with NSO strips and the remainder will be leased under standard strips; - 20,906 acres will be closed to mineral entry and mineral materials disposal - 2,728 acres will be open for mineral materials disposal only to enhance paleo values - 20,461 acres of VRM II will be avoided for major ROWs - 20,906 acres will remain under BLM administration - 9,082 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails for OHV use and 11,824 acres will be closed. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within an IAP.	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - 5,755 acres will be excluded from grazing; 2,728 acres will have limited grazing; the remaining 12,423 acres will not be protected.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Portions of three ACECs (20,906 acres) will be protected from mineral development.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - 20,461 acres of VRM II will be protected through avoidance; the remaining 445 acres will not be protected from potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Special values on 20,906 acres will be retained under BLM administration.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 20,906 acres will be protected through closure or limitation of travel to designated roads and trails.</p>
Off-highway vehicle use	Motorized recreation OHV opportunities will be enhanced. OHV use will be managed through limitations or closures in areas with special natural or primitive recreational values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged throughout this unit where use is allowed.	3,174 acres will be open - OHV recreational areas in Penrose Chaining	Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into IAPs. Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities.	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - OHV opportunities will not be available within WSAs (28,172 acres).</p> <p><i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 297 acres of perennial; opportunities will be available on the remaining 167 acres of intermittent.</p>

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Off-highway vehicle use (continued)		<p>106,232 acres will be limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riparian areas (perennial) - fishery habitat - big game critical winter habitat - raptor nesting/fledgling areas - special status plant habitat - special status animal habitat - paleo Class I areas - 2 potential NRHP sites - ACECs - developed recreation sites. <p>33,059 acres will be closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beaver Creek WSA - Deer Haven Ranch. 	<p>Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>Media, informational materials, and possibly physical barriers will be used to encourage users to stay on existing roads in open and limited areas.</p> <p>Establish motorized/multiple use trails to meet public demand. Activity planning will be accomplished in an IAP.</p>	<p><i>Forest and woodlands</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 29,962 acres through new road construction.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 10,154 acres through limitations of seasonal or designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 398 acres.</p> <p><i>Special status plants</i> - OHV opportunities on 66 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 17,157 acres through seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Paleontological resources</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 2,728 acres through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - OHV opportunities on two potential NRHP sites (1,280 acres) will be diminished through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Transportation and access</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 21.5 miles/24,000 acres through easement acquisition or new road construction.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 20,906 acres through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p>

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Off-highway vehicle use (continued)				<p><i>Recreation resources</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on approximately 18,342 acres of primitive and 13,348 acres of semiprimitive non-motorized areas through limiting use to designated roads and trails. OHV opportunities will be diminished on 81 acres of developed recreation sites through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p>
Visual resources	<p>Existing VRM classes will be utilized to guide resource management actions on BLM-administered lands. Adherence to criteria will occur according to respective class rating.</p>	<p>VRM Class II areas (126,966 subsurface acres) will be protected by CSU stipulations.</p>	<p>Visual ratings in ACECs will be re-evaluated to ensure rating is appropriate to protect outstanding qualities of the area. Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Class II areas (126,966 subsurface acres) will be protected from leasing through CSU stipulations. <i>Locatable minerals</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (20,461 surface acres) will be closed; 41,043 surface acres will not be protected from entry. <i>Mineral materials</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (20,461 surface acres) will be closed; mitigation measures will be provided on a case-by-case basis on 41,043 surface acres. <i>Rights-of-way</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (20,461 acres) will be avoided in locating major ROW/corridors; the remaining 41,043 acres could be degraded by construction of major ROWs. <i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (20,461 acres) will be retained under BLM administration; the remaining 41,043 acres will be available for disposal.</p>

Table 3-5 (continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Visual resources (continued)		<p>VRM Class II areas within ACECs (20,461 surface acres) will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - avoided by major ROW corridor development - limited for OHV use to designated roads and trails - retained under BLM administration. 		<p><i>Off-highway-vehicle-use</i> - Class II areas within ACECs (20,461 acres) will be protected through limiting use to designated roads and trails; the remaining 41,043 will not be protected.</p>
Recreation management	<p>A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to primitive) will be maintained. Emphasis on maintaining the scenic and historical integrity will be emphasized. Facility development will focus on historical and natural re-source interpretation, public health, and other visitor needs and will reduce user conflict.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunities on 132,402 acres will be managed as a special recreation management area.</p> <p>Recreation opportunities in primitive settings on 18,432 acres and semiprimitive non-motorized settings on 13,348 acres will be maintained.</p> <p>Developed recreation sites on 81 acres will be managed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excluded from livestock grazing - leased for fluids with NSO stipulations - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral material disposal - avoided by major ROWs - limited for OHV use to designated roads and trails. 	<p>Address upland recreation with emphasis on the Gold Belt Tour National Back Country Byway management guidance with a balance between resource protection and tourism within IAPs. Prepare a Gold Belt Tour partnership plan in addition to IAP.</p> <p>Coordinate activities with various volunteer, tourism, and user groups.</p> <p>Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Acquisitions/easements to enhance mountain biking, rock climbing, interpretation, tourism promotion, hunting, watchable wildlife, and scenic byways will be considered and pursued.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Recreation sites (10 acres or more) will be protected by NSO stipulations. Recreation sites less than 10 acres will be protected with standard stipulations. <i>Locatable minerals, mineral materials, livestock grazing, rights-of-way, land ownership adjustments, and off-highway vehicle use</i> - Recreation sites will be protected. <i>Transportation and access</i> - Recreation access opportunities will be enhanced on 1,500 acres.</p>

Eco-Subregion 6 (Waugh Mountain/Tallahassee Creek)

Description

- 70,146 acres BLM
- 60,551 acres private
- 12,257 acres state

This area is remote and sparsely populated, with no towns nor major highways. A few high mountains are present; however, the majority of the area has rugged piñon/juniper and oak-dominated hills. A significant part of the west-central portion consists of a series of gentle grassy hills. The higher mountains have ponderosa pine, other mixed conifers, mountain meadows, and aspen stands. There are no major bodies of water in this area and only a few small streams. Remoteness is the most significant feature. Real estate subdivision is taking place throughout the eco-subregion, and the impact on the total area is significant. The area is bounded on the west by the approximate boundary of the Badger Creek watershed, on the east by Colorado

State Highway 9, on the north by the Pike/San Isabel National Forest, and on the south by the Arkansas River corridor (see Map 3-7).

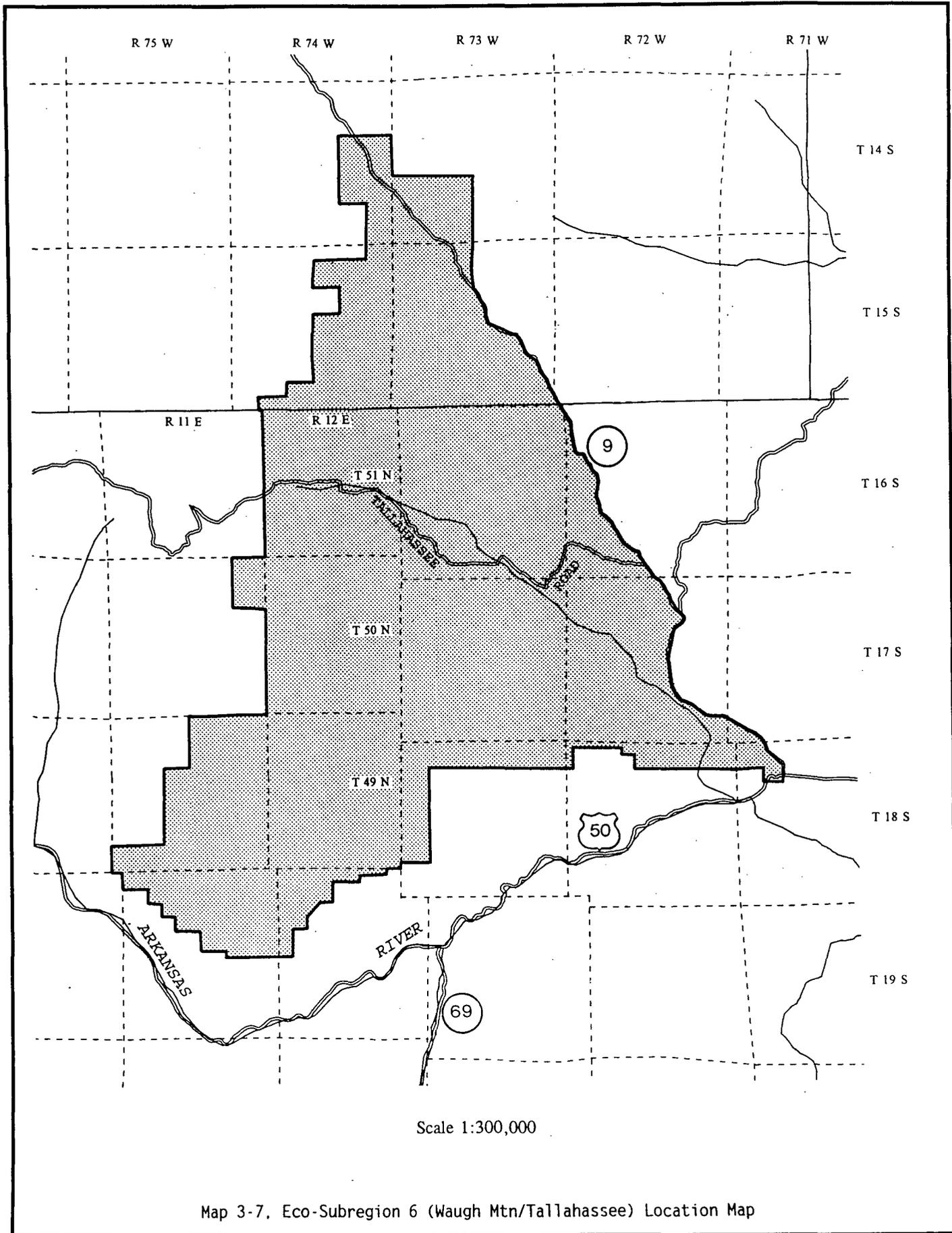
Management Issues and Concerns

Land ownership adjustments, land access acquisition/transportation, off-highway vehicle use, fluid minerals/locatable minerals/mineral materials management, water-power/reservoir management, recreation management, special status plant/animal species management, vegetation management, riparian area management, livestock grazing management, fishery and wildlife habitat management, visual resource management, rights-of-way management, withdrawals and classifications, and forest and woodlands management.

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-6 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.





Map 3-7. Eco-Subregion 6 (Waugh Mtn/Tallahassee) Location Map

TABLE 3-6
Eco-Subregion 6 (Waugh Mountain/Tallahassee Creek)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian-Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i>	<p>Improved vegetation management will result in new forage, which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Management for enhancement of other resource values on 9,783 acres of forest lands will occur.</p>	DPC objectives will be developed in IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an inter-disciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 70,146 acres. Vegetation will be grazed with limitations on 56 acres. Livestock grazing (<i>allotment categorization</i>) - 3 allotments, 3,120 acres (5%) in unsatisfactory resource condition currently managed on a custodial basis will be managed for improvement. <i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 69,141 surface acres could be disturbed by mineral development. 1,005 surface acres will be protected. <i>Rights-of-way</i> - 68,944 acres will be open to disturbance, which could result in a change in plant succession. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 66,813 acres (95%) will be protected by closure or limitation of travel to designated roads and trails. 3,333 acres (5%) will not be protected.</p>
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas, critical wildlife habitat, and a portion of one ACEC.	<p>Grazing will be authorized on 70 allotments (70,146 acres).</p> <p>Grazing will be restricted on a portion of High Mesa Grassland (56 acres).</p>	<p>Livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land will be eliminated through a combination of BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing. Allotments will be recategorized from Custodial to Improve and from Improve to Maintain because of riparian wildlife, and watershed conflicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve allotments 22 - Maintain allotments 4 - Custodial allotments 43 - Unallotted allotments 1 	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Livestock grazing will be diminished on 2,700 acres because of low productivity of forage from DPC. Livestock grazing will be enhanced by vegetative manipulation on 2,000 acres resulting in an increase of 400 AUMs. <i>Livestock grazing, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat</i> - Range improvement funds will be spent on Improve category allotments for fences and vegetation treatment to increase forage production on 38,841 acres on 22 allotments.</p>

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Livestock grazing (continued)				<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/lessees for fence construction on 13 Improve and Maintain category allotments and on an unknown number of Custodial category allotments. More public funding will be used on boundary fence construction resulting in less funds for range improvement projects.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - An estimated 1,000 acres (100 AUMs) allocated to big game will result in a loss of forage.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Livestock grazing will be diminished on 56 acres.</p>
Riparian areas	<p>Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.</p>	<p>Perennial riparian areas (133 acres) will be limited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral materials disposal - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. 	<p>Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.</p>	<p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - Perennial (133 acres) will be protected. Intermittent (44 acres) will not be protected.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 133 acres will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails; 44 acres could be degraded.</p>
Forest and woodlands	<p>Productive forest land will be managed for sustained-yield.</p>	<p>A portion of the 9,783 acres of forested lands will be available for intensive management.</p>	<p>In the 5-year sale plan, stands will be prioritized for harvest consideration in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhancement of vegetation goals - insect or disease - timber production - other multiple resource values. <p>Funding will be solicited from other activities to support the 5-year sale plan and all IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Disposal of 9,783 acres of productive forest land to the private sector could occur.</p>

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat	<p>Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals.</p>	<p>Big game birthing habitat on 631 acres will be protected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - excluded from major ROWs - limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails. <p>Big game critical habitat with identified conflict will be addressed through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following no surface occupancy stipulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 1,152 subsurface acres. <p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter on 2,301 sub surface acres (12/1-4/30) - big game birthing habitat on approximately 631 subsurface acres (by species) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- elk calving and deer fawning 4/16-6/30 -- pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 -- bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - wild turkey winter habitat on 2,506 subsurface acres 12/1-4/1. 	<p>Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 70,146 acres.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 1,152 subsurface acres will be protected through NSO stipulations.</p> <p>Big game birthing, big game critical winter, and wild turkey winter habitat on 10,430 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations.</p> <p>Big game winter habitat on 36,670 subsurface acres will be protected under standard lease stipulations only.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 631 surface acres will be closed to mineral entry.</p> <p>Big game critical winter, raptor nesting/fledgling, and wild turkey winter habitat on 5,948 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 631 surface acres will be closed to disposal of mineral materials.</p> <p>Big game critical winter, raptor nesting/fledgling, and wild turkey winter habitat on 5,948 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat on 2,932 acres could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat could be lost through land disposal; acquired lands could provide additional habitat.</p>

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat (continued)		Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows: - big game critical winter habitat on 2,301 surface acres 12/1-4/30 - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 1,202 surface acres 3/1-7/31 - wild turkey winter habitat on 2,445 surface acres 12/1-4/1.		<i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Big game critical winter and birthing habitat on 2,932 acres will be protected through seasonal limitations. Big game birthing habitat on 631 acres will also be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails.
Fishery habitat	Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.	All streams (29 miles) will be managed as follows: - standard lease terms for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials: - off-highway vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails on 185 acres.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (185 acres) will be protected. <i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (185 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.
Special status plant/community species	Special status plants will be protected by special management actions including elimination of identified and verified conflicting uses.	The relict plant community in High Mesa Grasslands (56 acres) will be protected as follows: - ACEC designation - no surface occupancy - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - OHV restrictions.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - Sensitive plant species will be protected on 56 acres in High Mesa Grasslands through stocking rates and season-of-use adjustments. <i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Sensitive plant species will be protected. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Sensitive plant species will be protected on 56 acres in High Mesa Grasslands. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive plant species will be protected on 56 acres in High Mesa Grasslands.

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Special status animal species	Protection and enhancement of special status animals will be continued by eliminating identified and verified land uses that conflict with these species.	<p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 9,549 subsurface acres 2/1-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15. <p>Special status animal habitat will be seasonally limited for mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 6,983 surface acres 2/1-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 9,549 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 6,983 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 6,983 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 6,983 acres will be protected through seasonal limitation.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 56 acres will be protected in a portion of the Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC.</p>
Fluid minerals	Development will be authorized through standard lease procedures with additional mitigation applied where necessary to protect other natural values.	<p>1,176 subsurface acres will be leased with NSO stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat (one-eighth mile buffer) - sensitive status plants (High Mesa Grassland). 	None.	<p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status plants</i> - NSO could result in severe restriction or potentially eliminate leasing operations by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,176 acres of none. <p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Seasonal stipulations could result in moderate to severe restriction based on the length of the limitation and the operation scheduling needs by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2,915 acres of low - 17,064 acres of none. <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Controlled surface use stipulations could result in minor to moderate restriction by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4,649 acres of low - 19,112 acres of none.

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Fluid minerals (continued)		<p>19,979 subsurface acres will be leased with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elk calving and deer birthing 4/16-6/30 - pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-4/30 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15. <p>23,761 acres will be leased with controlled surface use stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VRM Class II areas. 		
Locatable minerals	<p>Areas open to mineral entry will be administered under the existing regulations and limited by closure if necessary. Special mitigation will be developed to protect other identified values on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>52,011 acres will be open to mineral entry under standard mineral operating practices.</p> <p>17,085 acres (approximately) will be open with seasonal limitations through claimant notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - Mexican spotted owl 2/1-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15. <p>1,050 acres will be closed to mineral entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing areas - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial) - portion of 1 ACEC. 	<p>Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 133 surface acres; 44 surface acres will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on big game birthing areas (631 surface acres). Mineral entry will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 15,978 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 185 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral entry will be seasonally restricted on approximately 6,932 surface acres.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on a portion of one ACEC (56 acres).</p>

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Mineral materials	The area will be open to development; mitigation or closures will be applied if necessary to protect other natural values. Preferred areas of sales will be identified.	<p>52,011 surface acres will be available for disposal under standard operating practices.</p> <p>17,085 acres (approximately) will be available with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15. <p>1,050 surface acres will be closed to mineral materials disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing areas - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial) - portion of 1 ACEC. 	<p>Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs.</p> <p>Analysis to locate and establish community mineral material pits will be completed within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 133 surface acres; 44 surface acres will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur in big game birthing areas (631 surface acres). Mineral material disposal will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 3,503 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 185 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral material disposal will be seasonally restricted on approximately 6,932 surface acres.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on a portion of one ACEC (56 acres).</p> <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Mitigation will be required on a case-by-case basis on 9,926 acres.</p>
Transportation and access	Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed.	<p>Permanent transportation system will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLM roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 34 miles - 271 acres - BLM trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 miles - 4 acres. <p>New access by easement acquisition or new construction will include:</p> <p>Priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Waugh Mountain - 1 mile; 1,400 acres - 31-Mile Mountain/Mill Gulch - 4 miles; 5,000 acres. 	Update map through IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, mineral materials, and forest and woodlands</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Road construction will be limited and could restrict additional public access.</p>

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	<p>New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS). Public (exclusive) easements will be used where ever public resources are available and public access is needed. Administrative (nonexclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need, and only BLM employee, contractor, and licensee access is needed.</p> <p>Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open.</p> <p>Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPM - 5-mile access points- - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points. 			

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Rights-of-way	WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted with addition of existing transportation utility corridors. ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are protected and when additional stipulations protect resources and values not included in the criteria.	Exclusion areas (1,202 acres) will include: - raptor fledgling/nesting areas. Avoidance areas (10,557 acres) will include: - big game birthing habitat. - big game critical winter habitat Designated corridors (31,999 acres). Nonexcluded areas (68,944 acres/98 percent of ESR).	None.	<i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Increased costs could occur from excluding major ROWs from raptor nesting/fledgling areas (1,202 acres). Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating major ROWs to avoid big game birthing and critical winter habitat (2,932 acres).
Land ownership adjustments	Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange could be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public, and BLM management will be improved. Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.	Category I lands (3,101 acres) are identified for disposal. Category II lands (67,045 acres) are identified for retention or exchange. Category III lands (0 acres) are identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer.	None.	None.
Withdrawals and classifications	Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.	Existing BLM withdrawals are: - 0 acres. New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows: - riparian areas (perennial) - 133 acres - big game birthing habitat - 631 acres - fishery habitat - 185 acres - a portion of 1 ACEC - 56 acres	None.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - 133 acres of perennial will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws; 44 acres of intermittent will be available. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - 631 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - 185 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>ACEC designations</i> - 56 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Areas of critical environmental concern designations	A portion of Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC will be managed to protect and enhance special values. These areas will receive special management as an ACEC.	56 acres will be designated an ACEC and managed as follows: - livestock grazing will be limited on 56 acres - timber harvesting and wood gathering will be allowed for enhancement of protected resources - 24 acres will be leased with NSO stips - 56 acres will be closed to mineral entry and mineral materials disposal - 56 acres will remain under BLM administration - 56 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails for OHV use.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - 56 acres will have limited grazing. <i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - A portion of one ACEC (56 acres) will be protected from mineral development. <i>Rights-of-way</i> - 56 acres of VRM II will be protected through avoidance. <i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Special values on 56 acres will be retained under BLM administration. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 56 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails.
Off-highway vehicle use	Motorized recreation OHV opportunities will be enhanced. OHV use will be managed through limitations or closures in areas with special natural or primitive recreational values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged throughout this unit where use is allowed.	3,333 acres will be open - OHV recreational areas in Sand Gulch. 64,842 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails or seasonally - riparian areas - raptor nesting/fledgling areas - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat - fishery habitat - special status plant habitat - special status animal habitat. 1,971 acres will be closed - 31 Mile Ranch.	Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into IAPs. Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities. Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed. Media, informational materials, and possibly physical barriers will be used to encourage users to stay on existing roads in open and limited areas. Establish motorized/multiple use trails to meet public demand. Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 133 acres of perennial; opportunities will be available on the remaining 44 acres of intermittent. <i>Forest and woodlands</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 9,783 acres through new road construction. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 4,134 acres through limitations of seasonal or designated roads and trails. <i>Fisheries habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 185 acres. <i>Special status animals</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 6,982 acres through seasonal limitations.

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Off-highway vehicle use (continued)				<p><i>Transportation and access</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 5 miles/6,400 acres through easement acquisition or new road construction.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 56 acres through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on approximately 2,197 acres of semiprimitive non-motorized areas through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p>
Visual resources	Existing VRM classes will be utilized to guide resource management actions on BLM-administered lands. Adherence to criteria will occur according to respective class rating.	VRM Class II areas (23,761 subsurface acres) will be protected by CSU stipulations;	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Class II areas (23,761 subsurface acres) will be protected from leasing through CSU stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (9,926 acres) will not be protected from entry.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Class II areas will be provided mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis on 9,926 acres outside ACECs.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (9,926 acres) could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (9,926 acres) will be available for disposal.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (9,926 acres) will not be protected.</p>

Table 3-6 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Recreation management	A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to semiprimitive nonmotorized) will be maintained. Minimal onsite management will be provided to maintain opportunities.	<p>Recreation opportunities on 70,146 acres will be managed as an extensive resource management area.</p> <p>Recreation opportunities in semiprimitive nonmotorized settings on 2,197 acres will be maintained.</p>	<p>Address river corridor and upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on balance between resource protection and tourism within IAPs. Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups.</p> <p>Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Aquisitions/easements to enhance water-based recreation, mountain biking, OHV use, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and natural resource interpretation opportunities will be considered and pursued.</p> <p>Develop a trailhead and multiple use trail on the existing logging road on Waugh Mountain.</p>	<p><i>Transportation and access - Recreation access opportunities will be enhanced on 6,400 acres.</i></p>

Eco-Subregion 7 (Grape Creek)

Description

- 48,205 acres BLM
- 19,397 acres private
- 4,149 acres state

The area extends downstream from DeWeese Reservoir to the confluence of Grape Creek with the Arkansas River. Also included in this area are portions of McIntyre Hills and Copper Gulch in the northwestern portion. The gravel road, known as Copper Gulch Road, is the only major, county-maintained road in the eco-subregion. Most of the vegetation is piñon/juniper woodland, with smaller amounts of grassland, mountain shrub, oak, and small stands of aspen and mixed conifers. Some real estate subdivision has taken place in the northwestern part of the area, but the rest is sparsely populated, with much of the BLM-administered lands within a wilderness study area. Grape Creek is a significant tributary to the Arkansas River; however, water rights are held by irrigation companies, so flows are determined by downstream irrigation demand and widely fluctuate (see Map 3-8).

Management Issues and Concerns

Land ownership adjustments, land access acquisition/transportation, areas of critical environmental concern, off-highway vehicle use, regional tourism, fluid minerals/locatable minerals/mineral materials management, water-power/reservoir management, recreation management, special status plant/animal species management, historical resource management, vegetation management, riparian area management, livestock grazing management, fishery and wildlife habitat management, visual resource management, rights-of-way management, withdrawals and classifications, and forest and woodlands management.

Management Guidance/Assumptions

Wilderness Management

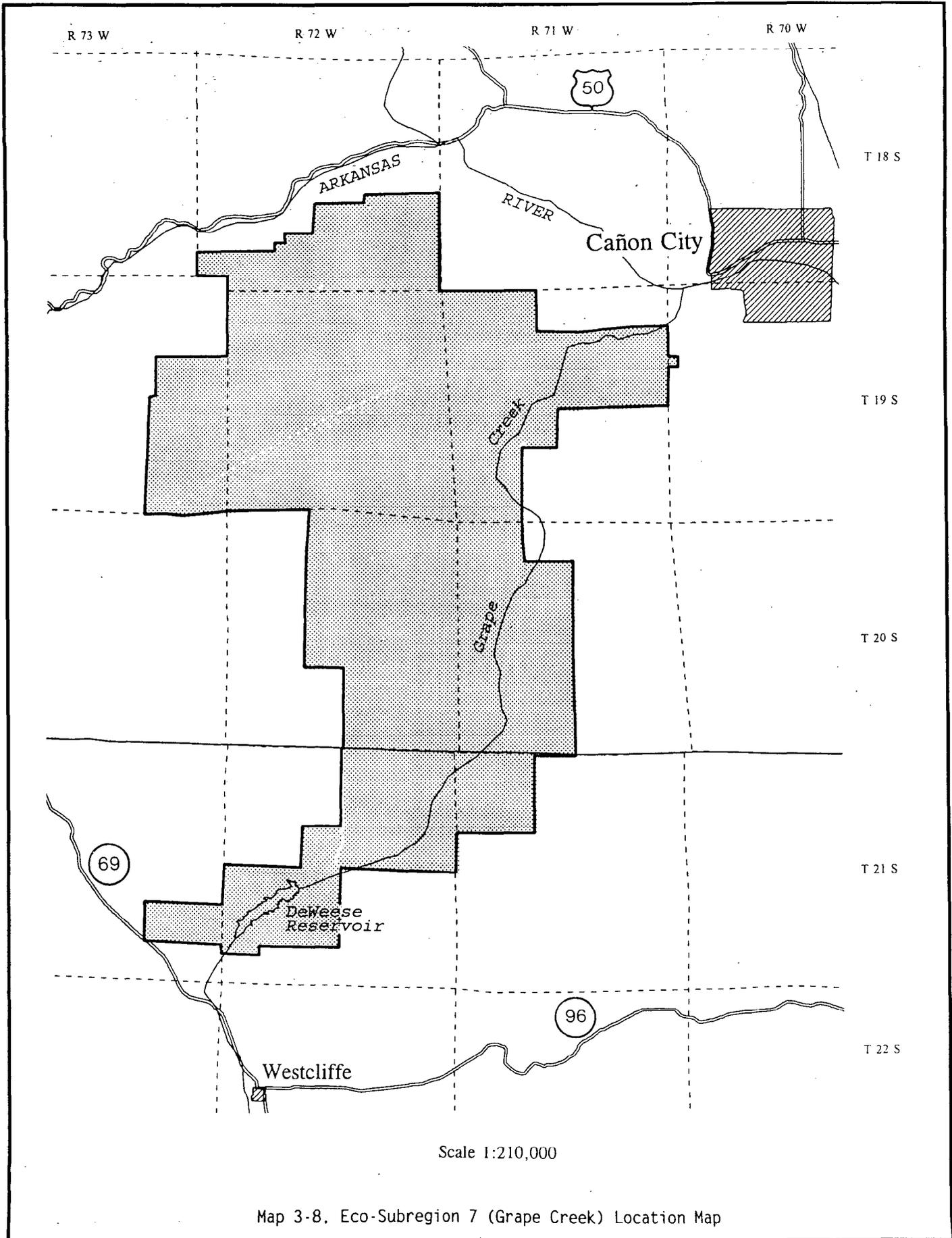
Upper and Lower Grape Creek WSAs in the RGPA will be managed under BLM *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines*

for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMPG) until Congress makes a decision on wilderness recommendations for the Cañon City District. If these WSAs are not designated as wilderness, they will return to other types of multiple use management as prescribed in this land use plan. Desired plant community (DPC) will be determined for WSAs returned to other types of multiple use management. In accordance with Sec. 603 of FLPMA, BLM is required to manage all identified wilderness study areas under the nonimpairment mandate. Valid existing rights must be recognized and are an exception to the nonimpairment mandate. Grazing uses and mining operations occurring as of October 21, 1976, may continue in the same manner and degree as long as they do not cause unnecessary or undue degradation. Uses and operations proposed after this date, however, are subject to the nonimpairment requirements for all operations proposed.

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-7 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.





Map 3-8. Eco-Subregion 7 (Grape Creek) Location Map

TABLE 3-7
Eco-Subregion 7 (Grape Creek)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian-Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i>	<p>Improved vegetation management will result in new forage, which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Management for forage on approximately 47,221 acres will occur.</p> <p>Management for enhancement of other resource values on 714 acres of forest lands will occur.</p>	DPC objectives will be developed for IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 47,221 acres. Vegetation will be grazed with limitations on 15,426 acres.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 32,427 acres could be disturbed by mineral development. 15,778 acres will be protected.</p> <p><i>Historical and recreation resources</i> - Vegetation on 984 acres will be enhanced by fencing if conflicts occur.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - 18,896 acres will be open to disturbance, which could result in a change in plant succession.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 48,205 acres (100%) will be protected by closure or limitation of travel to designated roads and trails.</p>
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas, critical wildlife habitat, and two ACECs.	<p>Grazing will be authorized on 13 allotments (47,221 acres).</p> <p>Grazing will be excluded on 984 acres with developed recreation sites and eligible NRHP sites.</p> <p>Season-of-use for grazing will be adjusted on two ACECs (15,426 acres).</p>	<p>Livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land will be eliminated through a combination of BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing.</p> <p>Allotments will be recategorized from Custodial to Improve and from Improve to Maintain because of riparian, wildlife, and watershed conflicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve allotments 6 - Maintain allotments 0 - Custodial allotments 6 - Unallotted allotments 1. 	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Livestock grazing will be enhanced by vegetative manipulation on 2,500 acres, resulting in an increase of 500 AUMs.</p> <p><i>Livestock grazing, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat</i> - Range improvement funds will be spent on Improve category allotments for fences and vegetative treatment to increase forage production on 41,099 acres on 6 allotments.</p> <p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/lessees for fence construction on 3 Improve category allotments and on an unknown number of Custodial category allotments. More public funding will be used on boundary fence construction resulting in less funds for range improvement projects.</p>

Table 3-7 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Livestock grazing (continued)				<i>Historical resources and recreation resources</i> - Livestock grazing could be lost on 984 acres. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Livestock grazing will be diminished on 15,426 acres (154 AUMs).
Riparian areas	Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.	Perennial riparian areas (208 acres) will be limited as follows: - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral materials disposal - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.	Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.	<i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - Perennial (208 acres) will be protected. Intermittent (54 acres) will not be protected. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Riparian areas (208 acres) will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails; 54 acres could be degraded.
Forest and woodlands	Productive forest land will be managed for sustained-yield.	A portion of the 714 acres of forested lands will be available for intensive management.	In the 5-year sale plan, stands will be prioritized for harvest consideration in the following order: - enhancement of vegetation goals - insect or disease - timber production - other multiple resource values. Funding will be solicited from other activities to support the 5-year sale plan and one IAP.	<i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - 714 acres of productive forest land could be lost through disposal to the private sector.
Wildlife habitat	Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals	Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following no surface occupancy stipulations: - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 140 subsurface acres.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 47,221 acres. 984 acres will not be enhanced. <i>Fluid minerals</i> - Raptor nesting/fledgling on 140 subsurface acres will be protected with NSO stipulations. Big game critical winter and wild turkey winter habitat on 3,873 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations. Big game winter habitat on 58,960 subsurface acres will be protected under standard lease stipulations only.

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Table 3-7 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat (continued)		<p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat on approximately 483 subsurface acres 12/1-4/30 - wild turkey winter habitat on 3,390 subsurface acres 12/1-4/1. <p>Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 1 surface acre 3/1-7/31 - wild turkey winter habitat on 994 surface acres 12/1-4/1 		<p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Raptor nesting/fledging and turkey winter habitat on 995 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Raptor nesting/fledging and turkey winter habitat on 995 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Wildlife values on 15,426 acres within Grape Creek and Arkansas Canyonlands ACECs will be enhanced.</p>
Fishery habitat	Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.	<p>All streams (22 miles) will be protected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standard lease terms for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials - off-highway vehicle limited to designated roads and trails on 144 acres. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (144 acres) will be protected.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Fishery habitat quality on 127 stream miles will improve.</p> <p><i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (144 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.</p>
Special status animal species	Protection and enhancement of special status animals will be continued by eliminating identified and verified land uses that conflict with these species.	<p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 56,906 subsurface acres 2/1-7/31. <p>Special status animal habitat will be seasonally limited for mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 43,154 surface acres 2/1-7/31 - peregrine falcon habitat on 10,517 acres 3/16-7/31. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Sensitive animal status habitat on 56,906 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Sensitive animal status habitat on 53,671 subsurface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p>

Table 3-7 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Special status animal species (continued)				<p><i>Mineral materials</i>- Sensitive animal status habitat on 53,671 subsurface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Sensitive species will be protected on Arkansas Canyonlands and Grape Creek ACECs (15,381 acres).</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 53,671 acres will be protected through seasonal limitation.</p>
Fluid minerals	<p>Development will be authorized through standard lease procedures with additional mitigation applied where necessary to protect other natural values.</p>	<p>28,858 subsurface acres will not be leased as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs <p>390 acres will be leased with NSO stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat (one-eighth mile) - developed recreation sites. <p>71,261 acres will be leased with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-4/30 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - peregrine falcon nesting habitat 3/16-7/31 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31. <p>11,567 acres will be leased with controlled surface use stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VRM Class II areas. 	None.	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Restrictions will preclude leasing operations by reesource potential as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 28,858 acres of low. <p><i>Wildife habitat and recreation</i> - NSO stipulations could result in severe restrictions or potentially eliminate leasing operations by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 390 acres of none. <p><i>Wildife habitat and special status animals</i> - Seasonal stipulations could result in moderate to severe restriction based on the length of the limitation and the operation scheduling needs by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 35 acres of moderate - 10,538 acres of low - 60,723 acres of none. <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Controlled surface use stipulations could result in minor to moderate restriction by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11,567 acres of none.

Table 3-7 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Mineral materials (continued)		<p>44,690 acres will be closed to mineral materials disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing areas - WSAs - portion of 2 ACECs - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial) - 2 potential NRHP sites - developed recreation sites. 		<p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral material disposal will be seasonally restricted on 53,671 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on two potential NRHP sites (720 acres).</p> <p><i>ACEC designation</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on two ACECs (15,426 acres).</p> <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Mitigation will be required on a case-by-case basis on 2,575 acres.</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 264 acres.</p>
Historical resources	<p>Information potential will be used for interpretation and scientific values. Sites will be used for their interpretive value.</p>	<p>Conservation of historical resources will be provided through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - designation of Arkansas Canyonlands and Grape Creek ACECs. <p>Conservation of 1 potential NRHP site on 720 acres (Denver and Rio Grande Railline) will be provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standard stipulations for fluid leasing - closed to mineral entry - no disposal of mineral materials - OHV use limited to designated roads and trails. 	<p>Information potential will be promoted through involvement with interested educational institutions.</p> <p>Active programs for interpretive scientific and recreational use of the historic site will be developed within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Resources on one potential NRHP site (720 acres) will be protected.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - Designation of Arkansas Canyonlands and Grape Creek ACECs will enhance protection of historical values on 15,426 acres.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use and recreation resources</i> - One NRHP site (720 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated road and trails.</p>
Transportation and access	<p>Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed.</p>	<p>Permanent transportation system will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLM roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11 miles - 127 miles - BLM trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13 miles - 21 acres. <p>New access by easement acquisition or new construction will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grape Creek - 6 miles; 19,000 acres. 	<p>Update map through IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, mineral materials, forest and woodlands</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Road construction will be limited and could restrict additional public access.</p> <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Minor restrictions on road development will reduce public access within ACECs.</p>

Table 3-7 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	<p>New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS). Public (exclusive) easements will be used where ever public resources are available and public access is needed.</p> <p>Administrative (nonexclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need, and only BLM employee, contractor, and licensee access is needed.</p> <p>Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM-system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open.</p> <p>Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPNM - 5-mile access points - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points. 			
Rights-of-way	<p>WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted with addition of existing transportation utility corridors. ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are protected and when additional stipulations protect resources and values not included in the criteria.</p>	<p>Exclusion areas (29,309 acres) will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WSAs - raptor fledgling/nesting areas - 1 potential NRHP site. 	None.	<p><i>Wilderness</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs in WSAs (28,858 acres).</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from raptor nesting/ fledgling areas (16 acres).</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from one potential NRHP site (720 acres).</p>

Table 3-7 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Rights-of-way (continued)		Avoidance areas (11,556 acres) will include: - VRM II in ACEC - developed recreation sites Designated corridors (437 acres). Nonexcluded areas (18,896 acres/39 percent of ESR).	None.	<i>Visual resources</i> - Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating major ROWs to avoid one ACEC with VRM II (8,717 acres). <i>Recreation resources</i> - Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating major ROWs to avoid developed recreation sites (264 acres).
Land ownership adjustments	Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange can be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public, and BLM management will be improved. Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.	Category I lands (739 acres) are identified for disposal if. Category II lands (47,466 acres) would be identified for retention or exchange. Category III lands (0 acres) would be identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer and not identified as Category I or II.	None.	None.
Withdrawals and classifications	Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.	Existing BLM withdrawals will be: - other withdrawals -- continued (1,420 acres) -- revoked (0 acres). New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows: - riparian areas (perennial) - 208 acres - fishery habitat - 144 acres - 1 potential NRHP site - 720 acres - portions of 2 ACECs - 15,426 acres - VRM II in ACECs - 8,717 acres - developed recreation sites - 264 acres.	None.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - 208 acres of perennial will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws; 54 acres of intermittent will be available. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - 144 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Historical resources</i> - One potential NRHP site (720 acres) will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>ACEC designations</i> - 15,426 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Visual resources</i> - 8,717 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Recreation resources</i> - 264 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.

Table 3-7 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Areas of critical environmental concern designations	All or portions of Grape Creek, and Arkansas Canyonlands ACECs will be managed to protect and enhance special values. These areas will receive special management as ACECs.	15,426 acres will be designated ACECs and managed as follows: - livestock grazing will be limited on 15,426 acres - timber harvesting and wood gathering will be allowed for enhancement of protected resources - 15,426 acres will be closed to mineral entry and mineral materials disposal - 8,717 acres of VRM II will be avoided for major ROWs - 15,426 acres will remain under BLM administration - 992 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails for OHV use and 14,435 acres will be closed.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - 15,426 acres will have limited grazing. <i>Locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Portions of two ACECs (15,426 acres) will be protected from mineral development. <i>Rights-of-way</i> - 8,717 acres of VRM II will be protected through avoidance; the remaining 6,709 acres will not be protected. <i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Special values on 15,426 acres will be retained under BLM administration. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Special values on 15,426 acres will be protected through closure or limitation of travel to designated roads and trails.
Off-highway vehicle use	OHV use will be managed through limitations or closures in areas with special natural or primitive recreational values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged throughout this unit where use is allowed.	0 acres open. 19,402 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails or seasonally - riparian areas - raptor nesting/fledgling areas - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat - fishery habitat - special status animal habitat - 2 ACECs - 1 potential NRHP site - developed recreation sites 28,858 acres will be closed - WSAs (McIntyre Hills and Grape Creek).	Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into an IAP. Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities. Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed. Media, informational materials, and possibly physical barriers, will be used to encourage users to stay on existing roads in open and limited areas. Establish motorized/multiple use trails to meet public demand. Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Wilderness</i> - OHV opportunities will not be available within WSAs (28,858 acres). <i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 208 acres of perennial; opportunities will be available on the remaining 54 acres of intermittent. <i>Forest and woodlands</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 714 acres through new road construction. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 1 acre through limitations of seasonal or designated roads and trails. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 144 acres. <i>Special status animals</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 24,813 acres through seasonal limitations.

Table 3-7 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Off-highway vehicle use (continued)				<p><i>Historical resources</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 720 acres through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Transportation and access</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 6 miles/19,000 acres through easement acquisition or new road construction.</p> <p>OHV opportunities will be lost on 28,803 acres through closure.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 15,426 acres through limiting use to designated road and trails.</p> <p><i>Recreation resources</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on approximately 14,434 acres of semiprimitive nonmotorized areas through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p>OHV opportunities will be diminished on 264 acres of recreation sites through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p>
Visual resources	Existing VRM classes will be utilized to guide resource management actions on BLM-administered lands. Adherence to criteria will occur according to respective class rating.	<p>VRM Class II areas (11,567 acres) will be protected by CSU stipulations.</p> <p>VRM Class II areas within ACECs (8,717 acres) will be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - avoided by major ROW corridor development - limited for OHV use to designated roads and trails - retained under BLM administration. 	<p>Visual ratings in ACECs will be re-evaluated to ensure rating is appropriate to protect outstanding qualities of the area.</p> <p>Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Class II areas (11,567 subsurface acres) will be protected from leasing through CSU stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (8,717 surface acres) will be closed; 2,575 surface acres will not be protected from entry.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Class II areas within ACECs (8,717 surface acres) will be closed; mitigation measures will be provided on a case-by-case basis on 2,575 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (8,717 acres) will be avoided in locating major ROW/corridors; the remaining 2,575 acres could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p>

Table 3-7 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Visual resources (continued)				<p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (8,717 acres) will be retained under BLM administration; the remaining 2,575 acres will be available for disposal.</p> <p><i>Off-highway-vehicle-use</i> - Class II areas in ACECs (8,717 acres) will be protected through limiting use to designated roads and trails; the remaining 2,575 will not be protected.</p>
Recreation management	<p>A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to semi-primitive nonmotorized) will be maintained. Additional opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, OHV use, interpretation and horseback riding, will be provided.</p> <p>Facility development will reduce user conflict.</p> <p>Development will be provided for visitor health and other needs.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunities on 48,205 acres will be managed as an extensive recreation management area.</p> <p>Recreation opportunities in semiprimitive nonmotorized settings on 14,434 acres will be maintained.</p> <p>Developed recreation sites on 264 acres will be managed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excluded from livestock grazing - leased for fluids with NSO stipulations - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral material disposal - avoided by major ROWs - limited for OHV use to designated roads and trails. 	<p>Address upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on protection and tourism within IAPs. Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups.</p> <p>Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Aquisitions/easements to enhance water-based recreation, mountain biking, OHV use, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and natural resource interpretation opportunities will be considered and pursued.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i>, - Recreation sites (10 acres or more) will be leased with NSO stipulations. Recreation sites less than 10 acres will be protected with standard stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals, livestock grazing, rights-of-way, land ownership adjustments, and off-highway vehicle use</i> - Recreation sites will be protected.</p> <p><i>Transportation and access</i> - Recreation access opportunities will be enhanced on 19,000 acres.</p>

Eco-Subregion 8 (Huerfano)

Description

- 62,703 acres BLM
- 74,301 acres private
- 14,211 acres state

This eco-subregion covers approximately the western half of Huerfano County, in south-central Colorado. BLM-administered lands are in scattered tracts spread uniformly throughout the area. U.S. Highway 160 crosses the southern portion of the area from west to east, and Colorado State Highway 69 runs northwest to southeast across the northern third of the unit. The rest of the unit is isolated and remote, with few stores or houses. Vegetation is generally divided into dry grasslands and piñon/juniper woodlands, fir, pine, and spruce in the scattered mountainous areas. The relatively flat terrain of the northern and eastern part are contrasted by the high and steep-sided mountains of the southwestern portion of the eco-subregion. Several of the mountains have associated sharp-backed dikes or spines of rock ledges radiating out from them (see Map 3-9).

Management Issues and Concerns

Land ownership adjustments, land access acquisition/transportation, off-highway vehicle use, regional tourism, fluid minerals/locatable minerals/mineral materials/coal minerals management, recreation management, special status plant/animal species management, vegetation management, riparian area management, livestock grazing management, fishery and wildlife habitat management, visual resource management, rights-of-way management, withdrawals and classifications, and forest and woodlands management.

A map showing coal locations (Map 3-12) is at the end of this chapter.

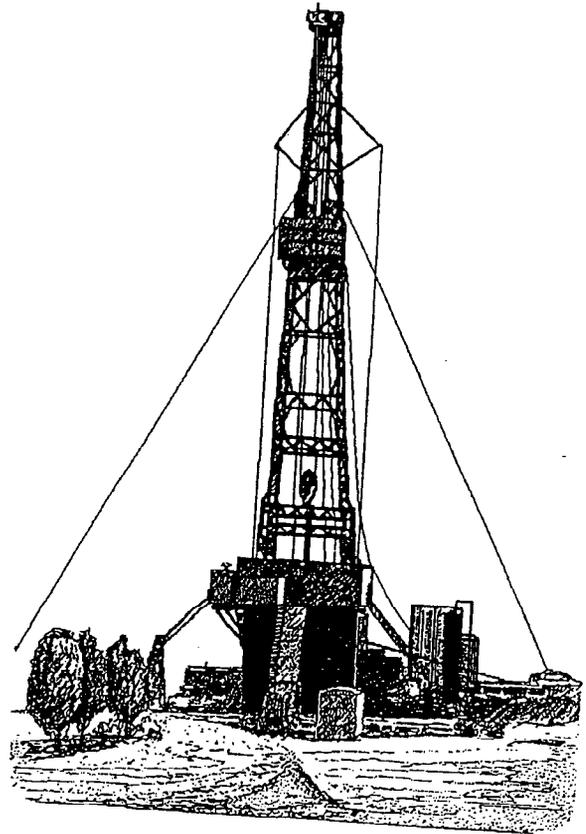
Management Guidance/Assumptions

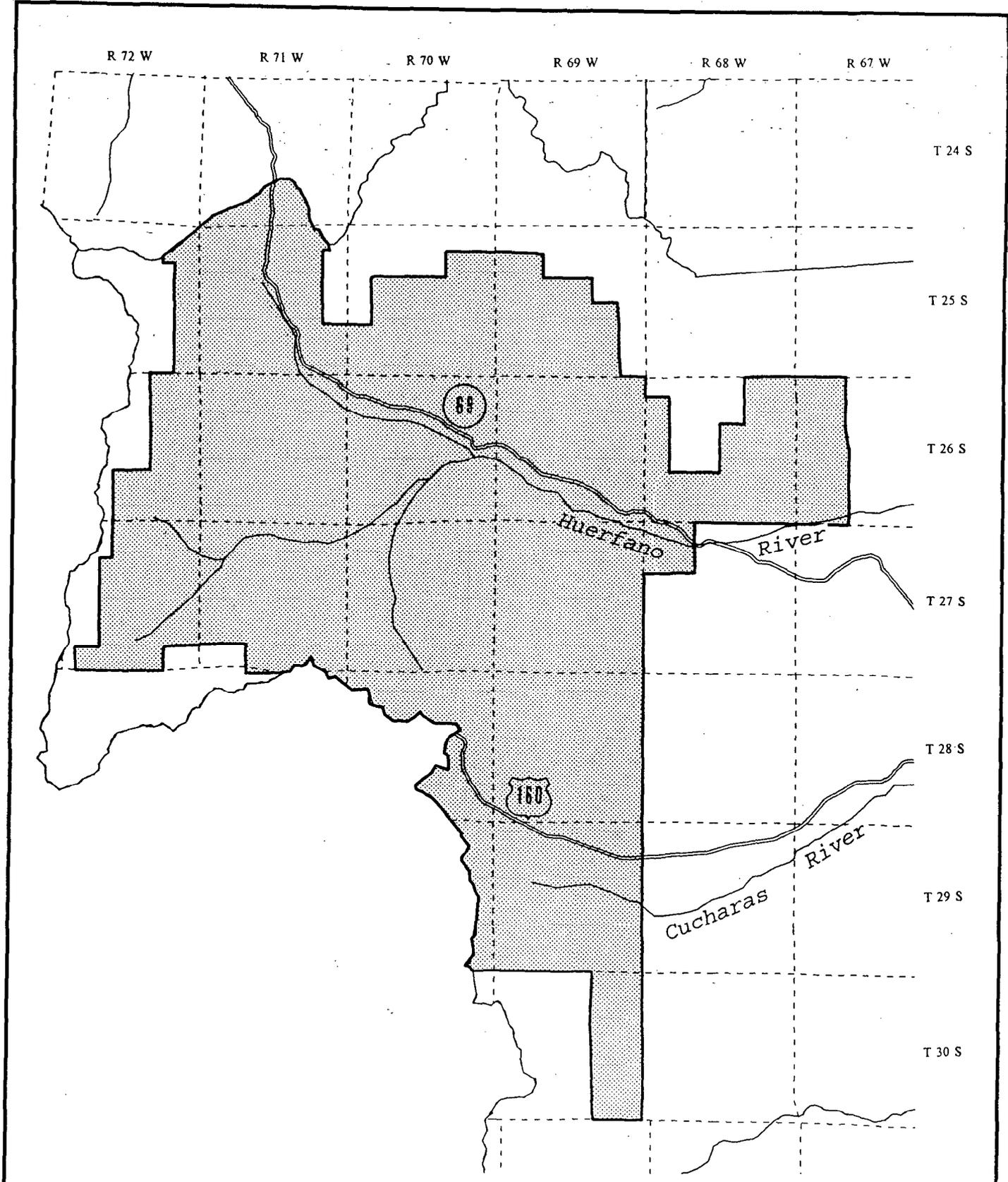
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Lands within the La Veta Pass area (3,419 acres) and resources (i.e., big game habitat, scenic values, and rare geological features) will not receive special management under ACEC designation.

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-8 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.





Map 3-9, Eco-Subregion 8 (Huerfano) Location Map

TABLE 3-8
Eco-Subregion 8 (Huerfano)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian-Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i>	<p>Improved vegetation management will result in new forage, which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Management for enhancement of other resource values on 9,386 acres of forest lands will occur.</p>	DPC objectives will be developed for IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 62,703 acres. <i>Livestock grazing (allotment categorization)</i> - 7 AUMs, 23,397 acres (37%) in unsatisfactory resource condition or with conflicts currently managed on a custodial basis will be managed for improvement. <i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 60,363 acres could be disturbed by mineral development. 2,340 acres will be protected. <i>Rights-of-way</i> - 27,623 acres will be open to disturbance, which could result in a change in plant succession. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 62,703 acres (100%) will be limited for travel on designated roads and trails.</p>
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas and critical wildlife habitat.	Grazing will be authorized on 61 allotments (62,703 acres).	<p>Livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land will be eliminated through a combination of BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing. Allotments (23,397 acres) will be recategorized from Custodial to Improve because of riparian, wildlife, and watershed conflicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve allotments 7 - Maintain allotments 0 - Custodial allotments 54 - Unallotted allotments 0. 	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Livestock grazing will be enhanced by vegetative manipulation on 2,000 acres, resulting in an increase of 400 AUMs. <i>Livestock grazing, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat</i> - Range improvement funds will be spent on Improve category allotments for fences and vegetation treatment to increase forage production on 23,397 acres on 7 allotments.</p>

Table 3-8 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Livestock grazing (continued)				<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/lessees for fence construction on 4 Improve category allotments and on an unknown number of Custodial category allotments. More public funding will be used on boundary fence construction resulting in less funds for range improvement projects. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Allocation of an estimated 800 acres (80 AUMs) to big game will result in a loss of forage for livestock.</p>
Riparian areas	<p>Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.</p>	<p>Perennial riparian areas (53 acres) will be limited as follows: - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral materials disposal - off-highway vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails.</p>	<p>Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.</p>	<p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - Perennial (53 acres) will be protected. Intermittent (30 acres) will not be protected. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 53 acres will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails; 30 acres could be degraded.</p>
Forest and woodlands	<p>Productive forest land will be managed for sustained-yield.</p>	<p>A portion of the 9,386 acres of forested lands will be available for intensive management.</p>	<p>In the 5-year sale plan, stands will be prioritized for harvest consideration in the following order: - enhancement of vegetation goals - insect or disease - timber production - other multiple resource values. Funding will be solicited from other activities to support the 5-year sale plan and all IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - 9,386 acres of productive forest land could be lost through disposal to the private sector.</p>

Table 3-8 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat	Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals.	<p>Big game birthing habitat on 2,270 acres will be protected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - excluded from major ROWs - limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails. <p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following NSO stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling nesting habitat on 4,473 subsurface acres. <p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing habitat on approximately 4,558 subsurface acres (by species) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- elk calving and deer fawning 4/16-6/30 -- pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 -- bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - wild turkey winter habitat on 114 subsurface acres. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 62,703 acres.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 4,473 subsurface acres will be protected with no surface occupancy stipulations.</p> <p>Big game birthing and wild turkey winter habitat on 4,672 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations.</p> <p>Big game winter habitat on 45,362 subsurface acres will be protected under standard lease stipulations only.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 2,270 surface acres will be closed to mineral entry. Raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 2,762 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 2,270 surface acres will be closed to mineral material disposal. Raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 2,762 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 2,270 acres could be degraded by construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Big game birthing habitat could be lost through land disposal; acquired land could provide additional habitat.</p>

Table 3-8 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat (continued)		Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows: - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 2,762 surface acres 2/1-8/15.		<i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 2,270 acres will be protected through seasonal limitations and limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails.
Fishery habitat	Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.	All streams (3 miles) will be protected as follows: - standard lease stipulations for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials - off-highway vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails on 18 acres.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (18 acres) will be protected. <i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (18 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.
Special status animal species	Protection and enhancement of special status animals will be continued by eliminating identified and verified land uses that conflict with these species.	Special status animal habitat will be available for leasing in conformance with the T&E Act as follows: - peregrine falcon nesting habitat on 219 subsurface acres. Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations: - peregrine falcon nesting habitat on 219 subsurface acres 3/16-7/31. - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 26,333 subsurface acres 2/1-7/31. Special status species habitat will be seasonally limited for mineral operations as follows: - peregrine falcon habitat on 5,479 surface acres 3/16-7/31 - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 16,330 surface acres 2/1-7/31.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals</i> - Special status species habitat on 219 subsurface acres will be protected Special status species habitat on 26,552 subsurface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations. <i>Locatable minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 21,809 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification. <i>Mineral materials</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 21,809 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 21,809 acres will be protected through seasonal limitation.

Table 3-8 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Fluid minerals	Development will be authorized through standard lease procedures with additional mitigation applied where necessary to protect other natural values.	<p>219 subsurface acres will be available for leasing in conformance with the T&E Act - peregrine nesting</p> <p>4,473 acres will be leased with NSO stipulations: - raptor nesting and fledgling habitat (one-eighth mile)</p> <p>31,224 acres will be leased with seasonal limitations: - big game birthing areas - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-4/30 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - peregrine falcon nesting habitat 3/16-7/31 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15.</p> <p>27,027 acres will be leased with controlled surface use stipulations: - VRM Class II areas.</p>	Sheep Mountain showcase area will be emphasized in various resource programs. Other showcase projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.	<p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - NSO stipulations could result in severe restrictions or potentially eliminate leasing operations by re-source potential: - 3,015 acres of high - 1,458 acres of moderate. <i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Seasonal stipulations could result in moderate to severe restriction based on the length of the limitation and the operation scheduling needs by resource potential: - 5,073 acres of high - 16,355 acres of moderate - 9,153 acres of low - 643 acres of none. <i>Special status animals</i> - Restrictions will preclude leasing operations by resource potential: - 219 acres of low. <i>Visual resources</i> - Controlled surface use stipulations on the following resource potential: - 4,073 acres of high - 3,736 acres of moderate - 17,369 acres of low - 1,849 acres of none.</p>
Locatable minerals	Areas open to mineral entry will be administered under the existing regulations and limited by closure if necessary. Special mitigation will be developed to protect other identified values on a case-by-case basis.	0 acres will be open to mineral entry under standard mineral operating practices.	Closures and limitations will be reviewed, and changes will be made within IAPs.	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 53 surface acres; 30 acres will be open. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on big game birthing areas (2,370 surface acres). Mineral entry will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 40,598 surface acres. <i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 18 surface acres.</p>

Table 3-8 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Locatable minerals (continued)		<p>60,333 acres will be open with seasonal limitations through claimant notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7/31 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15. <p>2,370 acres will be closed to mineral entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing areas - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial). 		<p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral entry will be seasonally restricted on 21,809 surface acres.</p>
Mineral materials	<p>The area will be open to development; mitigation or closures will be applied if necessary to protect other natural values. Preferred areas of sales will be identified.</p>	<p>0 acres will be available for disposal under standard mineral operating practices.</p> <p>60,333 acres will be available with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7/31 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 1/2-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledging areas 2/1-8/15. <p>2,370 acres will be closed to mineral materials disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing areas - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial). 	<p>Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs. Analysis to locate and establish community mineral material pits will be completed within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 53 surface acres; 30 surface acres will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlif habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur in big game birthing areas (2,270 surface acres).</p> <p>Mineral material disposal will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 40,598 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 18 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral material disposal will be seasonally restricted on 21,809 surface acres.</p>

Table 3-8 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Coal minerals	Areas will be identified for further consideration of future coal leasing; coal unsuitability criteria will provide protection of resource values.	Of 4,952 acres of BLM-administered coal, approximately 4,952 acres will be suitable for further consideration for underground mining; 0 acres will be suitable for surface mining	The first three coal screens have been applied. The fourth screen will be applied at the time of leasing to screen out all unincorporated communities (subdivisions).	<i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Coal leasing may potentially be limited within subdivisions.
Transportation and access	<p>Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed.</p> <p>New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS). Public (exclusive) easements will be used where ever public resources are available and public access is needed. Administrative (non-exclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need and only BLM employee, contractor, and licensee access is needed. Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open.</p>	<p>Permanent transportation system will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLM roads - 0 miles - 0 acres - BLM trails - 0 miles - 0 acres. <p>New access by easement acquisition or new construction will include:</p> <p>Priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mt. Maestas - 5 miles, 3,800 acres - Sheep and Little Sheep Mountain - 3 miles, 5,100 acres. 	Update map through IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable mineral, mineral materials, and forest and woodlands</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Road construction will be limited and could restrict additional public access.</p>

Table 3-8 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	<p>Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPNM - 5-mile access points - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points. 			
Rights-of-way	<p>WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted with addition of existing transportation utility corridors. ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are protected and when additional stipulations protect resources and values not included in the criteria.</p>	<p>Exclusion areas (2,762 acres) will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling areas <p>Avoidance areas (11,872 acres) will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing habitat. <p>Designated corridors (862 acres).</p> <p>Nonexcluded areas (27,623 acres/44 percent of ESR).</p>	None.	<p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from raptor nesting/fledgling areas (2,762 acres). Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating routes to avoid big game birthing habitat (2,270 acres).</p>
Land ownership adjustments	<p>Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange can be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public, and BLM management will be improved. Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.</p>	<p>Category I lands (6,163 acres) are identified for disposal.</p> <p>Category II lands (56,540 acres) will be identified for retention or exchange.</p> <p>Category III lands (0 acres) will be identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer and not identified as Category I or II.</p>	None.	None.

Table 3-8 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Withdrawals and classifications	Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.	<p>Existing BLM withdrawals are: - 0 acres</p> <p>New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows: - riparian areas (perennial) - 53 acres - big game birthing habitat - 2,270 acres - fishery habitat - 18 acres</p>	None.	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> -53 acres of perennial will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws; 30 acres intermittent will remain open. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> -2,270 acres of big game birthing areas will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - 18 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p>
Off-highway vehicle use	OHV use will be managed through limitations in areas with special recreational values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged throughout this unit where use is allowed.	<p>0 acres open.</p> <p>62,703 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails or seasonally - raptor nesting/fledgling areas - perennial riparian areas - big game birthing habitat - fishery habitat - special status animal habitat.</p> <p>0 acres will be closed.</p>	<p>Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into activity plans. Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities. Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed. Media, informational materials, and possibly physical barriers, will be used to encourage users to stay on existing roads in open and limited areas. Establish motorized/multiple use trails to meet public demand. Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads on 53 acres of perennial; opportunities will be available on the remaining 30 acres of intermittent. <i>Forest and woodlands</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 9,386 acres through new road construction. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 5,032 acres through limitations of designated roads and trails. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 18 acres. <i>Special status animals</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 21,809 acres through seasonal limitations. <i>Transportation and access</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 8 miles/8,900 acres through acquisition or new road construction.</p>

Table 3-8 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Visual resources	Existing VRM classes will be utilized to guide resource management actions on BLM-administered lands. Adherence to criteria will occur according to respective class rating.	VRM Class II areas (27,027 subsurface acres) will be leased with CSU stipulations.	Activity planning will be accomplished in an IAP.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Class II areas (27,027 subsurface acres) will be protected from fluid operations through CSU stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (9,602 acres) will not be protected from entry.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Class II areas will be provided mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis on 9,602 acres outside ACECs.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (9,602 acres) could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (9,602 acres) will be available for disposal.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (9,602 acres) will not be protected.</p>
Recreation management	A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to semiprimitive nonmotorized) will be maintained. Minimal onsite management will be provided to maintain opportunities.	Recreation opportunities on 62,703 acres will be managed as an extensive recreation management area.	Address upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on balance between resource protection and tourism within IAPs. Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups. Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities. Aquisitions/easements to enhance recreation opportunities will be considered and pursued.	<i>Transportation and access</i> - Recreation access opportunities will be enhanced on 8,900 acres.

Eco-Subregion 9 (Cucharas Canyon)

Description

- 1,314 acres BLM
- 2,894 acres private
- 1,291 acres state

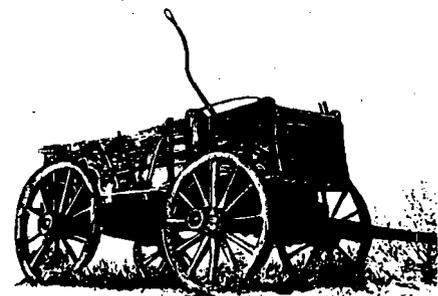
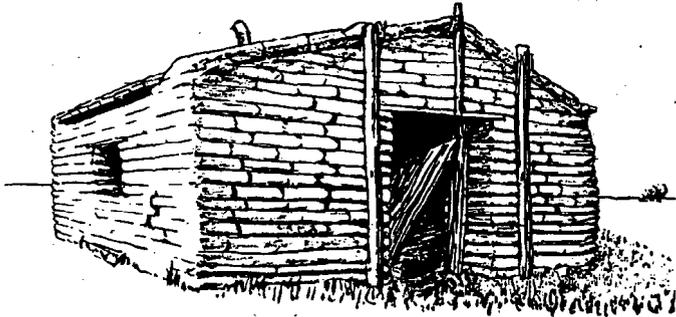
This eco-subregion is a unique and spectacular canyon setting extending along the Cucharas River from the Cucharas Reservoir, downstream (to the north) to a point where the canyon opens up, just before flowing into the Huerfano River. This area is a steep-sided, deep canyon surrounded by the relatively flat eastern plains of Colorado. The vegetation is varied and unique, from the conifers and broadleaf deciduous trees along the narrow river bottom to the mountain shrubs growing along the steep canyon walls. No roads, other than primitive ranch roads, are in the area.

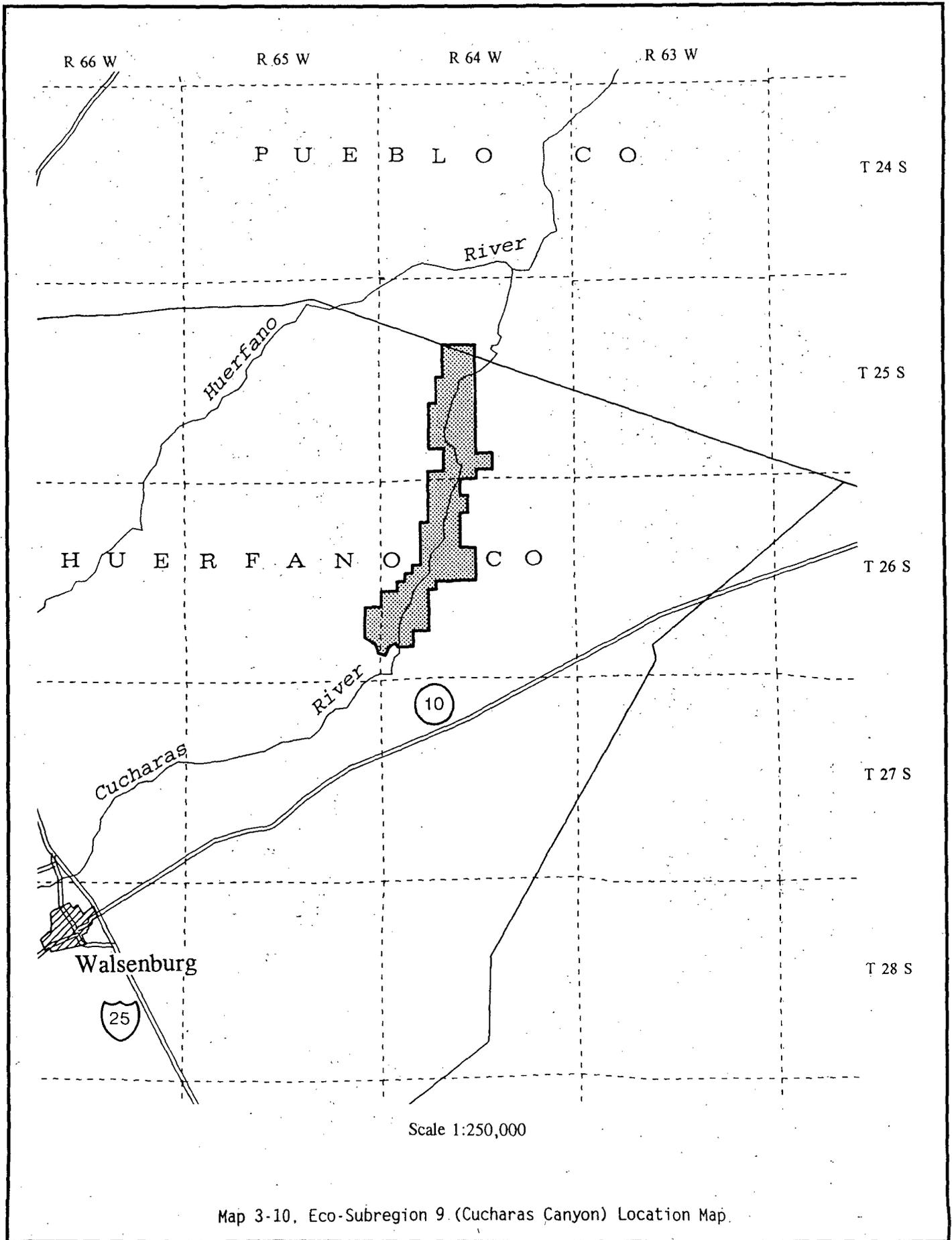
Management Issues and Concerns

Land ownership adjustments, land access acquisition/transportation, areas of critical environmental concern, off-highway vehicle use, fluid minerals/locatable minerals/mineral material management, historical and archaeological resource management, riparian area management, livestock grazing management, fishery and wildlife habitat management, visual resource management, rights-of-way management, and withdrawals and classifications (see Map 3-10).

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-9 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.





Map 3-10. Eco-Subregion 9. (Cucharas Canyon) Location Map.

TABLE 3-9
Eco-Subregion 9 (Cucharas Canyon)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian-Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i>	Improved vegetation management will result in new forage, which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).	DPC objectives will be developed for IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 1,314 acres.</p> <p><i>Livestock grazing (allotment categorization)</i> - 2 allotments, 1,314 acres (100%) in unsatisfactory resource condition or with conflicts currently managed on a custodial basis will be managed for improvement.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 0 acres could be disturbed by mineral development. 1,314 acres will be protected.</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - Vegetation on 1,314 acres will be enhanced by fencing, if conflicts occur.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - 0 acres will be open to disturbance, which can result in a change in plant succession.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 1,314 acres (100%) will be protected by limitation of travel to designated roads and trails</p>
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas and critical wildlife habitat.	<p>Grazing will be authorized on 3 allotments (1,314 acres).</p> <p>Grazing will be excluded on 1,314 acres with one eligible NRHP district.</p>	<p>Allotments (1,314 acres) will be recategorized from Custodial to Improve :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve allotments 2 - Maintain allotments 0 - Custodial allotments 0 - Unallotted allotments 1. 	<p><i>Livestock grazing, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat</i> - Range improvement funds will be spent on Improve category allotments for fences and vegetation treatment to increase forage production on 1,865 acres on 2 allotments.</p> <p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/lessees for fence construction on 2 Improve category allotments. More public funding will be used on boundary fence construction resulting in less funds for range improvement projects.</p> <p><i>Historical resources</i> - Livestock grazing could be lost on 1,314 acres.</p>

Table 3-9 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Riparian areas	Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.	Perennial riparian areas (11 acres) will be limited as follows: - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral materials disposal - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.	Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.	<i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - Perennial (11 acres) will be protected. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Riparian areas (11 acres) will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails.
Wildlife habitat	Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals.	Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows: - raptor nesting/fledgling areas on 11 surface acres 3/1-7/31	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 1,314 acres. <i>Locatable minerals</i> - Raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 1,314 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification. <i>Mineral materials</i> - Raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 1,314 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Wildlife values on 1,214 acres within Cucharas Canyon ACEC will be enhanced.
Fishery habitat	Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.	All streams (2 miles) will be protected as follows: - standard lease terms for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails on 16 acres.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (16 acres) will be protected. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Fishery habitat quality on 16 acres will improve. <i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (16 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.

Table 3-9 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Special status animal species	Protection and enhancement of special status animals will be continued by eliminating identified and verified land uses that conflict with these species.	Special status animal habitat will be seasonally limited for mineral operations as follows: - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive species will be protected through seasonal limitation.
Locatable minerals	The area will not be open to mineral entry.	0 acres will be open to mineral entry under standard operating practices. 11 surface acres will be open with seasonal limitations through claimant notification: - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15 1,314 surface acres will be closed to mineral entry: - 1 ACEC - 1 potential NRHP district - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial).	Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 11 surface acres. <i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 16 surface acres. <i>Wildlife habitat and special status animal habitat</i> - Mineral entry will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 11 surface acres. <i>Archaeological resources</i> - Mineral entry will not occur in 1 potential NRHP district (1,314 surface acres). <i>ACEC designations</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 1 ACEC (1,314 acres).
Mineral materials	The area will not be open to development.	0 acres will be available for disposal under standard mineral operating practices. 11 surface acres will be available with seasonal limitations: - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling habitat. 1,314 surface acres will be closed to mineral materials disposal - 1 ACEC - 1 potential NRHP district - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial).	Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs. Analysis to locate and establish community mineral material pits will be completed within IAPs.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 11 surface acres. <i>Wildlife habitat and special status animal habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 11 surface acres. <i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 16 surface acres. <i>Archaeological resources</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur in 1 potential NRHP district (1,600 acres). <i>ACEC designations</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 1 ACEC (1,314 acres).

Table 3-9 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Historical and archaeological resources	Information potential will be developed to the maximum extent possible through appropriate study and will be used for public interpretation and scientific values. Sites will be used for the interpretive value.	Conservation of archaeological resources on one potential NRHP district (1,314 acres) will be provided as follows: - designation of Cucharas Canyon ACEC. - fluids leased under standard strips - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - OHV use limited to designated roads and trails.	Information potential will be promoted through involvement with interested educational institutions. Active programs for interpretive scientific and recreational use of historic sites will be developed within IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Resources on one potential NRHP site (1,314 acres) will be protected. <i>ACEC designations</i> - Designation of Cucharas Canyon (1,314 acres) will enhance protection of historical values. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - One NRHP district (1,314 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails. <i>Recreation</i> - Public awareness and importance of preservation will be enhanced through interpretation of one potential NRHP district (1,314 acres).
Transportation and access	Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed. New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS). Public (exclusive) easements will be used where ever public resources are available and public access is needed.	Permanent transportation system will include: - BLM system roads - 0 miles - 0 acres - BLM trails - 0 miles - 0 acres. New access by easement acquisition or new construction will be provided.	Update map through IAPs.	<i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access.

Table 3-9 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	<p>Administrative (nonexclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need and only BLM employee, contractor, and licensee access is needed.</p> <p>Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM- system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open.</p> <p>Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPNM - 5-mile access points - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points. 			
Rights-of-way	<p>WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted with addition of existing transportation utility corridors. ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are protected and when additional stipulations protect resources and values not included in the criteria.</p>	<p>Exclusion areas (1,314 acres) will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 potential NRHP district . <p>Avoidance areas (0 acres).</p> <p>Designated corridors (0 acres).</p> <p>Nonexcluded areas (0 acres/0 percent of ESR).</p>	None.	<p><i>Archaeological resources</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from one potential NRHP district (1,314 acres)</p>

Table 3-9 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Land ownership adjustments	Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange could be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public, and BLM management will be improved. Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.	<p>Category I lands (0 acres) are identified for disposal.</p> <p>Category II lands (1,314 acres) will be identified for retention or exchange.</p> <p>Category III lands (0 acres) with resource values listed in Category I will be identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer and not identified as Category I or II.</p>	None.	None.
Withdrawals and classifications	Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.	<p>Existing BLM withdrawals are: - 0 acres.</p> <p>New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows: - riparian areas (perennial) - 11 acres - fishery habitat - 16 acres - 1 potential NRHP district - 1,314 acres - 1 ACEC - 1,314 acres</p>	None.	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - 11 acres of perennial will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - 16 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Archaeological resources</i> - One potential NRHP district (1,314 acres) will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>ACEC designations</i> - 1,314 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.</p>
Areas of critical environmental concern designations	All of Cucharas Canyon ACEC will be managed to protect and enhance special values. This area will receive special management as an ACEC.	1,314 acres will be designated an ACEC and managed as follows: - 1,314 acres will be closed to mineral entry and mineral materials disposal - 1,314 acres will remain in public ownership.	Activity planning will be accomplished within an IAP.	<p><i>Livestock grazing</i> - 1,314 acres will not be protected. <i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - One ACEC (1,314 acres) will be protected from mineral development. <i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Special values on 1,314 acres will be retained in public ownership. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 1,314 acres will be protected through limitation of travel to designated roads and trails.</p>

Table 3-9 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Off-highway vehicle use	OHV use will be managed through limitations in areas with special values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged throughout this unit where use is allowed.	<p>0 acres open.</p> <p>1,314 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails or seasonally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special status animal habitat - riparian areas (perennial) - raptor nesting/fledgling areas - fishery habitat - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling habitat - 1 ACEC - 1 potential NRHP district. <p>0 acres will be closed.</p>	<p>Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into activity plans.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities.</p> <p>Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>Media, informational materials, and possibly physical barriers, will be used to encourage users to stay on existing roads in open and limited areas.</p> <p>Establish motorized/multiple use trails to meet public demand.</p> <p>Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 11 acres of perennial.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 11 acres through limitations of seasonal or designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>Fishery habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 16 acres.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited on 1,314 acres.</p> <p><i>Archaeological resources</i> - OHV use will be diminished on 1,314 acres through limiting use to designated roads and trails.</p> <p><i>ACEC designations</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 1,314 acres through limiting use to designated roads and trails</p>
Recreation management	Minimal onsite management will be provided to maintain opportunities. Public interpretation of significant resources will occur.	Recreation opportunities on 1,314 acres will be managed as an extensive recreation management area.	<p>Address river corridor and upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on balance between resource protection and tourism within an IAP.</p> <p>Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups.</p> <p>Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Provide additional interpretation for the NRHP district.</p> <p>Acquisitions/easements to enhance natural resource interpretation opportunities will be considered and pursued.</p>	<i>Transportation and access</i> - Recreation access opportunities could be enhanced by potential new access.

Eco-Subregion 10 (Other-Lands)

Description

- 61,597 acres BLM
- 1,263,305 acres private
- 846,974 acres state

The area extends from Custer County on the west to Kansas on the east. Oklahoma and New Mexico form the southern boundary, and the southern county lines of El Paso, Lincoln, and Cheyenne Counties form the northern border of the unit. Custer County area is represented by rolling grasslands of the typical Rocky Mountain high mountain park. The grassland is broken by an occasional stand of ponderosa pine or piñon/juniper, normally on the foothills or in draws that dissect the park. The remainder comprises a large area of southeastern Colorado made up of the western most portion of the American Great Plains. Blue grama and buffalo grasses are the most common vegetation of these plains. Other vegetation include sand sage, woody riparian

vegetation around reservoirs and along rivers and streams, a large variety of annual forbs, and perennial flowers and shrubs. The area is generally flat to gently rolling with few gullies and little topographic relief (see Map 3-11).

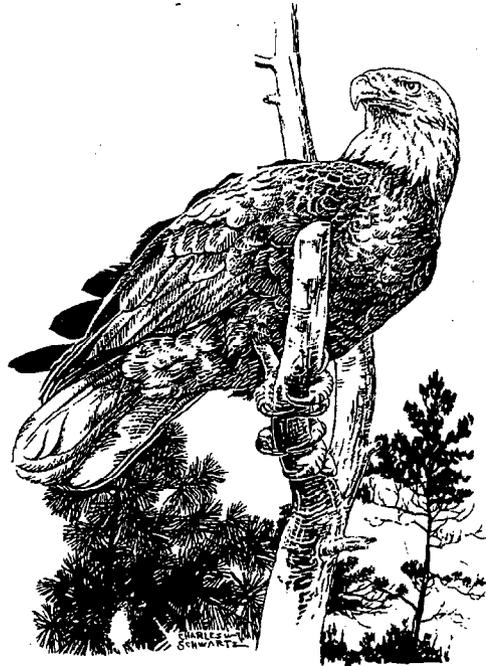
Management Issues and Concerns

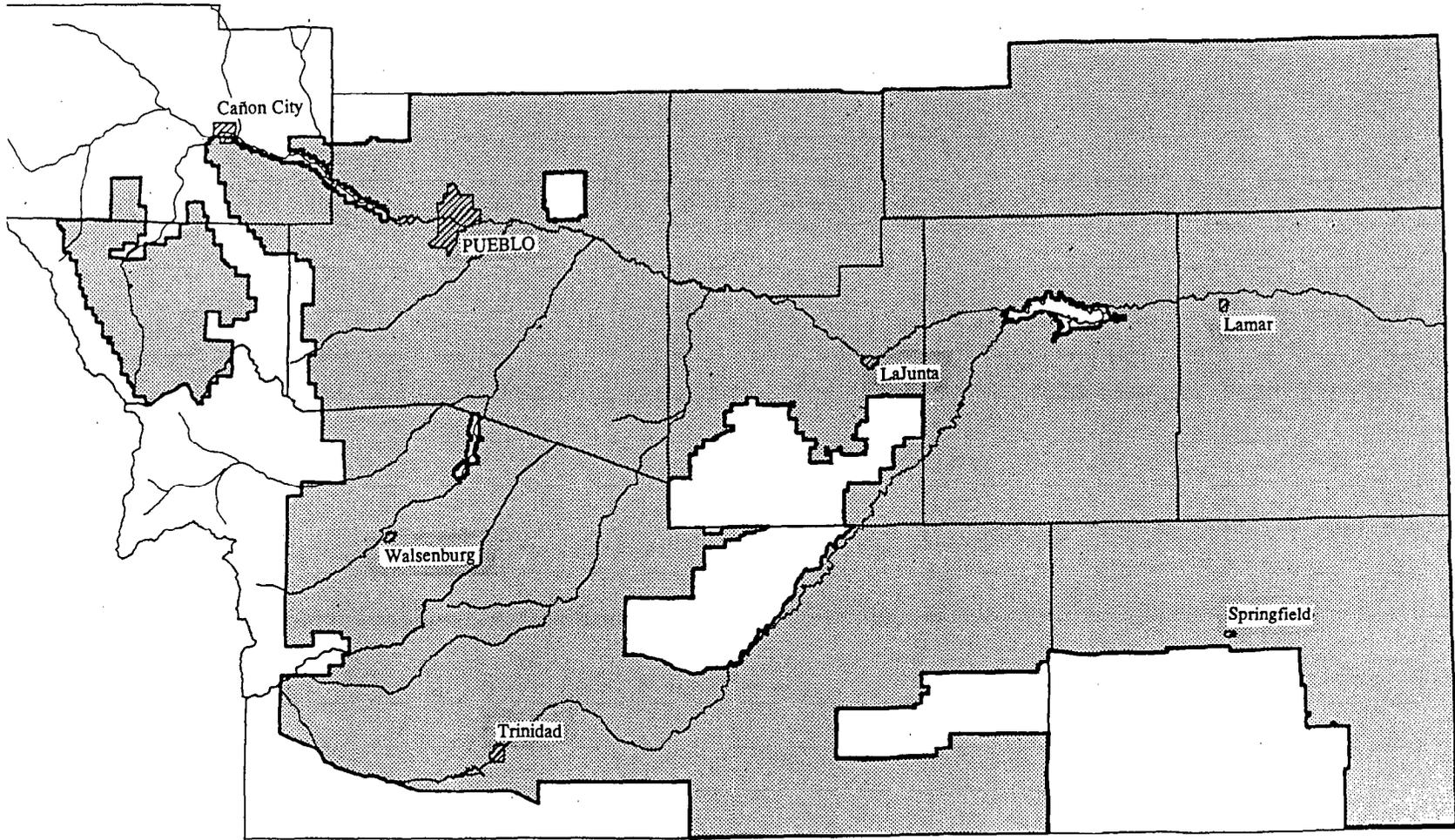
Land ownership adjustments, fluid minerals management, mineral materials management, coal minerals management, wildlife habitat management, livestock grazing management, and special status animal species management are of concern within this area.

Coal locations are shown on Map 3-12 at the end of this chapter.

Decisions/Impacts

Table 3-10 displays the resources/values, three decisions (objective, allocation, and action) plus the impacts, which will result from each decision.





Scale 1:1,500,000

Map 3-11. Eco-Subregion 10 (Other Lands) Location Map

TABLE 3-10
Eco-Subregion 10 (Other Lands)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Vegetation	Vegetation will be managed to accomplish BLM initiatives included in <i>Range of Our Vision, Riparian-Wetland Initiatives for the 90's, Forests Our Growing Legacy, Fish and Wildlife 2000</i>	Improved vegetation management will result in new forage, which will be distributed on a case-by-case basis to either livestock or big game through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program). Management for enhancement of other resource values on 5,721 acres of forest lands will occur.	DPC objectives will be developed for IAPs and will be composed of species mix, production, and ground cover to first support the ecosystem function and second to support the combination of uses for each area. A monitoring program and schedule will be developed to determine progress and will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis to avoid duplicity among resource programs.	<i>Livestock grazing</i> - Vegetation will be grazed on 61,597 acres. <i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - 54,902 acres of vegetation could be disturbed by mineral development. 6,695 acres will be protected. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - 61,975 acres (100%) will be protected limitation of travel to designated roads and trails.
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing season-of-use and stocking rates based on 1981 grazing EIS and existing monitoring data will continue. IAPs will be prioritized based on conflicts with riparian areas and critical wildlife habitat.	Grazing will be authorized on 132 allotments (61,597 acres).	Allotments will be categorized as follows: - Improve allotments 0 - Maintain allotments 0 - Custodial allotments 126 - Unallotted allotments 6.	<i>Livestock grazing (fencing of allotment boundaries)</i> - Increased financial commitment will be required from permittees/lessees for fence construction on unknown number of Custodial category allotments.
Riparian areas	Areas will be 75 percent in properly functioning condition by 1997 (Bureau policy) with full range of uses on most areas.	Perennial riparian areas (9 acres) will be limited as follows: - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to mineral material disposal - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.	Riparian area inventories will be completed and mapped as soon as possible so limitations can be implemented and enforced. Interdisciplinary support for restoration will be emphasized. IAPs will reflect riparian objectives.	<i>Locatable minerals and mineral materials</i> - Perennial (9 acres) will be protected. Intermittent (50 acres) will not be protected. <i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Riparian areas (9 acres) will be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails; 50 acres could be degraded.

Table 3-10 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Forest and woodlands	Productive forest land will be managed for sustained-yield.	A portion of the 5,721 acres of forested lands will be available for intensive management.	In the 5-year sale plan, stands will be prioritized for harvest consideration in the following order: - enhancement of vegetation goals - insect or disease - timber production - other multiple resource values. Funding will be solicited from other activities to support the 5-year sale plan and one IAP.	<i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - 5,721 acres of productive forest land could be lost through disposal to the private sector.
Wildlife habitat	Wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of achieving vegetation management goals.	<p>Big game birthing habitat on 4,112 surface acres will be protected as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closed to mineral entry - closed to mineral materials disposal - closed to coal leasing - excluded from major ROWs - limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails. <p>Big game critical habitat with identified conflict will be addressed through cooperative efforts with Federal and state agencies, and private groups (i.e., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).</p> <p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following no surface occupancy stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 789 subsurface acres. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within an IAP.	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Potential enhancement of wildlife habitat could occur on 61,597 acres.</p> <p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 789 subsurface acres will be protected with NSO stipulations.</p> <p>Big game critical, birthing, and wild turkey winter habitat on 35,470 subsurface acres will be protected through seasonal limitations.</p> <p>Big game winter habitat on 14,712 subsurface acres will be protected under standard lease stipulations only.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 4,112 surface acres will be closed to mineral entry.</p> <p>Big game critical, raptor nesting/fledgling, and wild turkey winter habitat on 4,359 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations through claimant notification.</p>

Table 3-10 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Wildlife habitat (continued)		<p>Wildlife habitat will be available for fluid leasing with the following seasonal stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter on 2,430 subsurface acres (12/1-4/30) - big game birthing habitat on approximately 4,112 subsurface acres by species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elk calving and deer fawning 4/16-6/30 - pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 - bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - wild turkey winter habitat on 13,346 subsurface acres 12/1-4/1. <p>Wildlife habitat will be seasonally limited to mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat on approximately 2,430 surface acres 12/1-4/30. - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat on 358 surface acres 3/1-7/31 - wild turkey winter habitat on 1,571 surface acres 2/1-4/1. 		<p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Big game birthing habitat on 4,112 surface acres will be closed to disposal of mineral materials. Big game critical, raptor nesting/fledgling, and wild turkey winter habitat on 4,359 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Big game birthing and critical winter habitat on 6,542 acres could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Landownership adjustments</i> - Wildlife habitat could be lost through land disposal; acquired lands could provide additional habitat.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Big game critical winter and birthing habitat on 6,542 acres will be protected through seasonal limitations. Big game birthing habitat on 4,112 acres will also be protected through limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails.</p>
Fishery habitat	<p>Fishery habitat will be managed to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses; e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc., will be resolved in favor of fisheries.</p>	<p>All streams (7 miles) will be protected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standard lease terms for fluid minerals - closed to mineral entry, except for recreational placering - closed to disposal of mineral materials - off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails on 43 acres. 	<p>Activity planning would be accomplished within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials</i> - Stream fishery habitat (43 acres) will be protected.</p> <p><i>Off-highway-vehicle use</i> - Stream fishery habitat (43 acres) will be protected by limiting use to designated roads and trails only.</p>

Table 3-10 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Special status animals	Protection and enhancement of special status animals will be continued by eliminating identified and verified land uses that conflict with these species.	<p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with no surface occupancy stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lesser prairie chicken lek (one-fourth mile buffer) on 107 subsurface acres. <p>Special status animal habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ferruginous hawk nesting/ fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15 - lesser prairie chicken habitat on 2,723 subsurface acres 3/1-7/31 - least tern/piping plover nesting habitat on 6,579 subsurface acres 4/1-7/31 - bald eagle winter roosting habitat on 7,040 subsurface acres 11/16-4/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 29,496 subsurface acres 2/1-7/31. <p>Special status animal habitat will be seasonally limited for mineral operations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ferruginous hawk nesting/ fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15 - lesser prairie chicken habitat on 20 surface acres 3/1-7/31 - least tern/piping plover nesting habitat on 4,414 surface acres 4/1-7/31 - bald eagle winter roosting habitat on 13,812 surface acres 11/16-4/15 - Mexican spotted owl habitat on 3,855 surface acres 2/1-7/31 - peregrine falcon habitat on 1,080 surface acres 3/16-7/31. 	Activity planning will be accomplished within an IAP.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 107 subsurface acres will be protected. Sensitive species habitat on 45,107 subsurface acres will be protected.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 23,181 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations under claimant notification.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 23,181 surface acres will be protected under seasonal limitations.</p> <p><i>Off-highway vehicle use</i> - Sensitive species habitat on 23,181 acres will be protected through seasonal limitation.</p>

Table 3-10 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Fluid minerals	Development will be authorized through standard lease procedures with additional mitigation applied where necessary to protect other natural values.	<p>5,100 acres will be leased with NSO stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raptor nesting/fledgling habitat (one-eighth mile buffer) - lesser prairie chicken lek (one-fourth mile buffer) - reservoir ROWs. <p>29,496 acres will be leased with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elk calving and deer birthing 4/16-6/30 - pronghorn antelope fawning 5/1-7/15 - bighorn sheep lambing 5/1-7/15 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-4/30 - bald eagle winter roosting habitat (one-half mile buffer) 11/16-4/15 - lesser prairie chicken habitat 3/1-7/31 - least tern/piping plover nesting habitat 4/1-7/31. - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling habitat 2/1-8/15. <p>5,396 acres will be leased with controlled surface use stipulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VRM Class II areas. 	Showcase projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.	<p><i>Wildlife habitat, special status animals, and rights-of-way</i> - NSO stipulations could result in severe restrictions or potentially eliminate leasing operations by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3,890 acres of high - 1,048 acres of moderate - 57 acres of none. <p><i>Wildlife habitat and special status animals</i> - Seasonal stipulations could result in moderate to severe restriction based on the length of the limitation and the operation scheduling needs by resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 391 acres of high - 3,099 acres of moderate - 3,248 acres of low - 22,758 acres of no. <p><i>Visual resources</i> - Controlled surface use stipulations could result in minor to moderate restriction on the following resource potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 638 acres of high - 941 acres of moderate - 3,817 acres of low.
Locatable minerals	Areas open to mineral entry will be administered under the existing regulations and limited by closure if necessary. Special mitigation will be developed to protect other identified values on a case-by-case basis.	0 acres will be open to mineral entry under standard mineral operating practices.	Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 9 surface acres; 50 surface acres will be open.

Table 3-10 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Locatable minerals (continued)		<p>54,852 acres will be open with seasonal limitations through claimant notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game critical winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - least tern/piping plover nesting habitat 4/1-7/31 - lesser prairie chicken habitat 3/1-7/31 - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - bald eagle winter roosting 11/16-4/15 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7/31 - Mexican spotted owl habitat 2/1-7/31. <p>6,745 acres will be closed to mineral entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing areas - fishery habitat - riparian areas (perennial). 		<p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on big game birthing areas (4,112 acres). Mineral entry will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 11,277 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral entry will not occur on 43 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral entry will be seasonally restricted on 82,071 surface acres.</p>
Mineral materials	<p>The area will be open to development; mitigation or closures will be applied if necessary to protect other natural values. Preferred areas of sales will be identified.</p>	<p>58,013 acres will be available for disposal under standard mineral operating practices.</p>	<p>Closures and limitations will be reviewed and changes will be made within IAPs. Analysis to locate and establish community mineral material pits will be completed within IAPs.</p>	<p><i>Riparian areas</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 9 surface acres; 50 surface acres will be open.</p> <p><i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur in big game birthing areas (4,112 surface acres). Mineral material disposal will be restricted by various seasonal limitations on 4,359 surface acres.</p> <p><i>Fisheries habitat</i> - Mineral material disposal will not occur on 43 surface acres.</p>

Table 3-10 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Mineral materials (continued)		<p>53,584 acres will be available with seasonal limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game winter habitat 12/1-3/31 - wild turkey winter habitat 12/1-4/1 - lesser prairie chicken habitat 3/1-7/31 - least tern/piping plover nesting habitat 4/1-7/31 - raptor nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - ferruginous hawk nesting/fledgling areas 2/1-8/15 - bald eagle winter roosting areas, 11/16-4/15 - peregrine falcon habitat 3/16-7/31. 		<p><i>Special status animals</i> - Mineral material disposal will be seasonally restricted on 23,181 surface acres.</p>
		<p>4,273 acres will be closed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - big game birthing - riparian areas (perennial) - fishery habitat.* 		
Coal minerals	<p>Areas will be identified for further consideration of future coal leasing; coal unsuitability criteria will provide protection of resource values.</p>	<p>Of 125,762 acres of BLM-administered coal, approximately 52,980 acres will be suitable for further consideration for underground or surface mining.</p> <p>Approximately 72,782 acres will be available for further consideration for underground mining only.</p>	<p>The first three coal screens have been applied. The fourth screen will be applied at the time of leasing to screen out all unincorporated communities (subdivisions).</p>	<p><i>Vegetation</i> - Surface coal leasing will require a desired plant community plan. <i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Coal leasing may potentially be limited within subdivisions.</p>

Table 3-10 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access	<p>Transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and administrative monitoring as well as minimizing roads on BLM-administered lands. A maintenance schedule will be established for BLM system roads on an average of once every 10 years. Roads not maintained in good condition under this schedule will either have limited use or be closed and reclaimed. New access will be provided to all BLM-administered lands identified for retention and multiple use management guided by recreation needs (ROS). Public (exclusive) easements will be used where ever public resources are available and public access is needed. Administrative (nonexclusive) easements will be used where there is no public access need and only BLM employee, contractor, and licensee access is needed. Unnecessary and unmaintained existing roads will be closed and rehabilitated as appropriate. Only Federal, state, county, BLM-system roads, and roads with valid rights-of-way for maintenance will remain open.</p>	<p>Permanent transportation system will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLM system roads - 4 miles - 9 acres - BLM trails - 0 miles - 0 acres. <p>New access by easement acquisition or new construction will be provided.</p>	Update map through IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals, locatable minerals, mineral materials, and forest and woodlands</i> - Road construction will allow additional public access. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Road construction will be limited and could restrict additional public access.</p>

Table 3-10 (Continued)

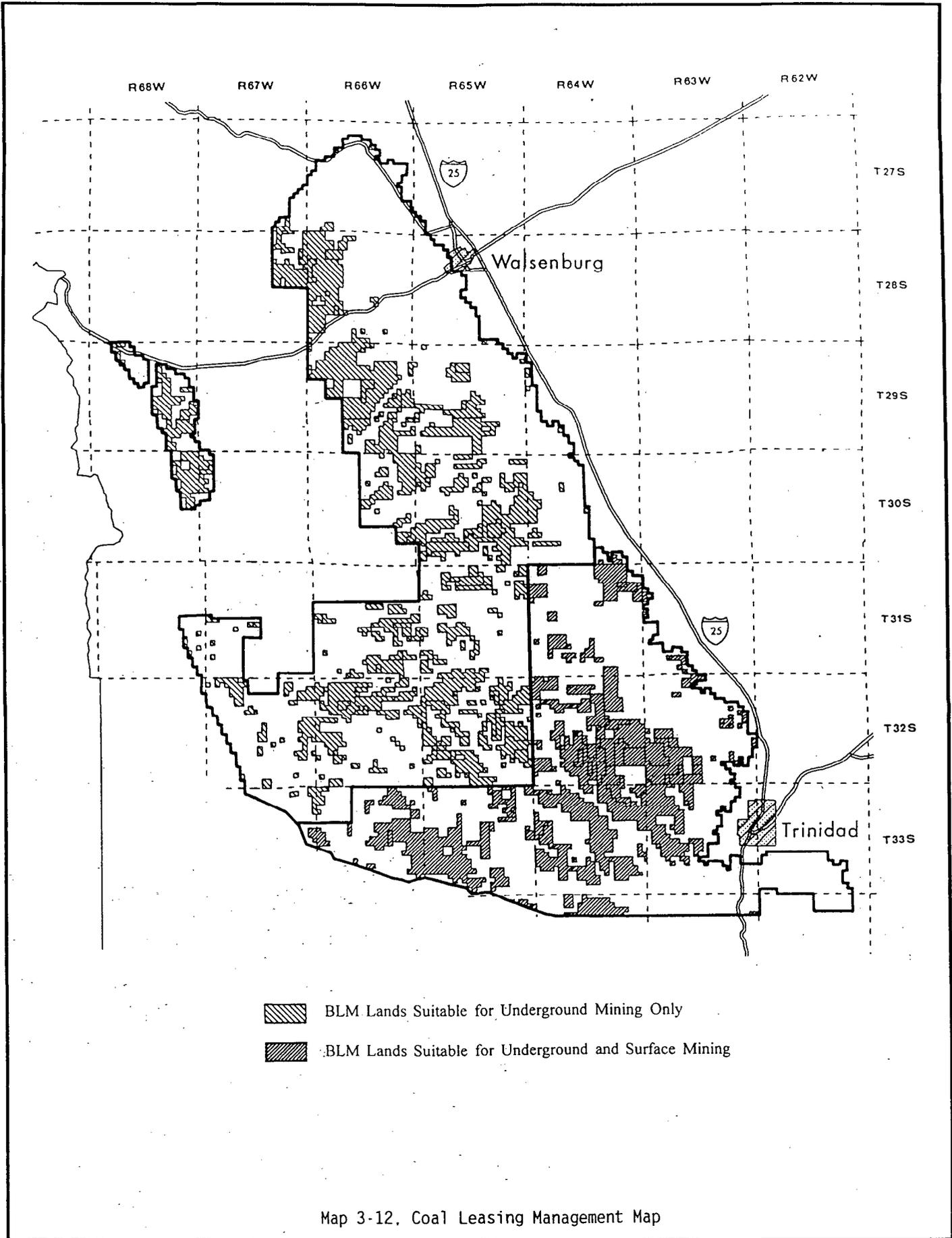
Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Transportation and access (continued)	Signing, fencing, and marking boundaries will continue on all BLM-administered land identified for retention and multiple use management. The degree of access will be guided by the designated recreation opportunity spectrum; i.e., - Wilderness - 5-mile access points - SPNM - 5-mile access points - SPM - 3-mile access points - RN - 1-mile access points.			
Rights-of-way	WUG study recommendations for corridor designation will be adopted with addition of existing transportation utility corridors. ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis only when avoidance and exclusion designation criteria are protected and when additional stipulations protect resources and values not included in the criteria.	Exclusion areas (2,889 acres) will include: - raptor nesting/fledgling areas - special status animal habitat. Avoidance areas (7,464 acres) - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat. Designated corridors (7,743 acres). Nonexcluded areas (45,590 acres/74 percent of ESR).	None.	<i>Wildlife habitat</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from raptor nesting/fledgling areas (358 acres). Increased costs could occur from difficulty in locating routes to avoid big game birthing and critical winter habitat (652 acres). <i>Special status animals</i> - Increased costs could occur in excluding major ROWs from special status animal habitat (2,531 acres).
Land ownership adjustments	Parcels/areas difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale. Exchange could be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public and BLM management will be improved. Areas identified for retention or acquisition will provide values for public use or have public access. A mixture of public uses will be equally considered on a case-by-case basis in analyzing proposals.	Category I lands (55,144 acres) will be identified for disposal if not valued for the following resources: - special status animal species. Category II lands (6,453 acres) will be identified for retention or exchange. Category III lands (0 acres) will be identified for disposal through exchange, R&PP lease, or transfer and not identified as Category I or II.	None.	<i>Special status animals</i> - Disposal of 20 acres will not occur.

Table 3-10 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Withdrawals and classifications.	Withdrawals and classifications on BLM-administered lands will continue to be reviewed. Withdrawals and classifications will be initiated to protect special values.	Existing BLM withdrawals are: - 0 acres New BLM withdrawals will be initiated as follows: - riparian areas (perennial) - 9 acres - big game birthing habitat - 4,112 acres - fishery habitat - 43 acres - special status animal habitat (2,531 acres)	None.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - 9 acres of perennial will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws; 50 acres of intermittent will be available. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - 4,112 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - 43 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws. <i>Special status animals</i> - 2,531 acres will be withdrawn/segregated from public land laws and mining laws.
Off-highway vehicle use	OHV use will be managed through limitations in areas with special values; responsible OHV use will be encouraged throughout this unit where use is allowed.	0 acres will be open. 61,597 acres will be limited to designated roads and trails or seasonally - riparian areas - raptor nesting/fledgling areas - big game birthing habitat - big game critical winter habitat - fishery habitat - special status animal habitat. 0 acres will be closed.	Incorporate emphasis for public awareness to national programs; e.g., Tread Lightly, into activity plans. Develop partnerships with local OHV clubs to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV opportunities. Informational materials for motorized OHV opportunities will be developed. Establish motorized/multiple use trails to meet public demand. Activity planning will be accomplished in an IAP.	<i>Riparian areas</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 9 acres of perennial; opportunities will be available on the remaining 50 acres of intermittent. <i>Forest and woodlands</i> - OHV opportunities will be enhanced on 5,721 acres through new road construction. <i>Wildlife habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 6,900 acres through limitations of seasonal and designated roads and trails. <i>Fishery habitat</i> - OHV opportunities will be limited to designated roads and trails on 43 acres. <i>Special status animals</i> - OHV opportunities will be diminished on 23,181 acres through limitations of seasonal and designated roads and trails.

Table 3-10 (Continued)

Resource/Value	Objective Decisions	Allocation Decisions	Action Decisions	Impacts
Visual resources	Existing VRM classes will be utilized to guide resource management actions on BLM-administered lands. Adherence to criteria will occur according to respective class rating.	VRM Class II areas (5,396 subsurface acres) will be protected by CSU stipulations.	Activity planning will be accomplished within IAPs.	<p><i>Fluid minerals</i> - Class II areas (5,396 subsurface acres) will be protected from leasing through CSU stipulations.</p> <p><i>Locatable minerals</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (921 acres) will not be protected from mineral entry.</p> <p><i>Mineral materials</i> - Mitigation measures will be provided outside ACECs on 921 acres of Class II areas on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><i>Rights-of-way</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (921 acres) could be degraded by potential construction of major ROWs.</p> <p><i>Land ownership adjustments</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (921 acres) will be available for disposal.</p> <p><i>Off-highway-vehicle-use</i> - Class II areas outside ACECs (921 acres) will not be protected.</p>
Recreation management	Minimal onsite management will be provided to maintain opportunities.	Recreation opportunities on 61,597 acres will be managed as an extensive recreation management area.	<p>Address upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on balance between resource protection and tourism within an IAP.</p> <p>Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups.</p> <p>Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Aquisitions/easements to enhance recreation opportunities will be considered and pursued.</p>	<i>Transportation and access</i> - Recreation access opportunities could be enhanced by potential new access.



APPENDIX A

LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT



APPENDIX A

LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

The following decisions will be carried forward from the Royal Gorge Grazing EIS and made a part of the Royal Gorge RMP:

Range improvement projects (i.e., fences, spring developments, water catchments, reservoirs, water pipelines, water troughs, cattleguards, wells, water storage tanks, and livestock trails) will continue to be constructed on an as-needed basis. Specifications for these projects will be as directed by BLM manuals. NEPA documentation will be completed on each project as needed. Required environmental document will be tiered to the RMP, which analyzes impacts from range improvement projects.

Land treatments such as burning, thinning, and plowing vegetation as a management practice will continue. NEPA documentation would be completed on each project as needed, and the required environmental document would be tiered to the RMP, which analyzes impacts from land treatment projects.

Rangeland monitoring studies such as actual use, utilization, and trend will continue on Improve category allotments.

Evaluation of each allotment with a grazing management plan will continue according to the existing schedule in each plan.

The following changes from existing decisions in the grazing EIS are made in the proposed plan:

Allocation of additional forage resulting from improved management or vegetation manipulation will be to livestock or wildlife or a combination of both on an case-by-case basis after consulting with state and Federal agencies and private groups (i.e., the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program) and the affected grazing permittee.

Adjustments in grazing use will be made by allotment on a case-by-case basis. Changes in number of livestock, season-of-use, duration-of-use, and class of livestock can be made based on monitoring studies and inventory data.

The grazing treatment on Improve and Maintain category allotments will require a rest standard to allow a time period for forage species to recover from the last grazing period before the plants are regrazed. This rest standard will allow plants to regrow, regain vigor, and produce seeds and seedlings and change in species composition will result. Also plant litter will accumulate and protect the soil surface from erosion. Examples of treatments that provide a rest standard are rest rotation grazing, deferred rotation grazing, deferred grazing, dormant season grazing, short duration grazing, and time controlled grazing. Complete protection from grazing will also provide an adequate rest standard.

Maximum allowable utilization on allotments with rotational grazing or dormant season grazing will be 80 percent of annual production on grass species and 60 percent of annual production on shrub species. These percentages may have to be reduced on specific allotments because of conflicts with wildlife, watershed conditions, or riparian habitat.

On single pasture allotments with season-long spring/summer grazing, utilization will be held to the 40 to 60 percent range on forage species in lieu of a rest standard. This requirement will be on high elevation allotments where deferment or dormant season use is impractical because of deep snow, and fencing the allotment into smaller units is uneconomical. On these allotments, utilization estimates will be made on a key species to prevent over utilization of desirable species.

Table A-1 provides an allotment-specific summary of the livestock management program. Following is an explanation of the data presented in this table:

Priority # of an allotment refers to the ranking of the Improve and Maintain category allotments for investment of public funds for range improvement projects.

Management category is the general management objective for each allotment. I = most intensive, with the objective of improving existing resource conditions; M = less intensive, with the objective of maintaining existing resource conditions; and C = least intensive, or custodial, management.

Active use in AUMs is that portion of the total grazing AUM preference available to be licensed for use during any one grazing year.

Date On and Date Off Allotment is when livestock are authorized to graze on BLM-administered land.

Appendix A

TABLE A-1
Summary of Livestock Management Program by Allotment

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Priority #1/	Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Active Use in AUMs	Date On Allotment	Date Off Allotment
5005	Wellsville ^{2/}	68	M	4,471	91	4/10	5/31
5006	Kerr Gulch Common	7	I	5,754	135	5/01	9/30
5009	Beddows Mountain		C	80	8	3/01	2/28
5019	South Beaver School		C	438	48	3/01	2/28
5021	Hoosier Pass		C	26	2	6/16 9/16	6/30 9/30
5027	Lower Granite ^{2/}	80	M	3,454	182	12/1	4/30
5035	Currant Creek		C	1,240	24	3/01	2/28
5047	Delilah Peak		C	931	7	3/01	32/28
5042	Agate Beds	9	I	1,666	269	6/01	9/01
5047	Underhill	63	I	3,516	118 154	3/01 11/01	5/31 2/28
5048	Bull Hill		C	36	3	3/01	2/28
5054	Brown Park		C	230	13	3/01	2/28
5055	Temple Canyon	8	I	6,794	150 89	4/16 10/16	6/30 12/31
5056	Fresh Water Creek		C	173	8	3/01	2/28
5057	Bumback Spring		C	51	1	3/01	2/28
5059	Wagon Tongue		C	3,032	132	3/01	2/28
5060	31 Mile Creek		C	240	9	3/01	2/28
5061	One Creek/Cat Gulch	41	I	1,625	110	6/01	9/30
5062	Lower Beaver Park		C	271	11	3/01	2/28
5063	Indian Gulch Common	26	M	616	86	5/01	6/15
5064	Burno Mountain		C	163	6	3/01	2/28
5065	Cobb Creek		C	290	4	3/01	2/28
5066	South Garden Park		C	120	1	3/01	2/28
5067	Mt. Pisgah Ind.		C	143	18	6/01	8/31
5068	Deer Peak		C	160	36	3/01	2/28
5069	Grouse Mountain		C	5,099	196	6/01	10/31
5071	East Garden Park		C	280	2	3/01	2/28
5072	Phantom Canyon	43	I	8,976	147 126	11/01	2/28
5073	Grape Creek Common	3	I	15,233	156 273 414	3/01 7/01	2/28 11/15
5074	Bull Domingo		C		72	3/01	2/28
5075	South Jack Hall		C	303	24	7/01	8/01
5076	Rock House		C	861	67	8/15	10/15
5077	Pole Gulch ^{2/}	21	I	2,177	100	5/16	10/15
5078	Geology Camp	46	M	640	50 42	12/01 3/01	2/28 5/15
5079	Eldred		C	350	4	3/01	2/28
5080	Trout Creek South		C	880	70	3/01	2/28
5081	Burnt Ridge	71	I	2,857	97	7/16	9/15
5082	Worley Country	64	I	1,232	42	6/10	10/09
5083	Oil Well Flats	40	I	2,590	62 48	11/16 3/01	2/28 5/20
5084	Upper Boneyard		C	30	1	3/01	2/28
5085	East Cactus		C	110	2	3/01	2/29
5086	Mill Creek Common		C	1,141	64	6/01	10/01
5087	Two Creek	13	I	2,420	261	6/01	10/15
5088	Trout Creek North		C	540	41	3/01	2/28
5089	Rock Creek Ranch		C	3,570	140	3/01	2/28
5090	Felch Creek ^{2/}	81	M	1,108	48 10	10/01 3/01	2/28 3/31
5091	Maverick Gulch	37	I	3,910	147	5/01	11/15
5092	Gravel Pit		C	300	10	3/01	2/28
5093	Pony Gulch	72	I	1,260	114	4/01	5/30
5094	Beckwith		C	240	12	3/01	2/28

Table A-1 (Continued)

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Priority 1/	Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Active Use in AUMS	Date On Allotment	Date Off Allotment
5095	Bond	22	M	2,793	110	6/16	10/16
					56	11/01	11/30
5096	Cottonwood Creek	23	I	5223	322	12/01	2/28
					111	3/01	3/31
					55	4/01	4/30
5097	Kelly Creek		C	300	10	3/01	2/28
5098	Oil Creek Common	54	I	1,812	35	6/16	9/30
					36	6/15	
5099	Barnard Creek		C	283	24	3/01	2/28
5100	Barnard Creek East		C	76	12	3/01	2/28
					2	6/16	8/31
5101	Trachyte Knob		C	233	12	3/01	2/28
5102	Tenderfoot		C	46	4	3/01	2/28
5103	Oil Creek North		C	658	24	3/01	2/28
5104	Lookout Point	47	I	427	37	8/02	9/30
5105	Gillette		C	40	12	3/01	2/28
5106	North Beckwith		C	65	5	3/01	2/28
5108	Badito West		C	80	8	3/01	2/28
5109	Badger Creek	1	I	36,852	1,203	4/16	10/15
5110	Straub Mountain		C	1,810	70	3/01	2/28
5111	Big Bull Mountain		C	271	15	3/01	2/28
5112	Victor Pass		C	58	6	3/01	2/28
5113	Long Hollow		C	170	31	3/01	2/28
5114	High Park	19	I	3,519	183	6/21	11/12
5115	Antelope Gulch		C	123	12	3/01	2/28
5116	Green Mountain North		C	360	16	5/15	11/15
					8		
5117	Badito		C	580	4	3/01	2/28
5118	Douglas Gulch-South		C	120	7	3/01	2/28
5120	Holbert Pasture		C	1,693	90	6/01	11/30
					37		
5124	Guffey Pasture		C	80	6	3/01	2/28
5125	31 Mile Mountain	11	I	2,656	273	6/01	9/30
					50	12/06	1/28
5127	Cactus Mountain	73	I	5,692	142	11/01	2/20
					42	12/01	2/28
5129	Sommerville Table	61	I	1,386	140	8/01	11/30
5131	Wright Reservoir		C	125	1	3/01	2/28
5132	Beaver Creek		C	6,676	69	5/16	10/15
					208		
5133	Patton Canyon		C	601	16	3/01	2/28
5134	Asher Gulch		C	1,597	264	6/01	1/31
5135	West Pasture ^{2/}	31	I	1,194	72	6/01	2/28
5137	Blue Ridge		C	711	56	3/01	2/28
5138	Shaws Park		C	772	95	3/01	2/28
					55	11/15	2/28
5139	Carlin Gulch	49	I	1,624	47	3/01	5/31
					24	9/01	10/30
					31	11/01	12/15
					16	3/01	2/28
					170	6/01	8/15
					5	3/01	2/28
					17	6/01	8/15
					2	3/01	2/28
					2	3/01	2/28
					2	3/01	2/28
5141	Elevenmile Canyon ^{2/}	15	I	7,825	20	6/01	8/15
					10	3/01	2/28
					17	6/01	8/15
					6	3/01	2/28
					12	3/01	2/28
					5	3/01	2/28
					15	3/01	2/28
					83	6/01	8/15
					25	3/01	2/28
5142	Big Bear		C	600	4	3/01	2/28

Appendix A

Table A-1 (Continued)

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Priority#1/	Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Active Use in AUMS	Date On Allotment	Date Off Allotment
5144	East Box Canyon	52	M	1,435	202	9/27	3/31
5147	Cedar Springs Mountain		C	510	19	3/01	2/28
5148	Iron Mountain		C	1,220	12	3/01	2/28
5151	Twelvemile Park		C	227	20	10/01	2/28
5152	Herring Creek ^{2/}	15	I	880	49	3/01	2/28
5153	East Guffey		C	206	12	3/01	2/28
5154	Monument Creek		C	331	9	3/01	2/28
5155	Rye Slough North	24	M	1,080	111	8/01	10/31
5156	U Long Gulch		C	200	24	3/01	2/28
5157	Dicks Creek		C	42	1	3/01	2/28
5158	Green Mountain Gulch		C	980	60	3/01	2/28
5159	Wilbur	67	I	2,198	132	6/01	9/30
5162	Soapy Hill ^{2/}	75	M	680	48	8/01	10/30
5163	Park Mountain		C	780	8	3/01	2/28
5164	Micanite	16	I	1,945	92 321	3/01 8/01	4/30 2/28
5169	Pruden Creek		C	400	42 9	8/01	10/31
5173	Long Hollow West		C	913	96	3/01	2/28
5175	Dry Lake School		C	90	2	3/01	2/28
5176	Skyline		C	40	4	3/01	2/28
5177	Stout Creek		C	120	12	3/01	2/28
5178	Cow Mountain		C	125	8	3/01	2/28
5179	West Box Canyon	66	I	5,395	217	5/15	10/15
5180	Salt Works Pasture		C	160	11	3/01	2/28
5181	Wall Mountain		C	120	2	3/01	2/28
5183	Brush Hollow		C	240	12 8	3/01 1/01	5/31 2/28
5184	West Patton Gulch		C	521	3	3/01	2/28
5186	Crown Point	70	I	2,276	51	7/16	9/15
5188	Red Gulch	32	I	3,430	246	9/01	12/31
5189	Booger Red Hill ^{2/}	82	M	640	114	6/16	9/15
5190	Tallahassee Road		C	640	17	3/01	2/28
5191	East Eldred		C	360	1	5/01	12/31
5192	Mud Gulch	79	M	1,165	99	10/01	12/31
5193	Jack Hall	27	I	864	127	7/01	10/15
5194	Reinke Ridge		C	55	9	3/01	2/28
5195	Palmer Gulch		C	120	6	6/01	8/31
5199	Waugh Mtn. ^{2/}	83	M	973	41	7/01	8/31
					25	11/09	12/15
					40	12/16	2/29
5200	Miners Gulch	35	I	3,132	9 39 30 4	3/01 11/09 10/02 12/15	3/18 10/01 2/28 10/01
5201	Dry Gulch		C	157	12	3/01	2/28
5202	Tallahassee Creek	58	I	2,883	283	6/15	2/28
5204	39 Mile Mountain		C	160	9	6/01	9/30
5205	Cottonwood Ridge ^{2/}	74	M	650	60	9/01	2/28
5206	Cooper Mountain		C	355	19	3/01	2/28
5207	Glass Place		C	1,588	71	3/01	2/28
5208	Skagway S. Pasture		C	400	80	3/01	2/28
					52	11/01	2/28
5209	E. Fork Milsap Creek	33	M	2,515	13 4 1	3/01 11/01 3/01	3/31 2/28 3/31
5211	Miller Place		C	420	20	3/01	2/28
5212	Lower Shaws Park		C	987	19	3/01	2/28
5214	Heck Gulch Allotment		C	280	2	3/01	2/28
5216	South Red Hill		C	190	1	3/01	2/28

Table A-1 (Continued)

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Priority#1/	Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Active Use in AUMS	Date On Allotment	Date Off Allotment
5217	North Red Hill		C	60	2	3/01	2/28
5218	Burris Mountain		C	3,759	114	3/01	2/28
5219	Schoolhouse Gulch		C	533	40	3/01	2/28
5220	Gardener Table		C	240	8	3/01	2/28
5221	Meadow Gulch		C	598	6	3/01	2/28
5222	Long Gulch Pasture		C	40	3	3/01	2/28
5223	Six Mile Park		C	999	11 43	3/01 11/01	3/31 2/28
5224	Eight Mile Park		C	1,080	13	3/01	2/28
5225	Gillett Ind		C	132	11	3/01	2/28
5226	Salt Canyon		C	160	1	3/01	2/28
5228	Antero Reservoir		C	826	54	3/01	2/28
5230	Dry Lake		C	80	12	3/01	2/28
5232	Home Place		C	409	16	3/01	2/28
5233	Deer Haven Ranch		C	507	9	3/01	2/28
5234	Webster Gulch		C	1,183	69	6/01	10/31
5236	Bull Mountain Ind		C	40	4	6/01	9/30
5237	Nipple Mountain Ind	36	I	340	37	7/01	9/01
5238	Race Path ^{2/}	84	M	7,762	378	10/01	2/28
5239	High Creek		C	120	12	3/01	2/28
5240	Hammond Peak		C	50	9	7/01	9/30
5242	Currant Creek Pass		C	160	7	3/01	2/28
5243	Box Canyon	52	I	939	108	3/01	2/28
5244	Rhyolite Mountain		C	319	14	3/01	2/28
					225	11/01	2.28
					174	3/01	6/01
					4	5/15	5/15
5251	Trail Canyon	14	I	3,058	9	10/01	12/31
					40	6/01	8/15
					162	8/16	10/30
					75	6/01	10/30
5300	Wilson Creek ^{2/}	20	M	5,809	462 291	11/01 3/01	2/28 5/15
5301	Twin Mountain ^{2/}	62	M	2,502	268 55	10/10 3/01	2/28 3/31
5302	Espanoza Gulch ^{2/}	53	MI	3,786	347	11/01	2/28
5303	Dutch Henry		C	595	44	3/01	2/28
5304	Kaufman Ridge		C	4,003	180	3/01	2/28
5306	North Beaver School		C	2,917	120	3/01	2/28
5307	Boneyard Gulch		C	40	2	3/01	2/28
5701	Ruby Mountain	59	M	5,220	35	10/10	11/30
5702	Red Top		C	958	192	3/01	2/28
5703	Garro ^{2/}	15	I	1,950	153	3/01	2/28
5704	Diamond A East		C	158	17	3/01	2/28
5706	St. Charles		C	240	48	3/01	2/28
5707	Link Ditch		C	426	32	3/01	2/28
5708	Del Agua		C	80	2	3/01	2/28
5709	Bradford Canal		C	1,685	155	3/01	2/28
5710	Vigil Canyon ^{2/}	12	I	510	24	3/01	2/28
5711	Lake Merideth-South		C	80	18	3/01	2/28
5712	Badger Basin		C	4,692	300	3/01	2/28
5713	West Pass Creek		C	1,207	6	3/01	2/28
5714	West Horse Creek		C	160	27	3/01	2/28
5715	Nero Hill		C	458	92	3/01	2/28
5716	Trujillo Canyon		C	160	12	3/01	2/28
5717	Ideal Canyon-West		C	80	8	3/01	2/28
5718	Yellowstone Creek		C	40	2	3/01	2/28
5719	Schoolfield		C	320	18	3/01	2/28
5720	Mulligan Lakes		C	370	31	3/01	2/28

Appendix A

Table A-1 (Continued)

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Priority#1/	Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Active Use in AUMS	Date On Allotment	Date Off Allotment
5721	Silver Mountain West		C	200	17	3/01	2/28
5722	Silver Mountain North		C	40	4	3/01	2/28
5723	South Abeyta		C	80	6	3/01	2/28
5724	Walsen Arroyo		C	80	4	3/01	2/28
5725	Reveille Canyon		C	1,194	57	3/01	2/28
5726	Rock Creek		C	130	1	3/01	2/28
5727	South Martin		C	40	1	3/01	2/28
5728	Granite ^{2/}	87	M	1,050	57	5/16	10/15
5729	Warm Springs		C	1,720	129	3/01	2/28
5731	Green Mountain		C	520	1	3/01	2/28
5732	Mauricio		C	179	12	3/01	2/28
5733	Bradford Canal South		C	1,120	8	3/01	2/28
5734	Sand Arroyo North		C	80	5	3/01	2/28
5735	Trout Creek ^{2/}	15	I	2,440	192	3/01	2/28
5736	Chacuaco Creek		C	40	7	3/01	2/28
5737	Teeple		C	54	7	3/01	2/28
5738	Tingley Canyon		C	358	28	6/15	11/15
5739	High Creek		C	1,200	108	3/01	2/28
5740	Hunt Canyon		C	308	33	3/01	2/28
5742	Rito Oso Creek		C	40	4	3/01	2/28
5743	Tombstone Hill		C	285	48	3/01	2/28
5745	Adobe Creek East		C	1,120	60	3/01	2/28
5746	Red Wing		C	240	26	3/01	2/28
5745	Derry Ditch		C	3,298	125	3/01	2/28
5748	Antelope Creek		C	80	5	3/01	2/28
5749	Hayden Butte		C	80	8	3/01	2/28
5740	Kramer Creek		C	2,040	123	3/01	2/28
5751	Sugarloaf Mountain		C	2,717	3 14	3/01 10/01	3/31 2/28
5753	Ute Lake		C	40	3	3/01	2/28
5755	Powell Arroyo		C	2,185	16	3/01	2/28
5756	Crooked Creek		C	720	45	3/01	2/28
5757	West Fairplay		C	80	30	5/01	9/30
5758	Two Buttes Creek		C	74	7	3/01	2/28
5759	Crowley County		C	120	12	3/01	2/28
5760	Little Turkey Creek		C	3,004	41	3/01	2/28
5761	Kiowa County		C	880	142	3/01	2/28
5762	Diamond A West		C	661	64	3/01	2/28
5763	White Hills		C	675	38	3/01	2/28
5764	Park Ditch		C	2,494	24	3/01	2/28
5765	Silver Mountain		C	561	3	3/01	2/28
5766	Seven L Butte		C	80	3	3/01	2/28
5767	Mineral Creek		C	273	2	3/01	2/28
5768	Hecla Junction East		C	2,785	3 14	3/01 10/01	3/31 2/28
5769	Little Sheep		C	1,104	10	3/01	2/28
5770	Red Hill Pass		C	1,227	66	3/01	2/28
5771	Turkey Ridge		C	880	196	3/01	2/28
5772	Greenwood		C	360	19	3/01	2/28
5773	Hecla Junction West	48	M	1680	4 10	3/01 10/01	3/31 2/28
5774	Siloam Road		C	80	4	3/01	2/28
5776	Rito Oso		C	200	6	3/01	2/28
5777	Boone Hill		C	480	48	3/01	2/28
5778	King Center		C	80	16	3/01	2/28
5779	Manzanola		C	7	1	3/01	2/28
5780	Little Cochetopa		C	338	4	3/01	2/28

Table A-1 (Continued)

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Priority#1/	Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Active Use in AUMS	Date On Allotment	Date Off Allotment
5781	Spring Branch East		C	240	15	3/01	2/28
5782	Indian Gulch		C	120	9	3/01	2/28
5783	Merideth Island		C	120	32	3/01	2/28
5784	Muddy Creek ^{2/}	12	I	9,183	154	3/01	2/28
5785	Poison Creek ^{2/}	12	I	3,130	328	3/01	2/28
5786	Chitwood Gulch		C	200	17	3/01	2/28
5787	Threemile Creek		C	1,120	1	3/01	3/31
					10	10/01	2/28
5788	Vanbromer Arroyo		C	120	24	3/01	2/28
5789	Harlin Ditch		C	675	38	3/01	2/28
5790	Pond Creek		C	160	27	3/01	2/28
5791	Picketwire		C	151	9	3/01	2/28
5792	Malice Ditch		C	625	53	3/01	2/28
5793	Raspberry Gulch		C	406	12	3/01	2/28
5794	Fourmile Ranch		C	520	37	3/01	2/28
5795	Logan Hill		C	680	36	5/01	9/30
5795	La Veta Pass-North		C	40	4	3/01	2/28
5797	Ordway-NW		C	88	18	3/01	2/28
5798	Spinney Mountain		C	1,220	70	3/01	2/28
5799	Como		C	440	29	3/01	2/28
5800	Park Gulch		C	3,022	190	3/01	2/28
5801	Como Park East ^{2/}	15	I	4,350	192	3/01	2/28
					40	5/18	10/18
5802	McFadden Creek		C	40	5	3/01	2/28
5803	South Spring Branch		C	720	61	3/01	2/28
5804	North Spring Branch		C	80	4	3/91	2/28
5805	Como Park		C	840	38	3/01	2/28
5806	Red Top Road		C	640	120	3/01	2/28
5807	Wellsville ^{2/}	69	M	2,440	89	4/10	5/31
5808	Black Draw		C	862	173	3/01	2/28
5809	Airport		C	120	2	3/01	3/31
					16	7/01	2/28
5810	Mustang Creek		C	320	64	3/01	2/28
5811	Apishapa Bridge		C	120	15	3/01	2/28
5812	Promontory Divide		C	40	1	3/01	2/28
5813	Browns Canyon		C	1,159	1	6/15	6/20
					2	4/01	11/01
					8	8/06	9/03
5814	Upper Ditch		C	40	3	3/01	2/28
5815	Cedar Crest		C	124	16	3/01	2/28
5816	Whiterock		C	119	16	3/01	2/28
5817	Saunders' Arroyo		C	79	18	3/01	2/28
5818	Crystal Falls		C	520	12	3/01	2/28
5819	Browns Canyon School		C	40	2	3/01	2/28
5820	Gardner Road		C	40	12	3/01	2/28
5821	Santana Canyon		C	251	5	3/01	2/28
5822	Bear Creek North		C	240	24	3/01	2/28
5823	Thompson Arroyo		C	1,114	149	3/01	2/28
5824	Gotera Canyon		C	160	36	3/01	2/28
5825	Hezron Gulch		C	125	21	3/01	2/28
5826	Levee Road		C	54	5	3/01	2/28
5827	Mosca-Mulligan ^{2/}	12	I	5,365	140	3/01	2/28
5828	Park Gulch East		C	320	15	3/01	2/28
5829	North Rattlesnake Butte		C	160	20	3/01	2/28
5830	Hamilton Canyon		C	120	11	3/01	2/28
5831	Burlingame Ditch		C	440	33	3/01	2/28
5832	Maes Creel		C	440	66	3/01	2/28
5833	Sand Arroyo		C	40	6	3/01	2/28

Appendix A

Table A-1 (Continued)

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Priority#1/	Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Active Use in AUMS	Date On Allotment	Date Off Allotment
5843	Black Mountain ^{2/}	12	I	1,800	50	3/01	2/28
5848	Soda Creek		C	364	31	3/01	2/28
5849	Frijole Creek		C	38	7	3/01	2/28
5851	Twelvemile Club ^{2/}	15	I	1,919	140	3/01	2/28
5852	Hooker Hills		C	325	73	3/01	2/28
5853	Silverheel		C	160	13	3/01	2/28
5854	Mud Hill		C	120	12	3/01	2/28
5855	Wixon Mountain		C	596	9	3/91	2/28
5856	Gageby Creek		C	80	18	3/01	2/28
5857	Turkey Creek		C	1,157	25	3/01	2/28
5858	North Badito		C	920	10	3/01	2/28
5859	East Pond Creek		C	199	40	3/03	2/28
5860	San Isidro		C	40	6	3/01	2/28
5863	Iowa Gulch		C	1,177	22	3/01	2/28
5864	Breece Creek		C	153	1	3/01	2/28
5865	Hardscrabble Mountain		C	81	1	3/01	2/28
5866	Brush Hollow Creek		C	80	6	3/01	2/28
5867	Bradford Reservoir		C	1,936	100	3/01	2/28
5868	Palo Duro Creek		C	722	14	3/01	2/28
5870	Silver Prince Creek		C	160	5	3/01	2/28
5871	Midland Hill	28	I	6,415	206	4/01	6/30
5872	Ute Log		C	200	2	3/01	2/28
5873	Bear Canyon		C	1,762	59	3/01	2/28
5874	May Creek		C	320	33	3/01	2/28
5875	Mount Mestas		C	600	2	3/01	2/28
5876	Madden Canyon		C	360	72	3/01	2/28
5877	Cucharas West		C	320	18	3/01	2/28
5878	Wilmer Gulch		C	79	5	3/01	2/28
5880	Graneros Flats		C	160	29	3/01	2/28
5881	Cucharas Canyon ^{2/}	12	I	970	54	3/01	2/28
5882	Boone-East		C	301	55	3/01	2/28
5883	Cleveland Mountain		C	742	5	3/01	2/28
5884	Junkins Park		C	200	1	3/01	2/28
5885	Sanford Hills		C	271	54	3/01	2/28
5886	Dike		C	87	12	3/01	2/28
5887	Haynes Creek		C	4,413	442	3/01	2/28
5888	Mt. Tyndall		C	40	11	9/01	10/15
5889	Mt. Herring		C	465	10	3/01	2/28
5890	Sugar City		C	80	20	3/01	2/28
5891	Tree Top		C	617	138	3/01	2/28
5892	Browns Creek		C	325	10	3/01	2/28
5893	Dutch Flat		C	19	2	3/01	2/28
5894	Mansanares Creek		C	160	1	3/01	2/28
5895	Chama-West		C	35	2	3/01	2/28
5896	Americus		C	340	28 6	8/15 3/01	2/28 4/15
5897	St. Jude		C	1,523	21	3/01	2/28
5898	Methodist Mountain ^{2/}	76	M	3,164	193	7/15	9/30
5899	Antelope		C	120	7	3/01	2/28
5900	Baldy		C	520	38	3/01	2/28
5901	Lapin Creek		C	230	20 24	3/01	2/28
5902	Walsenburg North		C	401	45	3/01	2/28
5903	Michigan Campground		C	1,256	74	3/01	2/28
5904	Antero Reservoir		C	400	30	3/01	2/28
5905	Daisy Canyon		C	176	12	3/01	2/28
5906	Fishermens Bridge		C	40	5	3/01	2/28

Table A-1 (Continued)

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Priority#1/	Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Active Use in AUMS	Date On Allotment	Date Off Allotment
5907	East Palo Duro		C	40	1	3/01	2/28
5908	Stanley Creek		C	603	9	3/01	2/28
5909	Apache City		C	79	4	3/01	2/28
5910	Fourmile Creek		C	1,641	133	3/01	2/28
5911	West Cordova		C	160	13	3/01	2/28
5912	Long Canyon		C	152	11	3/01	2/28
5913	Steel Gulch		C	431	43	3/01	2/28
5914	North Boone		C	2,244	187	3/01	2/28
5915	Chalk Creek		C	160	7	3/01	2/28
5916	Hardesty Draw		C	640	107	3/01	2/28
5917	Rough Mountain ^{2/}	12	I	3,622	5	3/01	2/28
5918	Mt. Shavano	25	I	5,367	241	6/01	9/30
5919	Patterson Hollow		C	322	64	3/01	2/28
5920	Buffalo Creek		C	80	6	3/01	2/28
5921	Iron Hill		C	406	3	3/01	2/28
5922	Democrat Ridge		C	30	11	3/01	2/28
5923	Iron Mountain South		C	1,536	58	3/01	2/28
5924	Adobe Canyon		C	120	8	3/01	2/28
5925	Malachite		C	200	8	3/01	2/28
5927	Phelps Canyon		C	158	9	3/01	2/28
5928	Crowley-North		C	80	8	3/01	2/28
5929	Buffalo Peaks		C	40	12	3/01	2/28
5930	Middle Creek North		C	232	3	3/01	2/28
5932	Middle Creek South		C	516	6	3/01	2/28
5933	South Chama		C	60	5	3/01	2/28
5934	Martin Ridge		C	560	87	3/01	2/28
5936	East Chama		C	20	1	3/01	2/28
5937	Little Porcupine		C	153	10	3/01	2/28
5939	Playa Lakes	78	I	1,640	208	7/15	10/30
5490	Sharpsdale		C	110	1	3/01	2/28
5941	Pass Creek	44	I	3,287	248	6/01	7/15
5942	Cemetary		C	20	12	3/01	2/28
5943	Santa Clara Creek		C	80	3	3/01	2/28
5986	Farisita		C	646	27	3/01	2/28
5999	Badito Cone		C	1,300	12	3/01	2/28
15001	Table Mountain	6	I	15,248	673 227	9/01 3/01	2/28 4/30
					48 10	10/01 3/01	2/28 3/31
15002	Big Hole	5	I	18,890	242 49 547 111	10/01 3/0 10/011 3/01	2/28 3/31 2/28 3/31
15003	Little Hole Common	18	I	6,612	307 49	7/01	10/31
15004	Bear Creek ^{2/}	85	M	2,885	123 165	7/15 12/01	9/30 2/28
					166	3/01	5/31
15007	Sand Gulch Common	56	I	3,741	180 181	12/01 3/01	2/28 5/31
15008	Howard Creek	34	M	880	69	3/01	5/31
15009	Little High		C	40	12	3/01	2/28
15010	Lower East 8 Mile	45	M	920	42	7/01	10/31
					23	3/01	5/31
15011	Sixmile		C	2,130	22 9 9	12/01 3/01 12/01	2/28 5/31 2/28
15012	Balfour Noth		C	400	21	3/01	2/28
15013	Spring Ck-North		C	129	4	3/01	2/28
15014	Rattlesnake	42	I	3,795	445	6/19	10/30

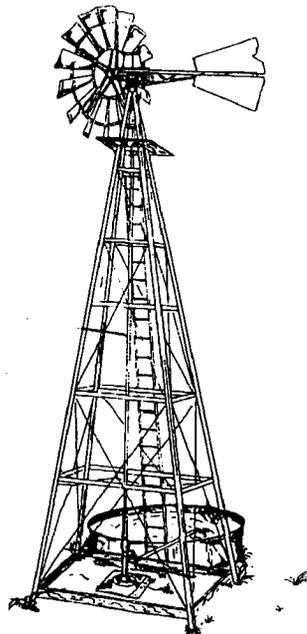
Appendix A

Table A-1 (Continued)

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Priority# ^{1/}	Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Active Use in AUMS	Date On Allotment	Date Off Allotment
15015	Upper Meadow Gulch		C	558	14	3/01	2/28
15016	South Tallahassee		C	120	1	3/01	2/28
15017	Mullock Gulch ^{2/}	86	M	265	12	7/15	8/15
15018	Stony Face Common		C	473	42 26	6/01 6/16	10/31 10/31
15019	Ruby Gulch		C	80	12	3/01	2/28
15020	Cow Mountain West		C	389	22	3/01	2/28
15022	Alta Vista Ind		C	99	12	3/01	2/28
15023	West Beaver Creek	65	I	1,431	159	7/16	9/30
15024	Penstock		C	103	14	3/01	2/28
15028	Oak Creek	39	M	884	60	6/01	9/30
15029	Price Park		C	80	4	3/01	2/28
15032	Soda Mountain	57	M	1,759	158 53	10/15 3/01	2/28 4/15
15036	Copper Gulch Common	2	I	30,080	105 207 73 633	7/01 7/03 7/01 7/01	10/15 10/15 10/01 10/15
15038	Poncha Park	10	I	4,935	1,082	5/15	9/15
15039	Antelope Pasture		C	436	60	3/01	2/28
15040	Owens Creek		C	1,651	36	3/01	2/28
15041	DeWeese		C	60	12	3/01	2/28
15043	Texas Creek Common	4	I	20,932	1,108	6/16	10/15
15044	West Fourmile Creek		C	20	2	3/01	2/28
15045	Mitre Peak North		C	488	25	3/01	2/28
15049	McCoy Gulch	17	M	195	35	3/01	4/30
15040	Fern Creek		C	1,146	132	7/01	9/15
15052 ^{2/}	Mill Gulch West	29	I	200 1,320	12 5	3/01	2/28

^{1/}Category C allotments are not prioritized.

^{2/}Change since the last RPS update.



APPENDIX B

FLUID MINERALS MANAGEMENT



APPENDIX B

FLUID MINERALS MANAGEMENT

STANDARD LEASE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The standard terms and conditions for oil and gas leasing are part of all Federal leases regardless of other considerations. These terms and conditions will automatically apply to all alternatives.

"Sec. 6. Conduct of Operations - Lessee shall conduct operations in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the land, air, and water, to cultural, biological, visual, and other resources, and to other land uses or users. Lessee shall take reasonable measures deemed necessary by lessor to accomplish the intent of this section. To the extent consistent with lease rights granted, such measures may include, but are not limited to, modification to siting or design of facilities, timing of operations, and specification of interim and final reclamation measures. Lessor reserves the right to continue existing uses and to authorize future uses upon or in the leased lands, including the approval of easements or rights-of-way. Such uses shall be conditioned so as to prevent unnecessary or unreasonable interference with rights of lessee."

"Prior to disturbing the surface of the lands, lessee shall contact lessor to be apprised of procedures to be followed and modifications or reclamation measures that may be necessary. Area to be disturbed may require inventories or special studies to determine the extent of impacts to other resources. Lessee may be required to complete minor inventories or short-term special studies under guidelines provided by lessor. If in the conduct of operations, threatened or endangered species, objects of historical or scientific interest, or substantial unanticipated environmental effects are observed, lessee shall immediately contact lessor. Lessee shall cease any operations that would result in the destruction of such species or objects."

The "lease rights granted," as used in this section have also been partially defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, part 3101.1-2, shown below.

"A lessee shall have the right to use as much of the leased lands as is necessary to explore for, drill for, mine, extract, remove and dispose of all the leased resource in a leasehold subject to: Stipulations attached to the lease; restrictions deriving from specific, nondiscretionary statutes; and such reasonable measures as may be required by the Authorized Officer to minimize adverse impacts to other resource values, land uses, or users not addressed in the lease stipulations at the time operations are proposed. To the extent consistent with lease rights granted, such reasonable measures may include, but are not limited to, modification to siting or design of facilities, timing of operations, and specification of interim and final reclamation measures. At a minimum, measures shall be deemed consistent with lease rights granted

provided that they do not: require relocation of proposed operations by more than 200 meters; require that operations be sited off the leasehold; or prohibit new surface-disturbing operations for a period in excess of 60 days in any lease year."

LEASE STIPULATIONS

Introduction

Oil and gas leases are issued granting the lessee the right to extract the oil and gas resource. Section 6 of the lease restricts lease rights granted by requiring protection of other resources during development of the oil and gas. If it is necessary to restrict the rights more than in the standard lease contract, stipulations are appended to the lease. Additional restrictions needed to protect resources and values under this alternative are shown below, categorized by type of stipulation.

Stipulations are applied by legal description to oil and gas leases on the basis of standard quarter-quarter sections (40 acres) or lots. That is, any lease parcel containing at least a quarter-quarter section or lot needing mitigation will have the appropriate stipulation appended to the lease document. If the parcel of land needing mitigation is smaller than a quarter-quarter section or lot, no leasing stipulation is appended to the document since that small a parcel can be avoided by standard lease terms further defined in Code of Federal Regulations, Title 43, subpart 3101.1-2. This means that sites requiring special protection, such as a 1-acre site, do not require leasing stipulations. If, however, the same 1-acre site must have protection for one-quarter mile radius around the site, a leasing situation providing that protection would be written for the entire surrounding 40-acre square (e.g., 1/4 1/4 section).

These stipulations are evaluated for use on all Federal mineral estate regardless of surface ownership, with the exception of the Federal mineral estate underlying surface administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

Regulations covering modification and waiver of stipulations are in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 43, Subpart 3101.1-4. Generally, a waiver, exception, or modification may be approved if the record shows that circumstances or relative resource values have changed or if the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts, and that less restrictive stipulations will protect the public interest. Waivers, exceptions, or modifications can only be granted by the Authorized Officer. If the proposed waiver, exception, or modification is inconsistent with the plan, the plan will be amended or the change to the stipulation will be disallowed. Even where no exception criterion is

identified, exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis. Definitions used by the BLM for waiver, exception, and modification are in the Glossary.

Exceptions to leasing stipulations will be granted by the Authorized Officer if the reason for the exception is consistent with that analysis. No public notice is required for exceptions to lease stipulations that conform to the plan. Other possible exceptions may be granted only with a plan amendment and public notification.

Modifications to stipulations are made if and when resource management determines the stipulation is no longer effective as written. This situation occurs when new information (for example, from a monitoring program, technical data, etc.) shows that the protective measure is unnecessarily restrictive.

Modification of a stipulation requires preparation of an environmental assessment to determine potential impacts and plan amendment or maintenance needs. If modification is determined by the Authorized Officer to be substantial, a 30-day public notice will be given prior to modifying the lease stipulation.

Waiver means the complete elimination of a stipulation from a particular lease contract. A stipulation is waived by the Authorized Officer after preparation of an environmental assessment and a decision is made that the stipulation in question is no longer required for a particular lease. The decision to waive a substantial stipulation requires a plan amendment and a 30-day public notice period prior to waiver.

Special Stipulations

The following stipulations will be added, as prescribed in this plan, to future oil and gas leases on both Federal surface and split-estate lands. Actual wording of these stipulations may be adjusted at the time of leasing to reflect future legislation, court decisions, or policy changes; however, the protection standards in these stipulations will be maintained. Any change to the protection content of the stipulation will require an amendment to the RMP/EIS.

I. No Surface Occupancy Stipulations (NSO) Alternative D

The No Surface Occupancy stipulation is intended for use only when other stipulations are determined insufficient to adequately protect the public interest. The plan analysis shows that less restrictive stipulations are inadequate to protect the resource in question. These resources/values to be protected were also considered for no leasing areas, but it is determined that No Surface Occupancy is adequate for resource/value protection. An NSO stipulation is not needed if desired protection does not require relocation of proposed operations by more than 200 meters (43 CFR 3101.1-2).

The Uniform Oil and Gas Lease Stipulation Format, shown in Figure B-1, will be used to append all new NSO stipulations to the lease document.

NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY STIPULATION

No Surface Occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below (legal subdivision or other description)

For the purpose of:

Any change to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance of the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1950 and 2820.)

Form#/Date

Figure B-1
Uniform Oil and Gas Lease Stipulation Format

1. Where oil and gas development would likely be incompatible with coal extraction: This stipulation may be waived without a plan amendment if the lessee agrees that the drilling of a well will be subject to the following conditions: (1)(a) well must be plugged when the mine approaches within 500 feet of the well, and re-entered or redrilled upon completion of the mining operation; (b) well must be plugged in accordance with Mine Safety and Health Administration (Formerly Mine Enforcement and Safety Administration) Informational Report 1052; (c) operator will provide accurate location of where the casing intercepts the coal by providing a directional and deviation survey of the well to the coal operator; or (2) relocate well into a permanent pillar or outside the area to be mined. A suspension of operations and production will be considered for the oil and gas lease only when a well is drilled and later plugged, and a new well or re-entry is planned when the mine moves through the location.

2. The following areas will have NSO stipulations appended to leases issued within them for the protection of scenic, natural, and cultural values and resources. No exception criterion is identified.

- Lake DeWeese Recreation Area R&PP
- St. Scholastica R&PP site
- Deer Mountain Fire Station R&PP
- Odd Fellows Lodge R&PP
- Developed Recreation Sites
- Reservoir Rights-of-Way
- Garden Park ACEC
- Mosquito Pass ACEC
- High Mesa Grasslands ACEC
- Droney Gulch ACEC

3. The following areas will have NSO stipulations appended to leases issued within them for the protection of improvements and avoidance of refuse disposal areas. No exception criteria identified.

Chaffee County Landfill R&PP
Park County Landfill R&PP

4. Raptors (includes golden eagle and osprey, all accipiters, butteos, owls, and falcons except kestrel). Raptors listed and protected by the *Endangered Species Act* are addressed separately. NSO within one-eighth mile radius of nest site.

Exception for raptor nest site. The NSO area may be altered depending on the active status of the nest site or the geographical relationship of topographic barriers and vegetation screening to the nest site.

5. Mexican Spotted Owl. NSO within one-half mile radius of the confirmed roost site and nesting site.

There are no exceptions for confirmed sites.

6. Lesser Prairie Chicken. NSO within one-quarter mile radius of a lek site (courtship area).

Exception for lek sites. The NSO area may be altered depending on the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the lek site.

II. Timing Limitation Stipulations (TL) Alternative D

The Timing Limitation (often called seasonal) Stipulation (Figure B-2) prohibits fluid mineral exploration and development activities for time periods less than year-long. The dates and location(s) limiting activity are as specific as possible. A timing limitation stipulation is not necessary if the time limitation involves the prohibition of new surface disturbing operations for periods of less than 60 days (43 CFR 3101.1-2).

Timing limitations shorter than 60 days do not require a lease stipulation. The restriction is added directly to the field operation approval as a Condition of Approval and may be noted on the lease as Lease Notices. In those cases, however, where two or more time restrictions combine or overlap to form a restriction of more than 60 days, the closure will be attached to the lease as a stipulation, as a matter of Colorado BLM policy. Additional restrictions of 60 days or less may still be added to field operations for protection of resources/values other than those stipulated.

TIMING LIMITATION STIPULATION

No surface use is allowed during the following time period(s) on the lands described below. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

For the purpose of:

Any change to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance of the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1950 and 2820.)

Form#/Date

Figure B-2

Uniform Oil and Gas Lease Stipulation Format

1. Big Game Critical Winter Habitat - December 1 to April 30

Big game species (includes species of mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep). Note: Critical winter habitat includes severe big game winter range or other definable winter ranges as mapped by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Exception for big game critical winter habitat. Under mild winter conditions, the last 60 days of the seasonal limitation period may be suspended. Severity of the winter will be determined on the basis of snow depth, snow crusting, daily mean temperatures, and whether animals were concentrated on the critical winter range during the winter months.

Exception for big game critical winter habitat. This limitation may or may not apply to work requiring a Sundry Notice pending environmental analysis of any operational or production aspects.

2. Big Game Birthing Areas: (by species)

Elk calving and deer fawning - April 16 to June 30

Pronghorn antelope fawning - May 1 to July 15

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep lambing - May 1 to July 15

Exception for big game birthing areas. When it is determined through a site-specific environmental analysis that specific actions would not interfere with critical habitat function or compromise animal condition within the project vicinity, the restriction may be altered or removed.

3. Mexican Spotted Owl

Mexican spotted owl nesting and fledgling habitat - February 1 to July 31.

The Mexican spotted owl has been listed as a threatened species by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The following habitat management guidelines and restrictions will be used to protect the Mexican spotted owl. These guidelines are adopted from

Appendix B

the interim timber harvest management guidelines issued by the Forest Service, Southwest Region (Federal Register, Vol. 54, No. 124, June 29, 1989).

Restriction for Mexican spotted owl habitat. Core habitat areas are nesting, feeding, and roosting areas and are not considered to be overlapping. The Mexican spotted owl territory is estimated at 2,000 acres. In core areas, 450 acres, with multiple sightings of the Mexican spotted owl but with no confirmed nest or roost sites, surface disturbance activities are restricted within the 450 acres of the total territory (2,000 acres). On the remaining acreage within the Mexican spotted owl territory, other surface activities are allowed pending impact assessments through the environmental analysis process.

In areas with a confirmed nest and roost site, surface management activities will be limited and will be determined on a case-by-case basis to allow as much flexibility as possible outside of the core area. The core area with a confirmed nest and roost site is 1,480 acres with restricted surface disturbance activities.

There are no exceptions.

4. Bald Eagle

Winter roost site - November 16 to April 15

Restriction for bald eagle winter roost site.

The sensitivity of bald eagles to human disturbance activities requires a one-half mile buffer area around the roost site to avoid relocation to less suitable areas.

Exception for winter roost habitat. If there is partial or complete visual screening of the area of activity, the primary zone around the roost site may be reduced to one-quarter mile.

5. Peregrine Falcon

Cliff nesting complex - March 16 to July 31

Restriction for peregrine falcon cliff nesting complex. The sensitivity of peregrine falcon to human disturbance activities requires one-half mile buffer area around the nesting complex to prevent abandonment and desertion of established territories.

The following exception would apply only after formal Section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was consummated.

Exception for nesting habitat. During years when a nest site is unoccupied or unoccupied by or after May 15, the seasonal limitation may be suspended. It may also be suspended once the young have fledged and dispersed from the nest.

6. Lesser Prairie Chicken

Nesting habitat - March 1 to July 31

Restriction for lesser prairie chicken nesting habitat. This species is a threatened species in Colorado and sensitive to habitat encroachment. Limited nesting habitat is available and full protection is necessary to ensure nesting success.

Exception for nesting habitat. In the future, restrictions may be lifted if additional inventory shows shifts in nesting habitat use.

7. Least Tern and Piping Plover

Nesting habitat - April 1 to July 31

Restriction for tern and plover nesting habitat. Both species utilize similar habitats for nesting (flat, open reservoir beaches) and are extremely sensitive to disturbance. They are Federally listed as endangered and require full protection. No exceptions will apply.

8. Wild Turkey

Winter range - December 1 - April 1

Restriction for winter range. During heavy winter snows, turkeys are vulnerable to disturbances and could suffer losses if forced off winter ranges.

Exception for winter ranges. In certain areas, snows may occur irregularly and restrictions may be lifted temporarily as conditions dictate. Seasonal restrictions may apply in these areas on a case-by-case basis.

III. Controlled Surface Use Stipulations (CSU)

The Controlled Surface Use (CSU) Stipulation (Figure B-3) is intended to be used when fluid mineral occupancy and use are generally allowed on all or portions of the lease area year-round, but because of special values or resource concerns, some aspects of lease activities must be strictly controlled. The CSU stipulation is used to identify constraints on surface use or operations that may otherwise exceed the mitigation available under Section 6 of the standard lease terms, regulations, and operating orders. The CSU stipulation is less restrictive than the NSO or TL stipulations, which prohibit all occupancy and use on all or portions of a lease for all or portions of a year. The use of this stipulation should be limited to areas where restrictions or controls are necessary for specific types of activities rather than all activity.

Serial No. _____

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE OCCUPANCY STIPULATION

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special constraints on the lands described below (legal subdivision or other description):

For the purpose of:

Any change to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance of the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1950 and 2820.)

Form#/Date

Figure B-3
Uniform Oil and Gas Lease Stipulation Format

1. For the conservation of natural resources, operations proposed within the area of an approved underground coal mine will be relocated outside the area to be mined or to accommodate room and pillar mining operations. This stipulation may be waived without a plan amendment if the lessee agrees that the drilling of a well will be subject to the following conditions: (1)(a) well must be plugged when the mine approaches within 500 feet of the well; (b) well must be plugged in accordance with Mine Safety and Health Administration (formerly Mine Enforcement and Safety Administration) Informational Report 1052; (c) operator will provide accurate location of where the casing intercepts the coal by providing a directional and deviation survey of the well to the coal operator; or (2) relocate well into a permanent pillar or outside the area to be mined. A suspension of operations and production will be considered when the well is plugged and a new well is to be drilled after mining operations move through the location.

2. For the protection of perennial water impoundments and streams, and/or riparian/wetland vegetation zones, activities associated with oil and gas exploration and development including roads, transmission lines, storage facilities, are restricted to an area beyond the riparian vegetation area.

Exceptions: This stipulation may be excepted subject to an onsite impact analysis with consideration given to degree of slope, soils, importance to the amount and type of wildlife and fish use, water quality, and other related resource values.

This stipulation will not be applied where the Authorized Officer determines that relocation up to 200 meters can be applied to protect the riparian system during well siting.

3. Visual Resource Management Class II Areas: Relocation of operations more than 200 meters as required to protect visual values: Exception criteria include mitigative measures to screen operations from scenic viewsheds and restoration of disturbed areas to a condition substantially unnoticeable to casual observer.

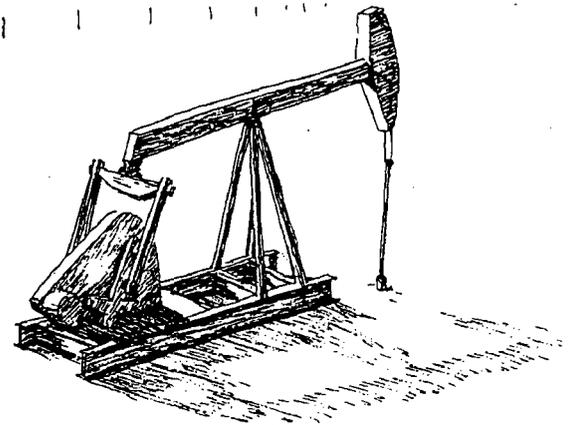
IV. Special Administrative Stipulations (SA)

These are stipulations provided by another agency or organization. BLM encourages other agencies to use the Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinating Committee's Uniform Stipulation Format, however, that is not always feasible.

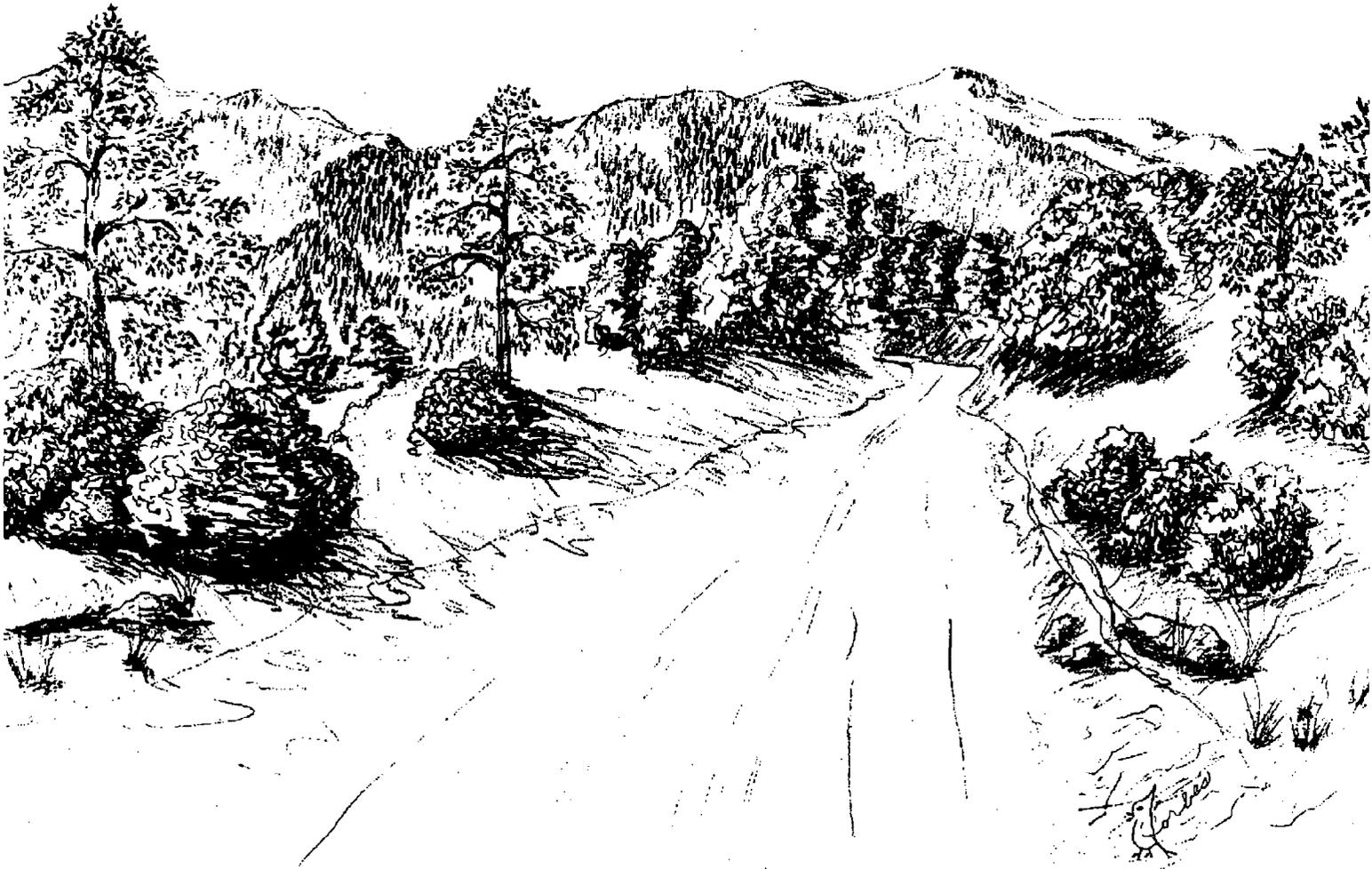
Bureau of Reclamation Lands will be subject to Special Stipulations developed by that agency. The "Special Stipulation" currently in use by the Bureau of Reclamation is available for review in the resource area office.

V. No Lease Areas (NL)

The 1920 *Mineral Leasing Act* subjects all Federally-owned mineral estate to oil and gas leasing, with certain exceptions (see 43 CFR 3100.0-3). Exceptions include units of the National Park System; incorporated towns, cities and villages; wilderness study areas; wilderness areas; and others. BLM may make discretionary closures to leasing if resource/values are of sufficient importance and there is no way to mitigate impacts through a less stringent stipulation.



APPENDIX C
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ANALYSIS



NATIONAL RECREATION AREA DESIGNATIONS

National recreation areas (NRAs) typically contain a great diversity of uses and values, but will usually have one very significant national recreation value.

No limits of size are required, although those previously established NRAs have contained substantial acreages (5,000 acres and more). The most frequently used and consistent criteria for national recreation areas were developed by the National Park Service in 1978. These areas must:

- be spacious areas containing outstanding natural and/or cultural features and providing significant recreation opportunities,
- be located and designed to achieve comparatively heavy recreation use, and location should usually contribute significantly to the recreation needs of urban populations,
- provide recreation opportunities significant enough to ensure national, as well as regional visitation, and
- provide a scale of investment, development, and operational responsibility sufficient to require either direct Federal involvement or substantial Federal participation to ensure optimum public benefit.

The Arkansas River corridor could be appropriately considered for national recreation area (NRA) status. These areas are usually established to provide for intensive management of recreational values. The land pattern on the Arkansas River is

very mixed between private, state, USFS, and BLM. Approximately 45 percent of the corridor is administered by BLM. Values relating to water-based recreation (rafting, kayaking, fishing, etc.) and upland recreation (hunting, mountain biking, mining, OHV use, etc.) would be enhanced for public use on approximately 125,000 acres administered by BLM in the corridor. This acreage, therefore, could logically be included in a potential NRA and intensively managed for recreation values. The 1991 visitor survey conducted on the Arkansas River revealed a large percentage of users want additional upland opportunities to complement river activities. Tourism provides the largest economic benefit to communities along the river corridor. According to trends occurring in other NRAs, designation could increase tourism. Minor mineral activity and livestock grazing also occur. This corridor currently is managed as a special recreation management area (SRMA) with portions (5,000 acres) managed in conjunction with Colorado DPOR as the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area for the same significant recreation values. Potentially the entire upper Arkansas Basin might be viewed as a multi-agency NRA. The recommendation to consider the Arkansas River for NRA status was developed by the Cañon City District Advisory Council during their involvement in the wild and scenic river analysis. The Arkansas River Corridor is suitable for NRA designation because of the nationally recognized water-based recreation values for which it was nominated.

Although not a decision of this resource management plan, the following example of a "bill" was developed by BLM to display suggested potential language for enabling legislation for a national recreation area. The language is intended to show how BLM would provide adequate protection for the significant national recreation values in the area.



A BILL

To establish the Arkansas Headwaters National Recreation Area in the state of Colorado, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Arkansas Headwaters National Recreation Area Establishment Act."

SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

(a) Findings. - The Congress finds that:

(1) The Arkansas River within Chaffee, Fremont, Lake, and Pueblo Counties, Colorado represents a nationally significant recreational, scenic, aquatic, riparian, geological, wildlife, cultural, economic, and scientific resource.

(2) There is a national interest in the preservation, protection, and enhancement of these resources for the benefit of the people of the United States.

(3) The conservation, enhancement, enjoyment, and utilization of the nationally significant resources of the Arkansas River corridor can be accomplished by a cooperative Federal, state, and local comprehensive planning and management effort.

(b) Purposes. - The purposes of this Act are:

(1) To conserve, protect, and enhance the significant values of the waters and lands of the Arkansas River corridor for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

(2) To encourage adequate coordination of all governmental programs affecting the land and water resources of the Arkansas River corridor.

(3) To provide a management framework to assist the Bureau of Land Management and state of Colorado and its units of local government in the development and implementation of integrated resource management programs for the Arkansas River corridor in order to ensure orderly development in the area consistent with the findings of this part.

(4) To expand upon the existing management partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and the state of Colorado.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(a) The term "Recreation Area" means the Arkansas Headwaters National Recreation Area established by Section 4.

(b) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) The term "BLM-administered lands" refers to those Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "FLPMA").

SECTION 4. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) Establishment. - There is hereby established the Arkansas Headwaters National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as the "Recreation Area").

(b) Area Included. - The Recreation Area shall consist of the Arkansas River and adjacent BLM-administered lands of the Cañon City District, Royal Gorge Resource Area, generally depicted on a map entitled "Arkansas Headwaters National Recreation Area" and comprising approximately 125,000 acres.

(c) Map and Legal Description. - As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, a map and legal description of the Recreation Area shall be filed by the Secretary with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. Such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section. Copies of such map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, and in the Office of the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

(d) Discrepancies. - In case of any discrepancy between or among the map described in subsection (c), the amount of acreage stated in subsection (b), or the legal description filed by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (c), the map described in subsection (c) shall control any question concerning boundaries of the Recreation Area.

SECTION 5. MANAGEMENT

(a) **In General.** - The Recreation Area established by this Act shall be managed by the Secretary in order to provide for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment and for the conservation of the scenic, aquatic, riparian, geological, wildlife, cultural, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such area. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Secretary shall manage the Recreation Area in a manner that in his judgment will best provide for (1) public outdoor recreation benefits; (2) conservation of scenic, aquatic, riparian, geological, wildlife, cultural, and other values contributing to public enjoyment; and (3) such management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources and the continuation of such existing uses and developments as will promote, or are compatible with, or do not significantly impair public recreation and conservation of scenic, aquatic, riparian, geological, wildlife, cultural, or other values contributing to public enjoyment. The Secretary shall manage the Recreation Area under the provisions of this Act and, where not inconsistent with this Act, by the provisions of FLPMA. The Secretary shall continue with and look for ways to enhance the existing management partnership with the state of Colorado.

(b) **Uses.** - The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Recreation Area as he finds will further the primary purposes for which the Recreation Area is established. The Secretary shall have the power to implement such reasonable limits to visitation and use of the Recreation Area as he believes appropriate for the conservation of the resources of the Recreation Area.

(c) **Application of State Water Laws.** - The jurisdiction of the State of Colorado and the United States over waters in any stream included in the Recreation Area shall be determined by established principles of law. Nothing in this subchapter shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from Colorado State water laws.

(d) **Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping.** - The Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing, and trapping within the Recreation Area in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the state of Colorado; except that the Secretary may issue regulations designating where and establishing periods when hunting, fishing, and trapping may be prohibited for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment or to further the purposes for which the Recreation Area was established.

(e) **Mechanized Vehicles.** - Except when needed for administrative or emergency purposes, the use of mechanized vehicles in the Recreation Area shall be allowed only on roads and trails specifically designated for such use as provided in the management plan prepared pursuant to Section 6.

(f) **Grazing.** - Livestock grazing within the Recreation Area shall be permitted to continue, pursuant to applicable Federal

law and subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary deems necessary.

(g) **Cooperative Agreements.** - The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate state and local agencies to better implement the plan developed pursuant to Section 6 of this Act.

SECTION 6. MANAGEMENT PLAN

(a) No later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive plan for the long-term management of the Recreation Area in order to fulfill the purposes for which the Recreation Area is established and shall utilize the current Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan as a basis for the new management plan.

(b) The management plan shall be developed with full public participation and shall include provisions designed to ensure protection of the resources and values of the Recreation Area.

(c) The current Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan and Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan shall be used as the basis for management until the completion of the management plan referenced above.

SECTION 7. ACQUISITION OF LANDS

(a) **In General.** - Within the Recreation Area, and subject to the provisions of this Act, the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands, interests in lands, and associated water rights, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(b) Lands or interests therein owned by the state of Colorado or a political subdivision thereof may be acquired by donation or exchange only.

(c) No privately owned lands, interests in lands, or associated water rights, may be acquired without the consent of the owner thereof.

(d) Any lands, waters, or interests therein within the boundaries of the Recreation Area that after the date of enactment of this Act may be acquired by the United States shall be incorporated into the Recreation Area and be managed accordingly.

SECTION 8. WITHDRAWALS

(a) Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the Recreation Area and all lands and interests that are acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act for inclusion in the Recreation Area are

hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from operation under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

SECTION 9. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) Establishment. - The Secretary shall establish an Arkansas Headwaters National Recreation Area Advisory Committee (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Advisory Committee"), whose purpose shall be to advise the Secretary with respect to the preparation and implementation of the management plan required pursuant to Section 6 of this Act.

(b) Representation. - The Secretary shall appoint members to the Advisory Committee as follows:

(1) two members to represent other agencies of the United States administering lands or waters affected by the Recreation Area, to be appointed from among persons nominated by the local head of such department or agency;

(2) two members to represent other divisions of the State Department of Natural Resources, to be appointed from nominations from the Governor of the State of Colorado;

(3) one member to represent the commercial rafting industry in Colorado;

(4) one member to represent noncommercial boating interests in Colorado;

(5) one member to represent conservation organizations in Colorado;

(6) one member to represent private property owners in the affected area;

(7) one member to represent water interests in the area;

(8) one member to represent angling interests in the area;

(9) four members to represent the governments of Chaffee, Fremont, Lake, and Pueblo Counties, to be appointed from among persons nominated by the Commissioners of those counties;

(c) Terms. - The members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for terms of 3 years, except that five of the members first appointed shall be appointed for a term of 1 year and five shall be appointed for terms of 2 years.

(d) Meetings. - The Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Recreation Area managers, with at least two meetings but not more than four meetings per year.

(e) Development of Policies and Programs. - The Advisory Committee shall assist the Secretary, the state of Colorado, and local units of government, endeavoring to use existing Federal, state, regional and local plans and programs where consistent with the intent and goals of this Act, in developing the following:

(1) Policies and programs for the conservation and enhancement of the environmental values of the Recreation Area.

(2) Policies and programs for enhanced public outdoor recreation opportunities in the Recreation Area.

(3) Policies and programs for the conservation and protection of the scenic, aquatic, riparian, geological, wildlife, cultural and scientific values of the Recreation Area.

(4) Policies and programs for the commercial utilization of the Recreation Area and its related natural resources, consistent with the protection of the values for which the Recreation Area is established.

SECTION 10. WILDERNESS

(a) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) the following lands in the state of Colorado are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain lands in the Royal Gorge Resource Area administered by the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 6,604 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Browns Canyon Wilderness Proposal," dated _____, and which shall be known as the Browns Canyon Wilderness.

(b) The Congress hereby accepts the recommendation of the Bureau of Land Management on the nonsuitability of the McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Area (CO-050-013) and releases the 16,650 acres from interim wilderness management.

SECTION 11. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

(a) Protection of Existing Project. - Nothing in this Act shall impair or affect the requirements of Public Law 87-590 or otherwise affect the authorities of any department or agency of the United States to accomplish the project purposes of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. In releasing water from such project, in order to protect public health

and safety, and to provide for enjoyment of the resources within the Recreation Area, other departments and agencies of the United States shall cooperate with the Secretary to facilitate and enhance whitewater recreational use and other recreational uses of the Recreation Area.

(b) New Project Construction. - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall not license the construction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works within or directly affecting the Recreation Area, and no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which the Recreation Area was established.

(c) Existing Withdrawals. - This Act immediately revokes any and all waterpower withdrawals, reservoir site withdrawals, and dam site withdrawals within the Recreation Area.

(d) Excluded Lands. - Excluded lands refer to those areas identified on the map referenced in Section 4(b), that are specifically excluded from the Recreation Area.

SECTION 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

GLOSSARY



GLOSSARY

Allotment Management Plan. A concisely written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures, if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment.

Acre-Foot. A unit for measuring volume, equal to the quantity of water or other material required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot or a volume of 43,560 cubic feet.

Alluvium. Unconsolidated rock or soil material deposited by running water, including gravel, sand, silt, clay, and various mixtures of these.

Allotment Management Action. A specific action stated within an allotment management plan.

Animal Unit Month (AUM). The forage needed to support one cow or cow/calf pair, one horse, or five sheep for a month or two elk, five deer, or nine antelope for the same period of time (approximately 900 lbs. of forage).

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). An area within the public lands where special management attention is required: (1) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes; or (2) to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Areal. A specified area of land or water defined by square feet or acres.

Avoidance. A partial or complete redesign or relocation of a proposed land use to prevent a potential adverse effect from occurring.

Back-Country Vehicle. Any motorized vehicle for cross-country travel over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

Biodiversity. The variety of life forms, the genetic diversity contained, and the ecological functions performed.

Biological Perpetuation. Management of aquatic habitat to achieve a healthy and productive ecosystem for the long-term enhancement of cold and warm water fisheries.

Birthing Area Closure. May 15 to July 1.

BLM-Administered Land. Land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Canopy. The continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crowns of adjacent trees and other woody growth.

Conditions of Approval. Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which an Application for Permit to Drill or a Sundry Notice is approved.

Contiguous. Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary; lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

Controlled Surface Use. Use and occupancy are allowed (unless restricted by another stipulation), but identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. This is used for operating guidance, not as a substitute for the NSO or seasonal stipulations.

Critical Winter Range Closure. Lands identified as critical to big game during winter months (December 15 through March 31).

Cultural Resources. Fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activity reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and natural features that were of importance in human events.

Glossary (Continued)

Desired Plant Community. A plant community, which produces the kind, proportion, and amount of vegetation necessary for meeting or exceeding the land use plan/activity plan objectives established by an interdisciplinary team for an ecological site or group of sites. The desired plant community must be consistent with the capability of the sites to produce the desired vegetation through management, land treatment, or a combination of the two.

Ecological Status. The present state of vegetation and soil protection of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community for the site. Vegetation status is the expression of the relative degree of which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble that of the potential natural community. Classes or ratings used describe in ecological rather than utilization terms. For example, some agencies are utilizing four classes of ecological status ratings (early seral, mid-seral, late seral, potential natural community) of vegetation corresponding to 0-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, and 76-100% of the potential natural community standard. Soil status is a measure of present vegetation and litter cover relative to the amount of cover needed on the site to prevent accelerated erosion.

Ecosystem. Collectively, all populations in a community, plus the associated environmental factors.

Endangered Species. Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its ranges.

Environmental Assessment (EA). A report analyzing the impacts of some proposed action on a given environment. It is similar to an environmental impact statement (EIS) except it is generally smaller in scope and makes recommendations for action. EAs are sometimes preliminary to EISs.

Eolian. Pertaining to, caused by, or carried by the wind.

Ephemeral Stream. A stream that flows occasionally because of surface runoff, but is not influenced by permanent ground water.

Erosion. The process by which soil particles are detached and moved.

Exception. Case-by-case exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation continues to apply to all other sites within the leasehold to which the restrict criteria applies.

Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM administrative units where recreation management is only one of several management objectives and where limited commitment of resources is required to provide extensive and unstructured type of recreation activities.

Flyway. An established air route of migratory birds.

Forb. A nonwoody herbaceous plant.

Fragile Soil. Category of problem sites composed of soils that have moderate to high water holding capacities, moderate to slow permeability, and can be severely degraded by compaction, slumping and sliding, and erosion.

Fragile Soil/Slope Gradient. Problem sites where unstable landforms and unstable or erosive soils are made more vulnerable to degradation by steep slopes.

Game Species. Those species legally harvested for sport.

Geographical Reference Area. A unit of specified land area, which is assigned a set of management directions within this land use plan.

Groundwater. Water beneath the land surface, in the zone of saturation.

Habitat. A specific set of physical conditions that surrounds the single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

Glossary (Continued)

Habitat Management Plan (HMP). A written and approved activity plan for a geographical area of public lands identifying wildlife habitat management actions to be implemented in achieving specific objectives related to planning document decisions.

Hazard Sites/Areas. Locations on BLM-administered lands that potentially pose a hazardous situation for the users.

Hazardous Materials. Substances that may be encountered on BLM-administered lands and would be potentially harmful to users.

Imprint. A mark or evidence left by man.

Integrated Activity Plan (IAP). An activity level plan completed for more than one resource in a given area/site, usually when conflicts or potential conflicts could occur between various resource activities.

Intermittent Stream. A stream that does not flow year-round but has some association with ground water for surface or subsurface flow.

Intrusion. A feature (land and water form, vegetation, or structure) that is generally considered out of context with the characteristic landscape.

Land Tenure Opportunity. A willing seller offers BLM non-Federal land, either as a donation, purchase, or exchange, which would result in a public benefit.

Lease (fluid). A contract in legal form that provides for the right to develop and produce fluid resources for a specific period of time under certain agreed upon terms and conditions.

Leasable Minerals. Oil, gas, sodium, potassium, phosphate, coal, oil shale, tar sands, asphaltic materials, and, in Louisiana and New Mexico, sulphur and all minerals on the Outer Continental Shelf, and on acquired lands.

Locatable Minerals. Minerals or materials subject to disposal and development through the Mining Law of 1872 (as amended). Generally includes metallic minerals such as gold and silver and other materials not subject to lease or sale.

Management Framework Plan (MFP). Land use plan for BLM-administered lands, which provides a set of goals, objectives, and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource.

Management Situation Analysis (MSA). An analysis by the Bureau of Land Management used for making land management decisions that are responsive to public issues to determine the capability of public land resources. This is available for review in the Cañon City District Office.

Management Use. The category applied to any cultural property considered most useful for controlled experimental study that would result in its physical alteration.

Mbf. Thousand board feet.

Mineral Estate. The ownership of the right to all or certain minerals in the land, or reservation of fractional interest in all or certain minerals in perpetuity or for a specified period of time.

Mineral Materials/Salable Minerals. Minerals, such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, cinders, pumice, pumicite, and clay that may be acquired under the *Materials Act* of 1947, as amended.

Modification. Fundamental change to the provisions of a lease stipulation, either temporarily or for the term of the lease. A modification may, therefore, include an exemption from or alteration to a stipulated requirement. Depending on the specific modification, the stipulation may or may not apply to all other sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria applies.

Glossary (Continued)

MSA. See Management Situation Analysis.

National Register of Historic Places. The official list, established by the *National Historic Preservation Act* of 1966, of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The register lists archaeological, historic, and architectural properties (i.e., districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects) nominated for their local, state, or national significance by state or Federal agencies and approved by the National Register staff.

Native Water. Water located in the original basin or drainage.

No Surface Occupancy. A fluid mineral leasing stipulation that prohibits occupancy or disturbance of all or part of the lease surface in order to protect special values. Fluid resources may be developed by directional drilling.

Nongame Species. Those species not commonly harvested for sport.

Nonuse. Allowable livestock grazing use (in AUMs) that is authorized but is not to be used during a given time period. Nonuse is applied for and authorized on an annual basis.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV). This term replaces off-road vehicle (ORV) and is all inclusive of unsurfaced roads. OHV includes any vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain.

OHV Designations. Three categories of designations (open, limited, and closed) used for administration by BLM to control vehicular use.

OHV Open Areas. Locations on BLM-administered lands with no limitations nor restrictions to full use and travel of off-highway vehicles.

OHV Limited Areas. Locations on BLM-administered lands with some form of limitation or restriction for the full use and travel of off-highway vehicles (i.e., seasonally limited travel or restrictions of travel to designated roads and trails only).

OHV Closed Areas. Locations on BLM-administered lands where absolutely no use nor travel of off-highway vehicles is allowed.

Perennial Stream. A stream that has year-round surface flows.

Permeability. The condition of being porous; containing openings or interstices through which outside properties can pass.

Public Use. The category applied to any cultural property that is appropriate for consideration as an interpretive exhibit in place.

Range Condition. Current productivity of a range relative to what that range is naturally capable of producing.

Raptors. Birds of prey, such as hawks, owls, and eagles. One of the behavior characteristics of these animals is to return, year after year, to the same nesting area. Accordingly, the nesting sites of these protected species should be retained with minimal human disturbance.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). A method for classifying the land by setting opportunity, according to the ability of the land to provide various types of physical, social, and managerial settings to satisfy the desires and expected behavioral preferences of the users.

Reforestation Problems. Problem sites where two or more types of interfering conditions may cause seedling mortality during the first several growing seasons. High soil temperature, droughty conditions, unshaded southern and western slopes, competing vegetation, animal damage, or wind and frost damage are examples of such conditions.

Glossary (Continued)

- Rights-of-Way Corridor.** A designated parcel of land, either linear or areal in character, that has been identified through the land use planning process as the preferred location for existing and future major right-of-way grants and suitable to accommodate more than one type of right-of-way or one or more rights-of-way that are similar, identical, or compatible. An area open for a major utility line defined as a powerline greater than 69 kilowatts or a surface-disturbing activity that is greater than 5 feet in width.
- Riparian Area.** An area of land directly influenced by permanent water, which has visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of this permanent water influence.
- Riprap.** A loose assemblage of broken rock erected in water or on soft ground as a foundation.
- Riverine.** Pertaining to or resembling a river. Located on or inhabiting the banks of a river (i.e., riparian).
- Royal Gorge Planning Area Boundary.** The portion within the area boundary identified for study in the resource management plan; i.e., exclude most of the land administered by other Federal agencies.
- Salable Minerals.** See Mineral Materials..
- Scientific Use.** The category applied to any cultural property determined suitable for consideration as the subject of scientific or historical study utilizing currently available research techniques.
- Sediment Yield.** The amount of sediment given up by a watershed over a specified time period, usually a year. Ordinarily, it is expressed as tons, acre-feet, or cubic yards of sediment per unit of drainage per year.
- Seral Stage.** The developmental stage of an ecological succession.
- Soil Association.** A mapping unit used on general soil maps in which two or more defined taxonomic units occurring together in a characteristic pattern are combined because the scale of the map or the purpose for which it is being made does not require delineation of the individual soils.
- Solitude.** The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolations. A lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.
- Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).** Areas requiring specific recreation management to achieve the Bureau recreation objectives and to provide specific recreation opportunities. Special management areas are identified in the RMP, which also defines the management objectives for the area. BLM recreation investments are concentrated in these areas.
- Special Stipulations.** Additional specific terms and conditions that change the manner in which operations may be conducted on a lease or modify the lease rights granted.
- Split Estate.** Lands where the surface and mineral estates have been severed and are under different ownership (i.e., private surface/Federal minerals).
- Sustained Yield.** The achievement and maintenance, in perpetuity, of a high level of annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use. Amount of resource harvested normally equals the amount grown since the previous harvest.
- Supplemental Program Guidance (SPG).** Program specific guidance for resource management planning from the 1620 series of the BLM manual.
- Threatened Species.** Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range: satisfactory = > 75 percent; unsatisfactory = < 75 percent.
- Transmountain Water.** Water that has been diverted from the original basin or drainage as a result of water development.
- Vegetation Management Goals.** The overall vegetative prescription for specific units of BLM-administered lands.

Glossary (Continued)

Vegetation Management Status. The relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of vegetation in the existing plant community resemble the desired plant community for an ecological site.

Vista. A panoramic scenic view from one or more vantage points.

Visual Resource. The land, water, vegetation, animal, and other features that are visible on all lands.

Waiver. Permanent exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation no longer applies anywhere within the leasehold.

Wetlands. Permanently wet or intermittently flooded areas where the water table (fresh, saline, or brackish) is at, near, or above the soil surface for extended intervals, where hydric wet soil conditions are normally exhibited and where water depths generally do not exceed two meters.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA). A roadless area, which has wilderness characteristics (thus having the potential of being included in the National Wilderness Preservation System), and which has been subjected to intensive analysis by the Bureau and public review to determine wilderness suitability and is not yet the subject of a congressional decision regarding designation as wilderness.

Withdrawal. An action that restricts the use of public land and segregates the land from the operation of some or all of the public land or mineral laws. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction of management to other Federal agencies.

Woodland. Forested land not capable of producing commercial sawtimber, but can and does produce forest products like firewood, transplants, posts and poles, etc.