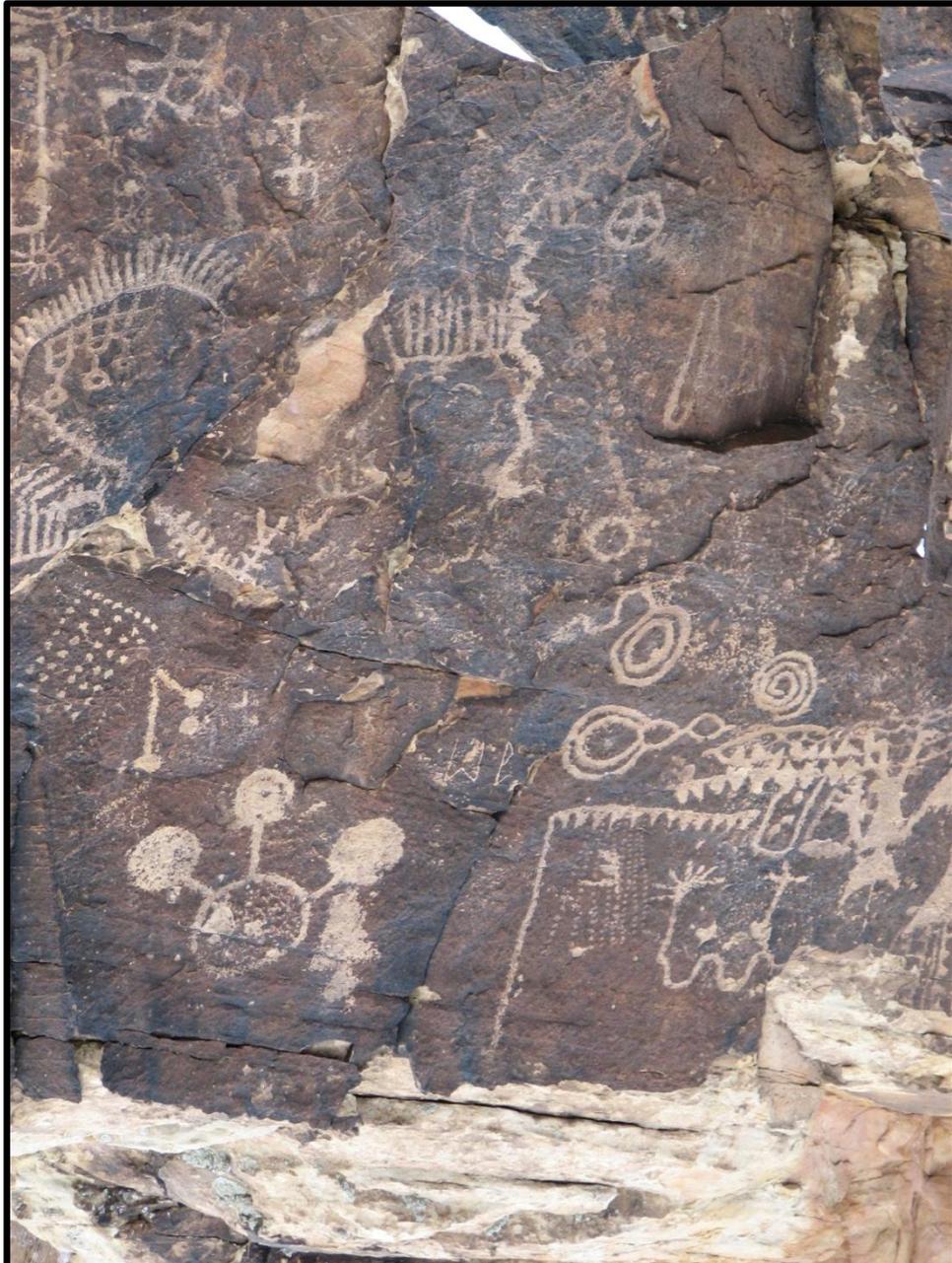


DRAFT EVALUATION REPORT
for
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Cedar City Resource Management Plan



Cedar City Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
April 2013

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INTRODUCTION

This report documents the process used to evaluate nominations for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) considered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in completing the Cedar City Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP). BLM staff evaluated 23 nominations for ACECs, totaling 1,036,655 public land acres within the Cedar City Field Office. Of these, 8 areas totaling 516,013 acres were determined to contain relevant and important values and were identified as potential ACECs to be considered further in the RMP.

BACKGROUND

BLM is directed by law, regulation, and policy to consider designating and protecting ACECs when developing land use plans.

The Law: FLPMA

In the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary shall...give priority to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern.

—Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), Title II, Sec 202(c) 3

The term “areas of critical environmental concern” (often referred as “ACECs”) means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

—FLPMA, Title I, Sec 103(a)

The Regulation: 43 CFR 1610.7-2

To be a potential ACEC, both of the following criteria shall be met:

- *Relevance:* There shall be present a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value; a fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process; or a natural hazard.
- *Importance:* The above described value, resource, system, process, or hazard shall have substantial significance and values. This generally requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern.

The Policy: BLM Manual 1613

BLM Manual 1613 provides direction for identifying, analyzing, designating, monitoring, and managing ACECs. Key points include:

- The ACEC designation indicates to the public that the BLM recognizes that an area has significant values and has established special management measures to protect those values.

- Designation of ACECs is only done through the resource management planning process, either in an RMP itself or in a plan amendment.
- To be designated as an ACEC, an area must require special management attention to protect the importance and relevance values.
- Potential ACECs are identified as early as possible in the planning process.
- Existing ACECs are subject to reconsideration when plans are revised.
- Members of the public or other agencies may nominate an area for consideration as a potential ACEC. BLM personnel are encouraged to recommend areas for consideration as ACECs.
- No formal or special procedures are associated with nomination.
- An interdisciplinary team evaluates each resource or hazard to determine if it meets the relevance and importance criteria. The field manager approves the relevance and importance criteria.
- If an area is found not to meet the relevance and importance criteria, the analysis supporting that conclusion must be included in the RMP and associated environmental impact statement (EIS).

SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION PROCESS

EXISTING ACECS

There are no existing ACECs in the Cedar City Field Office area.

ACEC NOMINATIONS

Twenty-three ACEC nominations were received during scoping for the RMP. (See Nominated ACECs Map, Appendix A). Nominations were submitted by the BLM, The Wilderness Society (TWS), the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the State of Utah, and the Utah Professional Archeological Council (UPAC). Nominations were evaluated in accordance with *BLM Manual 1613, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*. Evaluated values meeting the relevance and importance criteria were carried forward into the potential ACECs.

Table 1. Nominated ACECs

Nominated Area	Acres	County
Black Mountains Utah Prairie Dog (State of Utah)	76,728	Iron
Black Mountains Utah Prairie Dog (USFWS)	76,728	Iron
Buckskin Valley Utah Prairie Dog (State of Utah)	6,330	Iron
Buckskin Valley Utah Prairie Dog (USFWS)	6,330	Iron
Parowan Gap Cultural (BLM)	22,262	Iron
Parowan Gap Wildlife (BLM)	29,509	Iron
Parowan Gap (SUWA)	31,526	Iron
Stateline Mining District (BLM)	29	Iron
Gold Springs Mining District (BLM)	80	Iron
Modena Obsidian (UPAC)	66,236	Iron
Sand Cliff Springs (BLM)	109	Iron
Pinyon Penstemon (BLM)	5291	Iron
Spring Creek (BLM)	5334	Iron
Great Basin Core Sage Grouse Habitat (TWS)	550,625	Beaver/Iron
South Central Core Sage Grouse Habitat (TWS)	273,250	Beaver/Iron
Tushar Slopes (UPAC)	82,284	Beaver/Iron
South Wah Wah Mountains (SUWA)	35,458	Beaver
Pine Valley Utah Prairie Dog (USFWS)	97,667	Beaver
Ponderosa Pine (BLM)	41,592	Beaver/Iron

Frisco Charcoal Kilns (BLM)	936	Beaver
Mineral Mountains Obsidian (UPAC)	23,277	Beaver
Beaver River (UPAC)	3,311	Beaver
Mineral Mountains (SUWA)	81,489	Beaver
Total*	1,036,655	

*Total does not include overlapping acres

POTENTIAL ACECS

Following evaluation by the BLM, 14 nominated areas were found to contain relevant and important values. These areas were combined into 8 potential ACECs totaling 516,013 acres (see Potential ACECs map, Appendix B). Potential ACECs may be smaller than the nominated ACEC because the relevant and important values are found in only parts of the nominated area. A list of all of the nominated ACECs, areas found to have relevance and importance (Considered ACECs) and the final potential ACECs are contained in Appendix C. The nomination evaluation forms are contained in Appendix D.

Table 1. Potential ACECs

Potential ACEC Name	Acreage	County
Eastern Wildlife (includes the Black Mountains UPD, South Central Core, and Buckskin Valley UPD nominated ACECs).	297,724	Beaver/Iron
Pinyon Penstemon	5,291	Iron
Spring Creek Canyon	5,334	Iron
Parowan Gap (includes the CCFO Parowan Gap, CCFO Parowan Gap Wildlife, and SUWA Parowan Gap ACEC nominations).	31,346	Iron
Western Wildlife (includes the Great Basin Core, Pine Valley UPD, and part of SUWA South Wah Wah ACEC nominations)	126,385	Beaver/Iron
Granite Peak (Mineral Mountains)	5,812	Beaver
Wah Wah Mountains Ponderosa Pine	41,592	Beaver/Iron
Mineral Mountains Obsidian	2,529	Beaver
Total	516,013	

CONSULTATION WITH COOPERATORS

The potential ACECs were presented to the Cooperating Agencies in a workshop held in November 2011. Comments were received from the cooperating agencies at that time.

ACECS IN WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

ACEC designation shall not be used as a substitute for a wilderness suitability recommendation. If an ACEC is proposed within or adjacent to a Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the RMP ... “shall provide clear direction of the relationship of the ACEC to the recommendations being made for the WSA. The relationship shall be described to the level of detail required to avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation by the public.”—*BLM Manual 1613.33D*

“Where ACEC values and wilderness characteristics coincide, the special management associated with an ACEC, if designated, may also protect wilderness characteristics.”—*IM-2003-275*

CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL ACECS IN THE DRAFT RMP/EIS

The Draft RMP/EIS will consider a complete range of alternatives for ACEC designation. This will include an alternative that would designate all potential ACECs, as well as an alternative that designates none of the potential ACECs. The environmental consequences of the proposals under each alternative, including threats of irreparable damage, will be evaluated in Chapter 4 of the Draft RMP/EIS.

RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE CRITERIA

THE TASK

The task of evaluating the ACEC nominations was done by the land use planning interdisciplinary team. The evaluation was conducted based on guidance in BLM Manual 1613, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The team's job was to -

- Identify which potentially relevant values meet the relevance criteria;
- Determine which relevant values meet the importance criteria;
- Identify special management to protect and manage relevant and important values;
- Map the area(s) of relevance and importance. These maps define the potential ACECs that will be considered in the Draft EIS;

1) Identifying Potentially Relevant Values

The team reviewed each of the 23 ACEC nominations to identify potentially relevant values. Only the values identified in the nominations were evaluated for relevance.

2) Determining Relevance

Potentially relevant values were evaluated based on guidance in 43 CFR 1610.7-2, *Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*, and BLM Manual 1613, *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*. Only one value had to meet one of the relevance criteria for the area to be considered further for importance. If the evaluation concluded that none of the values for a nominated area met any of the relevance criteria, the area was dropped from further evaluation.

Historic, Cultural, or Scenic Values

A historic or cultural value was determined relevant if it was determined to be a—

- Rare or sensitive archeological resource,
- Religious or cultural resource important to Americans Indians,
- Significant historic or cultural resource by the staff archaeologist.

A scenic value was determined relevant if it was inventoried as Class A scenery by the BLM.

Fish and Wildlife Resources

A fish and wildlife resource was determined relevant if it was—

- Habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species,
- Habitat essential for maintaining species diversity.

A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity) was judged relevant if it or its habitat was documented as present within the nominated area.

Natural Processes or Systems

Nominated natural processes or systems (e.g., plants, riparian areas, and geologic processes) were considered relevant if they were present within the nominated area and included the following:

- Endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species (documented occurrences and/or habitat within nominated area)
- Rare, endemic or relict terrestrial, aquatic or riparian plants or plants communities (documented occurrences and/or habitat within nominated area)
- Rare geological features.

Natural Hazards

There were no nominations for this category.

3) Determining Importance

Only values determined relevant were evaluated for importance. Generally, the value, resource, system, process, or hazard described as relevant had to have substantial significance and values to meet the importance criteria.

Significant Qualities

For a relevant resource (or value, system, process, or hazard) to be judged important, it had to have more than locally significant qualities that gave it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.

Special Values and Threats

The relevant resource (value, system, process or hazard) was important if it had qualities or circumstances in the nominated area that made it—

- Fragile
- Sensitive
- Rare
- Irreplaceable
- Exemplary
- Unique
- Endangered
- Threatened
- Vulnerable to adverse change.

Determinations of special values, threats, and vulnerability to adverse change were made by staff specialists and the interdisciplinary team.

National Priority

The relevant resource (or value, system, process, or hazard) was determined important if it warranted special protection:

- Satisfy national priority concerns
- Carry out the mandates of FLMPA.

Safety and Public Welfare

A relevant resource (or value, system, process, or hazard) was considered important if it had qualities that warranted highlighting it to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.

Threat to Life and Property

The resource (or value, system, process, or hazard) poses a significant threat to human life and safety or property.

4) Special Management

Suggested special management was developed to address, mitigate, or prevent identified threats. Suggested management requiring a land use plan decision was considered in the RMP.

5) Mapping Potential ACECs

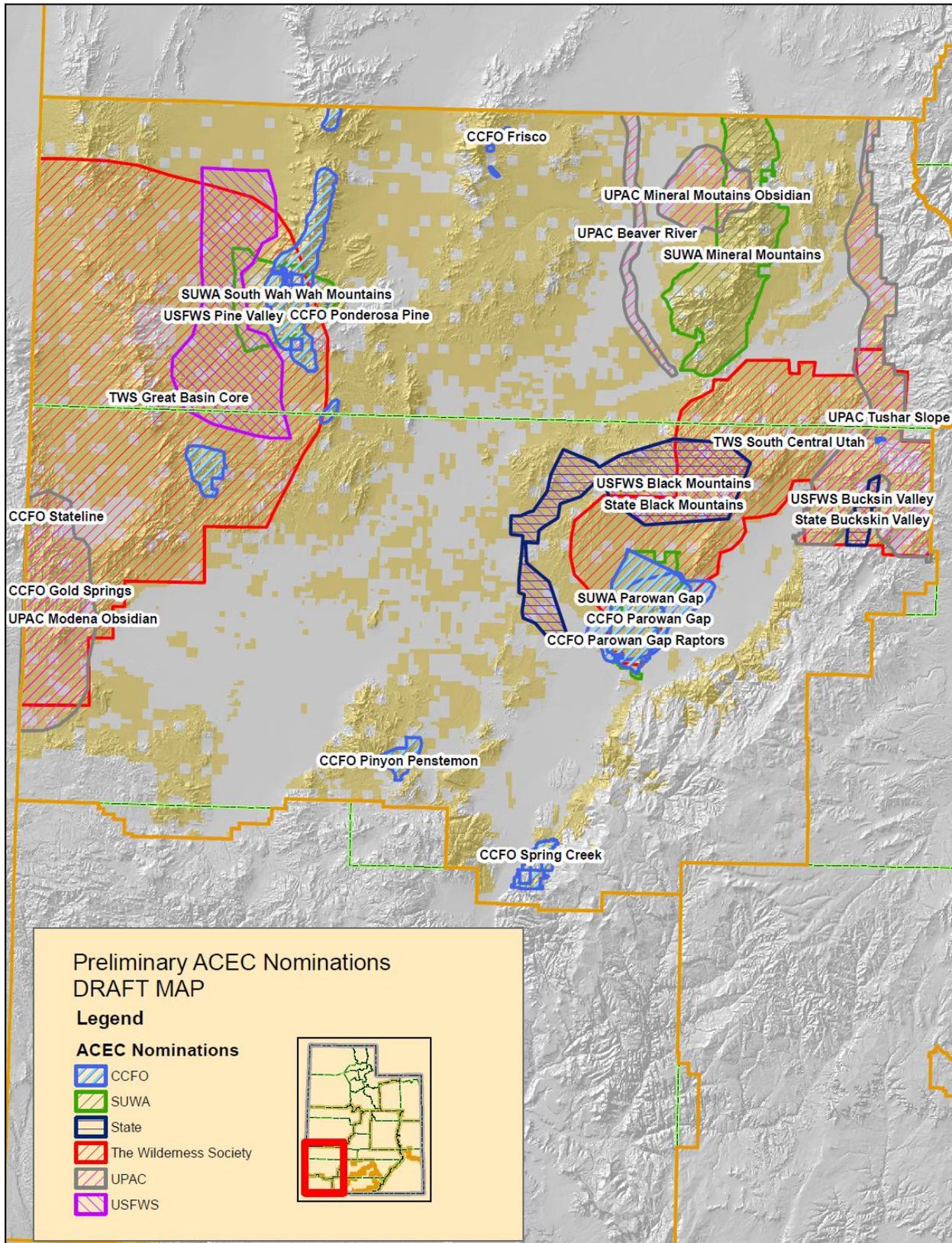
Values identified as having relevance and importance provided a basis for the potential ACECs. In all cases, the BLM interdisciplinary team determined that the boundary of the potential area was different than the nominated area (see rationale included in Attachment D). The potential ACECs will be carried into Alternative B in the draft DEIS of the RMP. Other alternatives may include none or some of the potential ACECs. All potential ACECs will be evaluated in the DEIS.

6) Evaluation of Existing ACEC

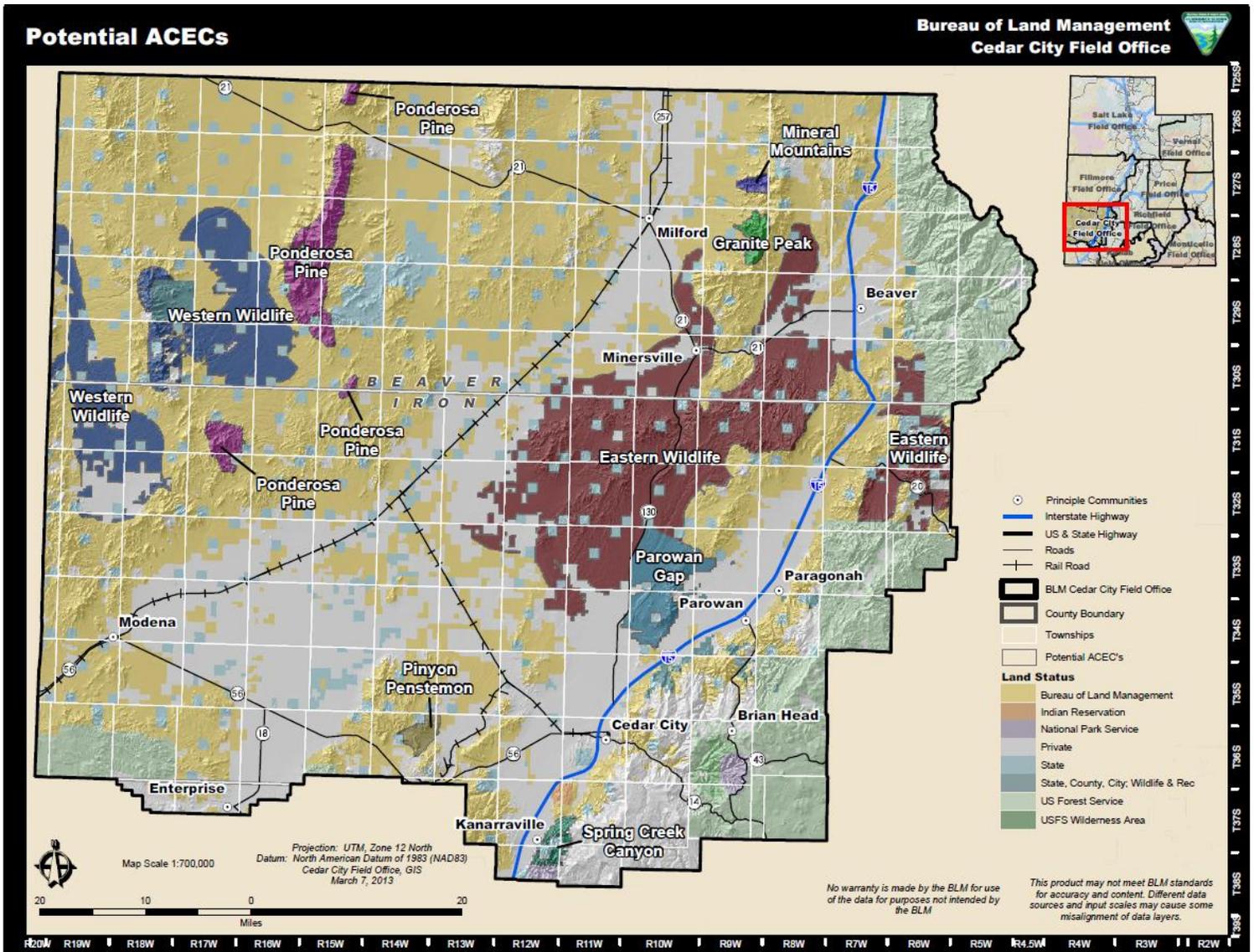
No ACECs currently exist in the Cedar City Field Office area.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. MAP OF NOMINATED ACECS



APPENDIX B. POTENTIAL ACECS



APPENDIX C NOMINATED, CONSIDERED AND POTENTIAL ACECS

Nominated ACECs				
Name	Resources	Submitter	BLM Acres	Comments
Black Mountains UPD	Wildlife - UPD	State of Utah	76,728	Same as USFWS
Black Mountains UPD	Wildlife - UPD	USFWS	76,728	Same as State of Utah
Buckskin Valley UPD	Wildlife - UPD	State of Utah	6,330	Same as USFWS
Buckskin Valley UPD	Wildlife - UPD	USFW	6,330	Same as State of Utah
CCFO Parowan Gap	Cultural and Wildlife	BLM	31,346	Included in PG Wildlife
Frisco Charcoal Kilns	Cultural - Historic Mining Town	BLM	936	Did not meet Importance Criteria
Gold Springs Mining District	Cultural - Historic Mining Town	BLM	80	Did not meet Importance Criteria
Great Basin Core	Wildlife	The Wilderness Society	550,625	Considered
Mineral Mountains	Scenic, Cultural/Wildlife	SUWA	81,489	Scenic Considered in Granite Peak; Cultural R&I included in Mineral Mountains Obsidian; Sage Grouse in Eastern Wildlife
Mineral Mts. Obsidian	Cultural	UPAC	23,276	Considered
Pine Valley UPD	Wildlife - UPD	USFWS	97,667	Considered
Pinyon Penstemon	Sensitive Plants	BLM	5,291	Considered
Ponderosa Pine	Forestry - Ponderosa Pine	BLM	41,592	Considered
Sand Cliff Spring Pioneer Writings	Cultural - Pioneer Writings	BLM	109	Did not meet Importance Criteria
South Central Utah	Wildlife	The Wilderness Society	273,250	Considered
Spring Creek Canyon	Wildlife - Mexican Spotted Owl	BLM	5,334	Considered
State Line Historic Mining District	Cultural - Historic Mining Town	BLM	29	Did not meet Importance Criteria
SUWA Parowan Gap	Cultural/Wildlife	SUWA	31,525	Overlaps w/BLM & TWS nominations

SUWA South Wah Wah	Cultural, Scenic, Wildlife	SUWA	35,458	R&I values contained in Ponderosa Pine, Great Basin Core and Pine Valley UPD nominations.
UPAC Beaver River	Cultural	UPAC	3,311	Did not meet Importance Criteria
UPAC Modena Obsidian	Cultural	UPAC	66,235	Did not meet Importance Criteria
UPAC Tushar Slope	Cultural	UPAC	82,284	Did not meet Importance Criteria
TOTAL			1,036,655	Deleted overlap acreage

Considered ACECs (R&I VALUES PRESENT)

Name	Resources	Submitter	Approx. Acres	Comments
Black Mountains UPD	Wildlife – UPD	State of Utah/USFWS	64,382	Included in Eastern Wildlife ACEC
Buckskin Valley UPD	Wildlife – UPD	State of Utah/USFWS	4,131	Included in Eastern Wildlife ACEC
CCFO Parowan Gap	Cultural Resources	BLM	22,262	
CCFO Parowan Gap Raptors	Wildlife	BLM	29,509	Included in Parowan Gap ACEC
Great Basin Core	Sage Grouse	The Wilderness Society	550,625	Included in the Western Wildlife ACEC
Mineral Mountains	Scenic, Cultural/Wildlife	SUWA	11,732	5,812 in Granite Peak, 2,529 in Mineral Mountains Obsidian and 3,391 in Eastern Wildlife
Mineral Mts. Obsidian	Cultural	UPAC/BLM	2,529	
Pine Valley UPD	Wildlife – UPD	USFWS	45,455	
Pinyon Penstemon	Sensitive Plants	BLM	5,291	
Ponderosa Pine	Forestry - Ponderosa Pine	BLM	41,592	
South Central Utah	Sage Grouse	The Wilderness Society	273,254	124,841 No R&I; BLM added 124,845
Spring Creek Canyon	Wildlife - Mexican Spotted Owl	BLM	5,334	
SUWA Parowan Gap	Cultural/Wildlife	SUWA	29,057	Included in Parowan Gap ACEC

SUWA South Wah Wah	Cultural, Scenic, Wildlife	SUWA	20,577	13910 in Ponderosa Pine, 6668 in Western Wildlife.
Potential ACECs (Included in Alternative B)				
Eastern Wildlife	Prairie Dog, Sage Grouse	BLM	297,724	
Western Wildlife	Prairie Dog, Sage Grouse	BLM	126,385	Contains: Great Basin Core Pine Valley UPD Part of SUWA South Wah Wah
Granite Peak (Mineral Mountains)	Scenic	BLM	5,812	
Pinyon Penstemon	Sensitive Plants	BLM	5,291	
Spring Creek Canyon	Wildlife - Mexican Spotted Owl	BLM	5,334	
Wah Wah Mountains Ponderosa Pine	Ponderosa Pine	BLM	41,592	
Mineral Mountains Obsidian	Cultural Resources	BLM	2,529	
Parowan Gap	Wildlife and Cultural	BLM	31,346	Contains: CCFO Parowan Gap CCFO Parowan Gap Wildlife SUWA Parowan Gap
		Total	516,013	

APPENDIX D EVALUATION REPORTS

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Black Mountains ACEC

ACEC Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State of Utah

Area Considered	Black Mountains ACEC
General Location	Black Mountains between Cedar City and Minersville
General Description	Includes portions of the Bald Hills, portions of the Black Mountains south of the main ridgeline, west into The Neck area and south towards Mud Springs and Horse Hollow
Acreage	76,728 public land acres.
Values Considered	Utah prairie dog and other wildlife

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 76,728 acres of public land. Relevant values were found for wildlife resources and natural systems. Important values were found for greater sage-grouse and Utah prairie dog.

During BLM's meeting with the interdisciplinary team and cooperators, it was decided to modify boundaries to more accurately reflect the location of Utah prairie dog habitat. It was agreed that BLM would make the modifications, with State of Utah and USFWS final approval. This evaluation reflects those revised boundaries. The revised acreage which was found to contain relevant and important values totaling 64,382 acres.

Portions of this nomination overlap the South Central Utah nomination. Due to overlapping nominations and boundary changes to represent where the relevant and important values actually occur, the nomination is carried forward as part of the proposed Eastern Wildlife ACEC.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Nominated for wildlife resources only.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	The area contains habitat for the Utah prairie dog, a threatened species.
	Yes	The area contains leks, brood-rearing and winter habitat for greater sage-grouse, a federal candidate species.
	Yes	The area contains habitat for pygmy rabbit, a BLM sensitive species.
	Yes	The area contains habitat for burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk, both BLM sensitive species.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Utah prairie dogs are an endemic mammal species found only in southwestern Utah. Utah prairie dogs modify their environment and in so doing provide habitat for several other species.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is the only mammal species endemic to Utah and is a federally threatened species
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse – Candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act, BLM Utah sensitive species
	No	Pygmy rabbit are found in locations throughout the field office and the populations within this area are not unique.
	No	Burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk are found in locations throughout the field office area and the populations within this area are not unique.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is federally listed as a threatened species. The Black Mountains are a “core” area within the West Desert Recovery Unit. Vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation and mineral development.
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a federal candidate species and BLM sensitive species. The CCFO is one of the southernmost populations of the species. Vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation and mineral development.
	No	Pygmy rabbit – while this species is vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation and mineral development, they are not known to be widespread within the proposed ACEC and the area is not within the core of their population within the Field Office.
	No	Burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk – these species are widespread.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Utah prairie dog - federally listed threatened species Greater sage-grouse – federal candidate species & BLM national priority
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Summary of Important Values:

The Black Mountains contain core habitat for the recovery of the Utah prairie dog. Large areas of habitat exist and fragmentation is minimal in much of the area. Several colonies were begun by translocation efforts in the 1970’s and 1980’s and are still persistent today. There are other colonies that were naturally established through dispersal events. The area also provides habitat for other special status species such as ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, pygmy rabbit, and greater sage-grouse.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential ACEC’s relevant and important values. The management actions were developed specifically to preserve these values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

R&I Values	Suggested Special Management
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased surveillance or law enforcement presence to minimize illegal shooting and poisoning • Increased educational efforts • Implement a plague management and abatement program with treatments on a regular schedule • Authorize translocations throughout the ACEC • Authorize and implement site preparation for translocation (artificial burrow systems and other items from USFWS protocol) • Surface occupancy and disturbance restrictions and limits on permanent facilities • Predator control at translocation sites • Vegetation management and maintenance that is planned and implemented on a rotating cycle throughout the ACEC • Limit motorized vehicle travel to designated roads and trails and close routes that cause physical disturbance and habitat fragmentation • Develop native seed collection guidelines • Develop range improvement standards for the ACEC • Identify and intensively manage key Utah prairie dog habitat areas and dispersal corridors within the ACEC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify a consistent revenue stream to fund the habitat management and maintenance needs• Develop long term management on an ecosystem level to ensure conservation of Utah prairie dogs, greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit and other species• Manage casual use and permitted activities• Close sensitive areas to visitors seasonally• Close portions of area to mineral leasing and apply stipulations to remainder of area• Close or limit rights-of-way within area• Consider withdrawing portions from mineral entry• Manage vegetation through restoration treatments or appropriate management prescriptions• Consider acquisition of important SITLA sections
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DRAFT

Buckskin Valley ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: USFWS and State of Utah

Area Considered	BUCKSKIN VALLEY ACEC
General Location	Buckskin Valley
General Description	East of I-15 in Iron County along Highway U-20
Acreage	6,330 public land acres.
Values Considered	Utah prairie dog and other wildlife

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 6,330 acres of public land. Relevant values were found for wildlife resources and natural systems. Important values were found for greater sage-grouse and Utah prairie dog.

During BLM's meeting with the interdisciplinary team and cooperators, it was decided to modify boundaries to more accurately reflect the location of Utah prairie dog habitat. It was agreed that BLM would make the modifications, with State of Utah and USFWS final approval. This evaluation reflects those revised boundaries. The revised acreage found to have relevant and important values totaled 4,131 acres.

Due to overlapping nominations and boundary changes to represent where the relevant and important values actually occur, this nomination is carried forward as part of the proposed **Eastern Wildlife ACEC**.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Nominated for wildlife values only.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	The area contains habitat for the Utah prairie dog, a threatened species.
	Yes	The area contains leks, brood-rearing and winter habitat for greater sage-grouse.
	No	Pygmy rabbits are not known to occur in Buckskin Valley.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Utah prairie dogs are an endemic mammal species found only in southwestern Utah. Utah prairie dogs modify their environment and in so doing provide habitat for several other species.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is the only mammal species endemic to Utah. This is the type locality for the species.
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse – Candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act, BLM Utah sensitive species

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is federally listed as a threatened species. Buckskin Valley is a “core” area within the West Desert Recovery Unit. The valley provides a connective corridor between recovery units. Vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation.
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a federal candidate species and BLM sensitive species. The CCFO is one of the southernmost populations of the species. Vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation and rights-of-way.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Utah prairie dog - federally listed threatened species Greater sage-grouse – federal candidate species & BLM national priority
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Summary of Important Values

Buckskin Valley contains core habitat for the recovery of the Utah prairie dog. The valley is mostly intact, and although fragmented by Highway U-20, it is possible for Utah prairie dogs to move throughout the valley. Utah prairie dogs were extirpated from the valley and reintroduced in the 1970's. Populations are persistent within the valley. The area also provides crucial habitat for the greater sage-grouse.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential ACEC's relevant and important values. The

management actions were developed specifically to preserve these values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

R&I Values	Suggested Special Management
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased surveillance or law enforcement presence to minimize illegal shooting and poisoning • Increased educational efforts • Implement a plague management and abatement program with treatments on a regular schedule • Authorize translocation throughout the ACEC • Authorize and implement site preparation for translocation (artificial burrow systems and other items from USFWS protocol) • Surface occupancy and disturbance restrictions and limits on permanent facilities • Predator control at translocation sites • Vegetation management and maintenance that is planned and implemented on a rotating cycle throughout the ACEC • Limit motorized vehicle travel to designated roads and trails and close routes that cause physical disturbance and habitat fragmentation • Develop native seed collection guidelines • Develop range improvement standards for the ACEC • Identify and intensively manage key Utah prairie dog habitat areas and dispersal corridors within the ACEC • Identify a consistent revenue stream to fund the habitat management and maintenance needs • Develop long term management on an ecosystem level to ensure conservation of Utah prairie dogs, greater sage-grouse, and other species • Manage casual use and permitted activities • Close sensitive areas to visitors seasonally • Close portions of area to mineral leasing and apply stipulations to remainder of area • Close or limit rights-of-way within area • Consider withdrawing portions from mineral entry • Manage vegetation through restoration treatments or appropriate management prescriptions • Consider acquisition or conservation easements on private lands

Frisco ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: BLM

Area Considered	CCFO Frisco ACEC
General Location	Approximately 12 miles west of Milford, Utah
General Description	Historic Mining District
Acreage	936 acres of public land
Values Considered	Historic and cultural

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 936 acres of public land. After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team it was found that it contains relevant and but **not** important values.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Most if not all of the historic structures and intact historic archaeological remains at the Historic Frisco Mining District are located on private land. No historic structures have been identified on BLM-administered land. Only three sites eligible to the National Register of Historic Places are within the nomination area. Additional cultural resources that are potentially eligible to the National Register may exist but will most likely not be rare or unique.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or	No	None identified within the nominated ACEC boundary.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).		
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	None identified within the nominated ACEC boundary.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified within the nominated ACEC boundary.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	No	More than locally significant historic resources may exist on private land. However, historic archaeological resources of state or national significance do not exist on BLM-administered land in this nomination area.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	None identified within the nominated ACEC boundary.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	None identified within the nominated ACEC boundary.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None identified within the nominated ACEC boundary.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	A review of the Frisco 7.5 USGS and BLM GIS land ownership layer indicates that most of the potential mine shafts are located on private land. Mine shafts on BLM and private land are being closed by the Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining.

Gold Spring and Stateline ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: BLM

Area Considered	Gold Spring and Stateline ACEC
General Location	West of Hamlin Valley and next to the Utah-Nevada border
General Description	This nomination centers on the historic buildings remaining at the mining camp of Gold Spring and the Stateline ghost town
Acreage	109 acres of public land
Values Considered	Historic and cultural

Nominated Area

This nomination area consists of two parcels for a total of 109 acres. About 80 of those acres surround some of the historic structures and remains of the abandoned mining camp of Gold Spring. The remaining 29 acres cover some of the historic structures and remains at the ghost town of Stateline. This nomination area was designed to incorporate the most visible historic and highest concentration of historic archaeological remains on public land at these two locations. These two areas are separated by approximately ten miles.

Gold Spring

Gold Spring is a good example of the small, short lived, remote mining camps that sprang up around ore deposits in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As with most of these mining camps, people moved on to new places as the mines became unprofitable to operate. This settlement together with Stateline, Deer Lodge, Nevada and Fay, Nevada represent a small gold and silver mining era in the 1890's to 1930's in southern Utah and eastern Nevada.

Included within this nomination at Gold Spring are two cabins, 5 to 6 collapsed buildings and historic roads. Gold Spring was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

Stateline

Mining at Stateline started in the 1890's and ended by 1904. Stateline is an example of a small mining town centered around 3 to 4 productive underground gold and silver mines. The community was never larger than a few hundred people with only 35 people registered in the Stateline Precinct in 1910 (Seegmiller 1998).

The nomination area around Stateline includes the remains of the town store, at least one other historic building, and historic roads.

After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team, the potential Gold Spring and Stateline ACEC Nomination Area was found to have relevant, but **not** important values.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).</p>	Yes	<p>This nomination has significant historic and cultural values. Gold Spring is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the presence of the historic buildings related to early 20th century gold mining.</p> <p>Although Stateline is not listed on the National Register, many of the features located there are potentially eligible to the National Register. The rare or sensitive archeological resources include at least two intact 19th century buildings and the potential for subsurface historic archaeological remains.</p>
<p>A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	No	None identified within the nominated ACEC boundary.
<p>A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	No	None identified within the nominated ACEC boundary.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified within the nominated ACEC boundary.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	No	Although both Gold Spring and Stateline contain National Register listed or eligible historic properties, these resources are only significant on a local level. The small population and small amount of ore extracted and processed here kept the influence of these mining operations at a local level. Neither historic site is exemplary compared to larger or more well-known historic mining sites, such as the neighboring Delamar or White Pine Mining Districts in Nevada.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The historic and cultural qualities in this nomination are not exemplary or unique.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns have been identified for this type of resource.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No public or management concerns about safety have been identified.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	The nomination area receives little visitation and does not pose a significant threat to human life or safety or to property.

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Granite Peak (Mineral Mountains) ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: SUWA

Area Considered	Mineral Mountains ACEC
General Location	Mineral Mountains
General Description	East of Milford, Utah
Acreage	81,489 public land acres.
Values Considered	Wildlife, cultural, scenic

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 81,489 acres of public land. Relevant values were found for cultural resources, wildlife resources, scenic, and natural systems. Important values were found for cultural resources, wildlife and scenic values. The area found to have relevance and importance includes 11,732 acres (5,812 acres in proposed Granite Peak ACEC, 2,529 acres in the proposed Mineral Mountains Obsidian ACEC and 3,391 acres in the proposed Eastern Wildlife ACEC).

Due to overlapping nominations and boundary changes to represent where the relevant and important values actually occur, the cultural resource values found to have relevance and importance are carried forward in the **Mineral Mountains Obsidian ACEC**. Areas in this nomination which were found to have relevance and importance for scenic values are carried forward in the **Granite Peak ACEC**. The small portion of this nomination that contains mapped greater sage-grouse habitat is carried forward as part of the proposed **Eastern Wildlife ACEC**.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).</p>	Yes	<p>Numerous sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places exist within the nomination area. These sites are concentrated around Wildhorse Canyon and the northern half of the nomination area. The southern half of the nomination contains fewer eligible sites.</p> <p>The most significant manifestation of prehistoric use in the nomination area is the obsidian quarry at Wildhorse Canyon. This quarry is one of the largest and most heavily used obsidian sources in the United States. Wildhorse Canyon Obsidian Quarry was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.</p>
	Yes	<p>Granite Peak/The Park/Rock Corral area only:</p> <p>The current Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) identifies this area as having an “A” scenic quality rating, high visual sensitivity and is present in the foreground/middle ground which categorizes the area as a VRI Class II.</p> <p>This area received an “A” scenic quality rating based on its unique landform, variable vegetation types, high contrast in seasonal coloration and is a very scarce landscape within the region.</p>
<p>A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	Yes	<p>The following species listed on the nomination form are known to occur within the area: mule deer, black bear, ferruginous hawk, peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, Utah mountain kingsnake and Townsend big-eared bat. A very small portion of the nominated area is mapped as occupied greater sage-grouse habitat.</p>
	No	<p>The following species listed on the nomination form have no known occurrence within the area, but there may be potential habitat: Williamson’s sapsucker, bald eagle, burrowing owl, Lewis’ woodpecker, Swainson’s hawk, willow flycatcher, pika, ringtail cat, Utah milksnake and Western boreal toad.</p> <p>The following species do not occur within the nominated area: osprey (nests nearby, but outside of boundaries), Utah prairie dog and Virgin River montane vole.</p>

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	The large area of the nomination encompasses a diversity of plant communities including terrestrial and riparian.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	The Wildhorse Canyon Obsidian Quarry and immediate surrounding area is more than locally significant. Obsidian sources of this size and use are only present at a few locations in the United States.
	No	Although numerous prehistoric sites exist outside of Wildhorse Canyon they are not more than locally significant and are common throughout Utah and the region.
	No	Mule deer habitat is found throughout the west. Black bear habitat is found throughout North America.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	The following are BLM sensitive species that are known to occur within the area: ferruginous hawk, Northern goshawk, and Townsend's big-eared bat. The following BLM sensitive species may occur within the area: bald eagle (no known nesting or roosting locations but migrates through the area), burrowing owl, Lewis' woodpecker and Western boreal toad. These species occur elsewhere in the field office and there is nothing exceptional or particularly threatened about their habitat within the proposed ACEC.
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act and a BLM Utah sensitive species.
	Yes	Cultural resources within Wild Horse Canyon are exemplary and unique and are threatened by an increase in geothermal and wind energy development.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	BLM sensitive species within the nominated area are widespread and are not more vulnerable or threatened in this area than other locations throughout their range.
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a federal candidate species and BLM sensitive species. The CCFO is one of the southernmost populations of the species. They are vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation.
	Yes	Largest exposed batholith in Utah. This unique geologic feature provides an outstanding scenic landscape unlike any other in the field office and surrounding area. This mountain range is easily viewed from the I-15 corridor and the surrounding communities of Beaver and Milford who use it as a marketing point for visiting the area.
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse – federal candidate species and a BLM national priority
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None identified within the nominated area.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None identified within the nominated area.

Summary of Important Values

This nomination area was found to have important archaeological values in Wildhorse Canyon. The overall size and complexity of this particular obsidian quarry makes it more important than other obsidian areas in the area and western United States. Furthermore, obsidian from this particular source is more widely found at archaeological sites in the western United States than most obsidian sources located in Utah. This wide distribution of tool-stone material is most likely because of the quality, abundance and ease of procurement found at this particular quarry. The scenic qualities of the granite peaks are exceptional. A small portion of the nomination includes mapped greater sage-grouse occupied habitat.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

R&I Values	Suggested Special Management
Cultural and Scenic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public lands in the ACEC should be retained in public ownership • Non-federal lands in the ACEC should be acquired through purchase, exchange, or donation to further the accomplishment of the resource objectives and to increase manageability of the area • Any lands acquired by BLM within the ACEC should be managed in accordance with the ACEC prescriptions • Except for sites located along frequently visited trails, ways or roads, all archaeological sites within the proposed ACEC should be managed for conservation. Sites located along frequently visited travel corridors should be managed for public values and interpreted for educational use. See Mineral Mountains Obsidian ACEC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance and law enforcement measures should be increased within the ACEC to deter vandalism and other destructive activities • Site protection could include such programs as the site steward programs, in which volunteers are trained to monitor sites and report resource degradation. Cooperative agreements with interested Indian tribes, government agencies, and qualified organizations could be used for protecting and otherwise managing archaeological resources • The ACEC should be assigned a VRM Class I or II • The ACEC should be closed to fuel wood sales • The ACEC should be designated a right-of-way avoidance area • The ACEC should be closed to oil and gas lease sales, or managed, at a minimum, as a no-surface occupancy (NSO) area • BLM should strive to exchange or purchase any existing oil and gas leases in the ACEC • For any existing oil and gas leases in the ACEC -- BLM should prepare an EIS at the APD stage, and should add lease restrictions to protect the flora and fauna of the ACEC • The ACEC should be closed to disposal of mineral materials • BLM should recommend that the area be withdrawn from mineral entry. Pending Secretarial approval of the withdrawal, mining plans of operation should be required for all mining exploration and development activities • Lands within the ACEC should be classified as primitive, or semi-primitive nonmotorized for areas with designated routes. Motorized travel should be limited to designated roads and trails to protect the resources in the ACEC • Fencing, barricading, and signing should be employed as necessary to eliminate unauthorized vehicle access and impacts to protect the resources • Standards for Rangeland Health, including monitoring and assessment programs, should be employed to determine if management objectives for this proposed ACEC area are being met. If monitoring reveals that the objectives and standards are not being met, adjustments in permitted land uses should be made to the extent such are determined to be contributing factors. Changes should include reduction in numbers and changing season of use to minimize direct competition wildlife • No new wildlife or "range" improvements should be allowed in the ACEC, except to preserve natural habitat for native species of plants and animals • Non-native species should not be introduced into the ACEC • No mechanical vegetation treatments should be allowed within the ACEC, except those designed to restore native conditions, such as native seeding to restore native plant species • All natural springs in the ACEC should be maintained in their natural condition • Temporary exclosures (consistent with other management prescriptions, i.e. VRM or IMP) should be considered in order to protect the springs from impacts from domestic livestock grazing • BLM should preclude any diversions or developments along any
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	<p>creeks or streams in order to protect the integrity of this natural system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climbing should be restricted within spatial buffers around cultural sites
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Great Basin Core ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: The Wilderness Society

Area Considered	Great Basin Core ACEC
General Location	Western portion of the Cedar City Field Office including a southwestern corner of Beaver County and the northwestern corner of Iron County.
General Description	Hamlin and Pine Valleys, including the Indian Peak and Wah Wah Mountain Ranges
Acreage	550,625 public land acres.
Values Considered	Greater sage-grouse core habitats within the Great Basin portion of the field office. Also includes habitat for the Utah prairie dog, golden eagles and other raptors.

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 550,625 acres of public land. Relevant values were found for wildlife resources and natural systems. Important values were found for greater sage-grouse and Utah prairie dog.

Portions of this nomination overlap the Pine Valley, South Wah Wah Mountains and Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine nominations. The original nomination acres were altered to accurately portray the entire greater sage-grouse habitat (as mapped by UDWR) within the area. It was also changed to include the Utah prairie dog habitat identified in the Pine Valley nomination. The adjusted acreage found to have relevant and important values totaled 100,981 acres.

Due to overlapping nominations and boundary changes to represent where the relevant and important values actually occur, the nomination is carried forward as part of the proposed **Western Wildlife ACEC**.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Nominated for wildlife values only.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	The nominated ACEC provides breeding, nesting, winter and brood-rearing habitat for greater sage-grouse, a candidate species for listing under ESA and a BLM Sensitive Species.
	Yes	The area contains habitat for the Utah prairie dog, a federally threatened species.
	Yes	Golden eagles are common throughout the area. Other raptors known to occur within the area are Northern harrier, ferruginous hawk, red-tailed hawk, Swainson's hawk, Northern goshawk, Cooper's hawk, American kestrel, burrowing owl, short-eared owl, great-horned owl, and prairie falcon.
	Yes	The nominated ACEC also encompasses portions of the Hamlin Valley Bird Habitat Conservation Area (Intermountain West Joint Venture 2005), which provides shrub-steppe habitat for greater sage-grouse, ferruginous hawk, sage sparrow, and Brewer's sparrow.
	Yes	The area contains a very small amount of mule deer crucial winter range, as mapped by UDWR.
	No	The area does not contain any crucial elk winter range.
	Yes	Due to the large size of the nominated area, it contains a wide diversity of habitats and species.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Utah prairie dogs modify their environment and in so doing provide habitat for several other species. Southern Pine Valley contains historical habitat.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act and a BLM Utah sensitive species. Preliminary telemetry studies and monitoring data indicates that greater sage-grouse within the nominated ACEC are migratory, specifically with adjacent populations and habitat within Nevada.
	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is the only mammal species endemic to Utah and is a federally threatened species. Pine Valley is part of the West Desert Recovery Unit.
	No	Several of the raptor species within the area are BLM sensitive species. However, these species occur elsewhere in the field office and there is nothing distinctive about the populations within the proposed ACEC.
	No	Mule deer are found throughout the field office and western U.S.
	No	The Hamlin Valley Bird Habitat Conservation Area is important within the Field Office, but similar areas occur statewide.
	No	The habitat types are similar to those found on other north to south trending mountain ranges in the field office and throughout the Great Basin.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The nominated ACEC supports populations of greater sage-grouse, a candidate species for listing under ESA and a BLM Sensitive Species. Greater sage-grouse within this area are one of the southernmost populations within the species range. Greater sage-grouse populations within southern Utah are considered “fringe” populations (Schroeder et al 1999), which are “fragmented and increasingly disjunct from core regions”. (Refer to Figure 1.1 Connelly et al 2004).
	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is federally listed as a threatened species. The Pine Valley area is considered to be an independent ecological refuge for the species. They can be vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation.
	No	Golden eagles and other raptors, including BLM sensitive species that are known to occur within the area, also occur elsewhere in the field office. There is nothing exceptional or particularly threatened about their habitat within the proposed ACEC.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a federal candidate species and a BLM national priority.
	Yes	Utah prairie dogs are a federally listed threatened species.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No public safety or welfare concerns are known within the proposed ACEC boundary.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No threats to human life and safety or property are known within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Summary of Important Values:

The Great Basin Core ACEC nomination provides crucial habitat for greater sage-grouse. The unit also contains habitat that would contribute to the recovery of the Utah prairie dog.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when

such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential Great Basin Core ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

R&I Values	Suggested Special Management
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage casual use and permitted activities. • Close sensitive areas to visitors seasonally. • Close or limit motorized vehicle use. • Close portions of area to mineral leasing and apply stipulations to remainder of area. • Close or limit rights-of-way within area. • Consider withdrawing portions from mineral entry. • Manage vegetation through restoration treatments or appropriate management prescriptions. • Close or limit vehicle travel in sensitive locations. • Consider acquisition of SITLA sections.

Mineral Mountains Obsidian ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: Utah Professional Archaeological Council

Area Considered	Mineral Mountains Obsidian ACEC
General Location	The north half of the western slope of the Mineral Range.
General Description	The Utah Professional Archaeological Council (UPAC) nominated the “Mineral Mountain obsidian sources.” No map or additional description was provided by UPAC.
Acreage	23,277 acres of public land
Values Considered	Cultural

Nominated Area

No map or description of proposed ACEC boundaries were provided by UPAC. The BLM interpreted “Mineral Mountain obsidian sources” in the broadest sense of the term by including the areas of Wildhorse Canyon, Negro Mag Wash, Bailey Ridge and Pinnacle Pass in this nomination area. This nomination area included 23,277 acres of public land. After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team, this nomination area was found to have relevant and important values only in Wildhorse Canyon, which totals 2,529 acres.

According to the Utah Division of State History database, there are well over 200 recorded cultural resources within the UPAC nomination area. The majority of these sites are lithic scatters associated with toolstone procurement or stone tool production related to the obsidian flows. Many of these sites are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places for their potential to provide important information about prehistoric lifeways (Criterion D). The most outstanding of these archaeological resources is the obsidian quarry at Wildhorse Canyon.

In 1975, the Utah State-wide Archaeological Survey successfully nominated the Wildhorse Canyon Obsidian Quarry (42BE52) to the National Register of Historic Places. From the National Register Nomination Form is the following description:

“ . . . Wildhorse Canyon Obsidian Quarry offers the only opportunity within this region for the study of one particularly important aspect of prehistoric cultural systems: the procurement of raw materials for the manufacture of tools necessary in all aspects of daily life. The extremely large quantity of lithic material (in the form of blanks, preforms, debitage, cores, etc.) at the quarry itself, as well as at the numerous camp and manufacturing sites which surround the quarry, is still present, in situ, for such analysis (1975: Section 8).”

Based on depth of the lithic debitage, lithic sourcing of diagnostic artifacts, it is evident that the Wildhorse Canyon Obsidian Quarry (42BE52), was used for thousands of years locally and outside of the region. This quarry also contains the three types of obsidian not commonly found at a single source. These obsidian types include true obsidian, pitchstone and brown obsidian (NHRP Nomination 1975: Section 7). Immediately surrounding the quarry in Wildhorse Canyon

are numerous archaeological sites that are potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Wildhorse Canyon Obsidian Quarry is one of the largest and most heavily used obsidian sources in the United States. Wildhorse Canyon Obsidian Quarry was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.</p> <p>Immediately surrounding the quarry in Wildhorse Canyon are numerous archaeological sites that are potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.</p>
<p>A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>None identified within the proposed ACEC boundary.</p>
<p>A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>None identified within proposed ACEC boundary.</p>

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	The Wildhorse Canyon Obsidian Quarry is more than locally significant. Obsidian sources of this size and use are only present at a few locations in the United States. Furthermore, this obsidian is found at archaeological sites throughout the western United States.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The concentration of obsidian flow and archaeological sites make this area irreplaceable, exemplary and unique.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	The cultural resources in this area have not been identified as a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None identified within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None identified within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Summary of Important Values:

This nomination area was found to have important archaeological values in Wildhorse Canyon. The overall size and complexity of this particular obsidian quarry makes it more important than other obsidian areas in the area and western United States. Furthermore, obsidian from this particular source is more widely found at archaeological sites in the western United States than most obsidian sources located in Utah. This wide distribution of tool-stone material is most likely because of the quality, abundance and ease of procurement found at this particular quarry.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats.

FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

Relevant and Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage OHVs as limited to designated roads • Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints. • Close bulldozed road • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry • Close to mineral material disposals • Retain ACEC in public ownership, work to acquire State sections within the nominated area. • Develop interpretive displays and facilities (e.g. fencing and parking areas) • Close areas to rock collecting • Consider closing areas to additional rights-of-way

Modena, Beaver River, Tusher Slopes ACECs

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: Utah Professional Archaeological Council

Area Considered	Modena, Beaver River, Tusher Slopes ACEC
General Location	North of Modena; the Beaver River bottoms; the western slopes of the Tushar Mountains.
General Description	The Utah Professional Archaeological Council (UPAC) nominated these general areas. No map or additional description was provided by UPAC.
Acreage	Modena: 66, 235; Beaver River: 3,311; Tushar Slopes: 82,284
Values Considered	Cultural

Nominated Area

No map or description of proposed ACEC boundaries was provided by UPAC. The BLM determined the areas. After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team, these nomination areas were found to have relevant but not important values.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	None identified in the nominated area.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	None identified in the nominated area.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	No	
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	The cultural resources in these areas have not been identified as a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None known within the proposed ACEC boundary.

Parowan Gap ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: SUWA

Area Considered	Parowan Gap ACEC
General Location	The nominated Parowan Gap ACEC is located east of Utah Highway 130 north of Cedar City and northwest of the town of Parowan, in the Basin and Range physiographic province. The Parowan Gap is the result of millions of years of down-cutting of a stream through sedimentary rock that was sheared from the earth's crust and uplifted along parallel fault lines. The stream eventually disappeared and the valley became the wind gap that visitors encounter today.
General Description	The nominated ACEC includes the Parowan Gap petroglyphs, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as other significant cultural sites in the vicinity. The ACEC nomination also includes important wildlife values.
Acreage	31,526 public land acres.
Values Considered	Cultural resources and wildlife.

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 31,526 acres of public land. After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team it was found to have relevant and important values on 29,057 acres. Archaeological resources beyond the ethnographic landscape determined by Molenaar (2011) do not contain important archaeological values.

Wildlife values include a high density and diversity of nesting raptors, along with the occurrence of several special status species including Utah prairie dog, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, pygmy rabbit, greater sage-grouse and long-billed curlew.

The original nomination overlapped with the following nominations: Parowan Gap Cultural, Parowan Gap Wildlife, and South Central Utah. The original boundary was modified and the area is being considered as part of both the proposed **Parowan Gap ACEC and the Eastern Wildlife ACEC**.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).</p>	Yes	<p><i>Cultural resources important to Native Americans</i> The Hopi Tribe and the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah consider this a sacred place with special worth, meaning and cause for concern. The Gap Narrows have been identified as a Traditional Cultural Property.</p> <p><i>Archaeological resources</i> This area has a very high concentration of petroglyphs, and potential habitation areas that have potential for understanding prehistoric lifeways.</p> <p>The Parowan Gap Petroglyphs are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are also at least 23 recorded National Register eligible sites within the nomination area.</p>
<p>A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	Yes	<p>The following species listed on the nomination form are known to occur within the area: Utah prairie dog, California condor, greater sage-grouse, kit fox, pygmy rabbit, bald eagle, burrowing owl, and ferruginous hawk.</p>
	No	<p>The following species listed on the nomination form have no known occurrence within the area, but there may be potential habitat: big free-tailed bat, fringed myotis, spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat and short-eared owl.</p> <p>The following species on the nomination form do not occur within the nominated area: Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, and dark kangaroo mouse.</p>
<p>A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	Yes	<p>The natural landforms have created a unique structural arrangement that provides habitat for a high density and diversity of wildlife.</p>

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None known in the proposed ACEC boundary.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	American Indian Tribes in the region consider this a sacred place with special worth, meaning and cause for concern. Compared to other archaeological resources in the surrounding area these resources are very distinctive, artistic, rare in such concentrations, irreplaceable, and more than locally significant.
	No	Two recorded cultural resources exist outside of the public land that are in the Cedar City Field Offices Parowan Gap Nomination Evaluation and within this nomination. These resources are not more than locally significant or identified as a part of ethnographic landscape. No specific sites outside of the Cedar City Parowan Gap Nomination Evaluation have been identified as significant to American Indian Tribes.
	Yes	The density and diversity of nesting raptors, along with the occurrence of several other special status species, make this area unique. It is rare to find this many species occurring in such a small area. Active golden eagle nests have been documented within 2.5 miles of each other. Peregrine and prairie falcons have been documented nesting within 0.6 mile of each other.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Features in the nomination area are the focus of traditional use and considered sacred to American Indian Tribes. These features could not be replaced. These features are vulnerable to adverse change.
	Yes	This area is close to communities and has a paved road running through the middle of it. It receives high visitor use for multiple recreational activities and some organized events. Visitors are climbing and creating foot paths in many areas. Off road vehicle use is rampant with multiple trails being created and many causing undue erosion. Human caused fires and trash negatively impact habitat. The area contains habitat for the federally threatened Utah prairie dog and a well-known breeding area (lek) for the greater sage-grouse, a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Many of the species occurring within the proposed ACEC are sensitive to disturbances.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is listed as threatened and the greater sage-grouse is a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. National attention has been focused on bald and golden eagles in renewable energy project areas. Other special status species occurring within the nominated area include ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, pygmy rabbit and long-billed curlew.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	Yes	The "Gap Narrows" receive a tremendous amount of use, next to the paved county road. As visitors use the county road they are vulnerable to being hit by an oncoming vehicle.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Summary of Important Values:

Small portions of the nomination do not contain important wildlife or cultural values. See the BLM evaluation forms for Parowan Gap Cultural and Parowan Gap Wildlife ACECs. The Parowan Gap area contains a high diversity and density of nesting raptors. It also provides habitat for numerous special status species within a relatively small area. These species

include Utah prairie dog, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, pygmy rabbit, greater sage-grouse and long-billed curlew.

Cultural

Important values coincide with the Cedar City Field Office Parowan Gap Nomination Evaluation form. These values include archaeological resources such as the petroglyphs located at Parowan Gap and Black Point and the cultural resources important to American Indians found at the Gap Narrows and throughout the ethnographic landscape identified by Molenaar (2011). The archaeological resources are very distinctive, artistic, rare in such concentrations, irreplaceable, and more than locally significant. The Gap Narrows have recently been identified as Traditional Cultural Property eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. This area is considered by American Indian Tribes in the region as a sacred place with special worth, meaning and cause for concern.

Archaeological sites outside of the Cedar City Field Office Parowan Gap Nomination Evaluation area are common and similar to other cultural resources found in the region and do not contain Important Values.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

R&I Values	Suggested Special Management
Wildlife and Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage casual use and permitted activities • Close sensitive areas to visitors seasonally • Close or limit motorized vehicle use • Close portions of area to mineral leasing and apply NSO to remainder of area • Close to or limit rights-of-way within area • Consider withdrawing portions from mineral entry • Manage vegetation through restoration treatments or appropriate management prescriptions • Designate wildlife viewing locations • Designate parking areas • Increase educational signing • Consider closures for camping and fires • Public lands should be retained in public ownership • Non-federal lands in the ACEC should be acquired

	<p>through purchase, exchange, or donation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any lands acquired by BLM within the ACEC should be managed in accordance with the ACEC prescriptions • Except for sites located along frequently visited trails, ways or roads, all archaeological sites should be managed for conservation. Sites located along frequently visited travel corridors should be managed for public values and interpreted for educational use • Surveillance and law enforcement measures should be increased to deter vandalism and other destructive activities. Such programs may involve the employment of site steward programs, in which volunteers will be trained to monitor the sites and report resource degradation • Cooperative agreements with interested Indian tribes, government agencies, and qualified organizations should be used for protecting and otherwise managing archaeological resources • The ACEC should be assigned a VRM Class I or II • The ACEC should be closed to fuel wood sales • The ACEC should be designated a right-of-way avoidance area • BLM should strive to exchange or purchase any existing oil and gas leases in the ACEC • For any existing oil and gas leases in the ACEC -- BLM should prepare an EIS at the APD stage, and should add lease restrictions to protect the flora and fauna • The ACEC should be closed to disposal of mineral materials • Mining plans of operation should be required for all mining exploration and development activities • Lands within the ACEC should be classified as primitive, or semi-primitive nonmotorized for areas with designated routes • Motorized travel should be limited to designated roads and trails • Fencing, barricading, and signing should be employed as necessary to eliminate unauthorized vehicle access and impacts to protect the resources • Standards for Rangeland Health, including monitoring and assessment programs, should be employed to determine if management objectives are being met. If monitoring reveals that the objectives and standards are not being met, adjustments in permitted land uses should be made to the extent such are determined to be contributing factors. Changes should include reduction in numbers and changing season of use to minimize direct competition
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	<p>wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No new wildlife or “range” improvements should be allowed in the ACEC, except to preserve natural habitat for native species of plants and animals• Non-native species should not be introduced into the ACEC• No mechanical vegetation treatments should be allowed within the ACEC, except those designed to restore native conditions, such as native seeding to restore native plant species• All natural springs in the ACEC should be maintained in their natural condition• Temporary exclosures (consistent with other management prescriptions, i.e. VRM or IMP) should be considered in order to protect the springs from impacts from domestic livestock grazing• BLM should preclude any diversions or developments along any creeks or streams in order to protect the integrity of this natural system• Restrict climbing within spatial buffers around cultural sites
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Parowan Gap ACEC Cultural

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: BLM – Cultural Resources

Area Considered	CCFO Parowan Gap ACEC
General Location	The Parowan Gap nomination area is located approximately 15 miles north of Cedar City, Utah. It is situated between Cedar Valley to the west and Parowan Valley to the east.
General Description	The focal point for this nomination area is a well-defined geologic wind gap called the Parowan Gap. For centuries this gap was visited by numerous American Indians. Over time, many of these people carved and pecked petroglyphs onto the patinated sandstone walls. Today many people know Parowan Gap for its numerous petroglyphs, for its importance to Native American Tribes, and recently for its potential solar alignments and features. This area also includes dinosaur footprints or “trackway” located within the Parowan Gap.
Acreage	22,262 acres of public land.
Values Considered	Significant cultural resources and wildlife.

Nominated Area

After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team this nomination was found to have relevant and important values.

Based on a recent ethnographic study of the Parowan Gap (Molenaar, 2011) and consultation with the Hopi Tribe and Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, this nomination area includes 22,262 acres of public land that have relevant and important cultural resources important to Native Americans and relevant and important archaeological resources.

Cultural resources important to Native Americans

The one-mile area around the Gap Narrows has been recommended as eligible to the National Register as a Traditional Cultural Property TCP (Molenaar, 2011). Molenaar states that the petroglyphs at the Gap Narrows are a significant indicator of past activities by the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah and the Hopi Tribe. This site is important to the Paiute people because of ongoing tribal practices conducted here (Ibid).

Molenaar has also identified a larger “ethnographic landscape boundary” around the Gap Narrows. This landscape is focused on the connection of the Little Salt Lake, through Parowan Gap, and on to Rush Lake. The clear connection between the potentially resource rich Little Salt Lake and Rush Lake areas is also visible in the petroglyphs and the archaeological remains between them (Ibid). This boundary is the basis of this nomination area.

Archaeological resources

In 1975, the Bureau of Land Management successfully nominated the Parowan Gap Petroglyphs to the National Register of Historic Places. This National Register nomination was centered on the main petroglyph concentration at the Gap Narrows. The petroglyphs at this location represent some of the finest rock art anywhere in the region and are known on a national level.

More than 50 prehistoric sites have been recorded within the canyon that makes up the Parowan Gap. These sites include numerous petroglyph panels, potential prehistoric habitation areas and artifact scatters. At least 23 of these sites are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

Additional relevant and important archaeological resources are known to exist outside of the Parowan Gap canyon (still inside the nomination area). These resources include additional petroglyph concentrations and areas of prehistoric habitation.

Natural processes

Located inside the Parowan Gap are dinosaur tracks. The tracks in Parowan Gap are natural casts which are formed by sediments that have filled in the true track. These tracks are rare for Iron County.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or <i>Cultural resources important to Native Americans</i>).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><i>Cultural resources important to Native Americans</i> The Hopi Tribe and the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah consider this a sacred place with special worth, meaning and cause for concern. The Gap Narrows have been identified as a Traditional Cultural Property.</p> <p><i>Archaeological resources</i> This area has a very high concentration of petroglyphs, and potential habitation areas that have potential for understanding prehistoric lifeways.</p> <p>The Parowan Gap Petroglyphs are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are also at least 23 recorded National Register eligible sites within the nomination area.</p>

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Fish and wildlife values are nominated separately.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	None identified in the nominated area.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	American Indian Tribes in the region consider this a sacred place with special worth, meaning and cause for concern. Compared to other archaeological resources in the surrounding area these resources are very distinctive, artistic, rare in such concentrations, irreplaceable, and more than locally significant.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	The dinosaur trackways are the only known trackway location in the field office area, but are not more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Features in the nomination area are the focus of traditional use and considered sacred to American Indian Tribes. These features could not be replaced. These features are vulnerable to adverse change.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	None of the resources are considered a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None identified in the nominated area.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Potential ACEC Summary of Important Values:

Important values include archaeological resources such as the petroglyphs located at Parowan Gap and Black Point and the cultural resources important to American Indians found at the Gap Narrows and throughout the ethnographic landscape identified by the Molenaar 2011. The archaeological resources are very distinctive, artistic, rare in such concentrations, irreplaceable, and more than locally significant. The Gap Narrows have recently been identified as a Traditional Cultural Property eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. This area is considered by American Indian Tribes in the region as a sacred place with special worth, meaning and cause for concern.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats.

FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

Relevant and Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage as VRM Class II or III • Manage OHV as limited to designated roads • Close to fluid minerals leasing or lease with major constraints • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry • Consider closing areas to additional rights-of-way • Retain ACEC in public ownership, pursue acquisition of inholdings • Develop interpretive displays and facilities (e.g. fencing and parking areas) • Manage grazing activities (including livestock trailing and bedding areas) to minimize potential impacts to at-risk cultural resources

Parowan Gap Wildlife ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: BLM - Wildlife

Area Considered	Parowan Gap Wildlife ACEC
General Location	Parowan Gap
General Description	Wildlife protection near Parowan Gap
Acreage	29,509 public land acres.
Values Considered	Wildlife with a focus on nesting raptors

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 29,509 acres of public land. After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team it was found to have relevant and important values. These values include a high density and diversity of nesting raptors, along with the occurrence of several special status species including Utah prairie dog, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, pygmy rabbit, greater sage-grouse and long-billed curlew.

The original nomination overlapped with the following nominations: Parowan Gap Cultural, Parowan Gap (SUWA) and South Central Utah (The Wilderness Society). The original boundaries of all of these nominations were combined and modified into the **Parowan Gap ACEC**.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Cultural resources were nominated separately.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	Yes	<p>This is a unique area with the canyon, cliffs and rock outcrops within the Gap and the shrub steppe habitat and old lake beds on the surrounding benches. It provides nesting, foraging and winter habitat for a high density and diversity of raptor species. Species using the area include golden eagle, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, ferruginous hawk, red-tailed hawk, and burrowing owl.</p> <p>Portions of area were identified as a key raptor area in the 1989 publication "Raptor Habitat Management under the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Multiple-Use Mandate" by the Raptor Research Foundation.</p> <p>The area also provides habitat for BLM special status species such as Utah prairie dog, pygmy rabbit, greater sage-grouse and long-billed curlew.</p> <p>The concentration and diversity of so many special status species within this small area is exceptional.</p>
<p>A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	Yes	<p>The natural landforms have created a unique structural arrangement that provides habitat for a high density and diversity of wildlife.</p>
<p>Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).</p>	No	<p>None identified in the nominated area.</p>

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	The density and diversity of nesting raptors, along with the occurrence of several other special status species, make this area unique. It is rare to find this many species occurring in such a small area. Active golden eagle nests have been documented within 2.5 miles of each other. Peregrine and prairie falcons have been documented nesting within 0.6 mile of each other.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	This area is close to communities and has a paved road running through the middle of it. It receives high visitor use for multiple recreational activities and some organized events. Visitors are climbing and creating foot paths in many areas which disturbs nesting raptors and destroys habitat. Off road vehicle use is creating multiple trails many of which are causing erosion. Human caused fires and trash negatively impact habitat. The area contains habitat for the federally threatened Utah prairie dog and a well-known breeding area (lek) for the greater sage-grouse, which is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Many of the species occurring within the proposed ACEC are sensitive to disturbances.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is listed as threatened, although due to the current low population numbers within the proposed ACEC, it is not considered a core habitat area for the species. The greater sage-grouse is a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act and the area contains an important lek. Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and both species use the area. Other special status species occurring within the nominated area include ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, pygmy rabbit and long-billed curlew.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None identified in the nominated area.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Summary of Important Values:

The Parowan Gap area contains a high diversity and density of nesting raptors. It also provides habitat for numerous special status species within a relatively small area. These species include Utah prairie dog, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, pygmy rabbit, greater sage-grouse and long-billed curlew.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential Parowan Gap Wildlife ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

R&I Values	Suggested Special Management
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage casual use and permitted activities • Close sensitive areas to visitors seasonally • Close or limit motorized vehicle use • Close portions of area to mineral leasing and apply stipulations to remainder of area • Close or limit rights-of-way within area • Consider withdrawing portions from mineral entry • Manage vegetation through restoration treatments or appropriate management prescriptions • Designate wildlife viewing locations • Designate parking areas • Increase educational signing • Consider closures for camping and fires • Implement seasonal rock climbing restrictions • Consider acquisition of SITLA sections

Pine Valley ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Area Considered	PINE VALLEY ACEC
General Location	Pine Valley
General Description	Southern Pine Valley in Beaver County
Acreage	97,667 public land acres.
Values Considered	Utah prairie dog and other wildlife species

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 97,667 acres of public land. Relevant values were found for wildlife resources and natural systems. Important values were found for greater sage-grouse and Utah prairie dog.

During BLM's meeting with the interdisciplinary team and cooperators it was decided to modify boundaries to more accurately reflect the location of Utah prairie dog habitat. It was agreed that BLM would make the modifications, with State of Utah and USFWS final approval. This evaluation reflects those revised boundaries. Revised acres with relevant and important values totaled 45,455 acres.

Portions of this nomination overlap the Great Basin Core and South Wah Wah Mountains nominations. Due to overlapping nominations and boundary changes to represent where the relevant and important values actually occur, the nomination is carried forward as part of the proposed **Western Wildlife ACEC**.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	The area was not nominated for these resources.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	The area contains habitat for the Utah prairie dog, a threatened species.
	Yes	The area contains leks, brood-rearing and winter habitat for greater sage-grouse.
	Yes	The area contains habitat for pygmy rabbit, a BLM sensitive species.
	Yes	The area contains habitat for burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk, both BLM sensitive species.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Utah prairie dogs are an endemic mammal species found only in southwestern Utah. Utah prairie dogs modify their environment and in so doing provide habitat for several other species.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is the only mammal species endemic to Utah and is a federally threatened species
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act and a BLM Utah sensitive species.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
resource.	No	Pygmy rabbit are found in locations throughout the Field Office and the populations within this area are not unique.
	No	Burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk are found in locations throughout the Field Office and the populations within this area are not unique.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is federally listed as a threatened species. The Pine Valley area is considered to be an independent ecological refuge for the species. Vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a federal candidate species and BLM sensitive species. The CCFO is one of the southernmost populations of the species. Vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation
	No	Pygmy rabbit are found throughout the western states.
	No	Burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk – these species are widespread
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Utah prairie dog - federally listed threatened species Greater sage-grouse – federal candidate species and a BLM national priority
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None identified in the nominated area.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Summary of Important Values:

ine Valley contains habitat that would contribute to the recovery of the Utah prairie dog. Large areas of habitat exist and artificial fragmentation is minimal in most of the area. Habitat is fragmented by stands of mature pinyon pine and juniper trees; these areas are not impermeable to prairie dogs, nor are mature stands in a constant state over time. The area is considered to be historical habitat and that prairie dogs were likely extirpated from the valley. Current colonies were established through translocation efforts from 1977 through 1992. The area also provides habitat for other special status species such as ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, pygmy rabbit, and greater sage-grouse.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

R&I Values	Suggested Special Management
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased surveillance or law enforcement presence to minimize illegal shooting and poisoning • Increased educational efforts • Implement a plague management and abatement program with treatments on a regular schedule • Authorize translocation throughout the ACEC • Authorize and implement site preparation for translocation (artificial burrow systems and other items from USFWS protocol) • Surface occupancy and disturbance restrictions and limits on permanent facilities • Predator control at translocation sites • Vegetation management and maintenance that is planned and implemented on a rotating cycle throughout the ACEC • Limit motorized vehicle travel to designated roads and trails and close routes that cause physical disturbance and habitat fragmentation • Develop native seed collection guidelines • Develop range improvement standards for the ACEC • Identify and intensively manage key Utah prairie dog habitat areas and dispersal corridors within the ACEC • Identify a consistent revenue stream to fund the habitat management and maintenance needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop long term management on an ecosystem level to ensure conservation of Utah prairie dogs, greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit and other species• Manage casual use and permitted activities• Close sensitive areas to visitors seasonally• Close portions of area to mineral leasing and apply stipulations to remainder of area• Close or limit rights-of-way within area• Consider withdrawing portions from mineral entry• Manage vegetation through restoration treatments or appropriate management prescriptions• Consider acquisition of important SITLA sections
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Pinyon Penstemon ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: BLM

Area Considered	Pinyon Penstemon ACEC
General Location	Joel Springs area
General Description	The Pinyon Penstemon ACEC nomination provides unique habitat features that support Pinyon Penstemon, which is known only from the northern Pine Valley Mountains and adjacent Antelope Range in Utah.
Acreage	5,191 public land acres.
Values Considered	Natural Process- Sensitive Plant

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 5,191 acres of public land. After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team it was found that the Pinyon Penstemon ACEC had relevant values for Natural Process for sensitive plants. Important values were identified for more than locally significant qualities and circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, unique, or vulnerable to adverse change.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	This ACEC is located on the southern end of the Antelope Range. There are no outstanding historic, cultural, or scenic values in the area.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Wildlife habitats are typical of the Great Basin.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Pinyon Penstemon was first described by L. Schultz and J. Schultz in 1985. The Pinyon Penstemon is endemic to the northern Pine Valley Mountains and adjacent Antelope Range and is closely tied to the Claron Limestone Formation and volcanic rubble weathered from tuff and tuff breccia of the Quichapa group.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	The Pinyon Penstemon is known to occur in only a few locations on the northern end of the Pine Valley Mountains on U.S. Forest Service managed lands and adjacent Antelope Range on BLM managed lands.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The Pinyon Penstemon is endemic to the northern Pine Valley Mountains and adjacent Antelope Range. The population size is estimated at approximately 50,000 individual plants, which make it vulnerable to decline by natural population fluctuations. The taxon was described for Candidate Status (C2) in 1993 by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal Register Notice Volume 58, September 1993) due to limited distribution, edaphic qualities and lack of information. In 1995, the C2 category was abolished; however, the BLM has maintained the Pinyon Penstemon on its Sensitive Species List for management under BLM's 6840 Policy Manual. A Conservation Assessment, Strategy and Agreement was established between Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Field Office, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known in the area.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No public safety or welfare concerns are known in the area.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No threats to human life and safety or property are known in the area.

Summary of Important Values:

The Pinyon Penstemon ACEC nomination provides unique habitat features that support Pinyon Penstemon, which is known only from the northern Pine Valley Mountains and adjacent Antelope Range in Utah.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the "term 'areas of critical environmental concern' means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards." The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and

objectives associated with the potential Pinyon Penstemon ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

Relevant and Importance Values	Suggested Special Management
Sensitive Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close or limit OHV use to designated roads • Prohibit new routes • Close or highly restrict oil & gas leasing • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry • No new rights-of-ways • Close to green-wood cutting or continue monitoring effects • Manage vegetation communities to support/enhance populations • Treatment for non-native invasive species will be allowed in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to important resources (i.e. pinyon penstemon). • Issue SRPs on a case-by-case basis, when it is determined that adverse impacts can be avoided • Install interpretation sites to increase public awareness of resource sensitivity, promote public stewardship, and reduce inadvertent damage to important resources • Limit equestrian use to designated routes • Prohibit camping • Retain all federal lands within ACEC and look for options to acquire SITLA and private lands immediately adjacent to ACEC boundary. Acquisitions will include surface and subsurface rights. Manage acquisitions in accordance with ACEC designation • Equestrian users will be required to use weed-free hay, feed buckets, and tail bags (pack it in pack it out) • Designate hiking trails to control access and prevent damage to natural resources. Allow construction and maintenance of trails and facilities in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to important resources

Sand Cliff Springs ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: BLM

Area Considered	Sand Cliff ACEC
General Location	Sand Cliff Springs is located in Fremont Canyon, which is approximately 10 miles south of Beaver, Utah.
General Description	Historic pioneer signatures
Acreage	109 acres of public land
Values Considered	Historic

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 109 acres of public land. After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team it was found to have relevant, but **not** important values

The Sand Cliff ACEC nomination area contains historic inscriptions that have been formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These inscriptions include at least one member of the Southern Exploring Party of 1849 and pioneers from the Parowan and Sevier drainages. The oldest inscriptions include *John C. Armstrong 1849*, *H. Heth* (incorporated into an etching of home), *R. Tassell*, *J.H. Skinn(er) April 26, 1864*, *Manojai (sp?) Mario 1879* and *JRW Williams 1886*. The cliff also contains roughly 20 to 25 inscriptions after 1886, with the majority of these later inscriptions created after 1950.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	The Sand Cliff Signatures were listed on the National Register of Historic Places for their relation to the Southern Exploring Party of 1849, and the eventual settlement of southern Utah.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	None identified in the nominated area.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	None identified in the nominated area.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	No	Although the Sand Cliff Signatures are a National Register listed historic property, this site is only significant on a local level. Compared to other trail related signature locations or important pioneer locations, the signatures on the cliff are of pioneers not known beyond the local level and are relatively few in number.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The historic and cultural qualities in this nomination are not exemplary or unique.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns have been identified for this type of resource.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No public or management concerns about safety have been identified.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	The nomination area receives little visitation and does not pose a significant threat to human life or safety or to property.

South Central Utah ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: The Wilderness Society

Area Considered	South Central Utah ACEC
General Location	East central portion of the Cedar City Field Office including the southeastern corner of Beaver County and the northeastern corner of Iron County.
General Description	Parowan Gap, Bald Hills, Greenville Bench, Coyote Bench, Buckskin Valley and Bear Valley
Acreage	273,250 public land acres.
Values Considered	Greater sage-grouse core habitats within the central portion of the field office. Also includes habitat for the Utah prairie dog, golden eagles and other raptors.

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 273,250 acres of public land. Relevant values were found for wildlife resources and natural systems. Relevant and important values were found for greater sage-grouse, Utah prairie dog and raptors.

Portions of this nomination overlap the Black Mountains, Parowan Gap Wildlife, Parowan Gap Cultural, Parowan Gap, and Buckskin Valley nominations. Due to overlapping nominations and boundary changes to represent where the relevant and important values actually occur, the nomination is carried forward as part of both the proposed **Eastern Wildlife ACEC and the Parowan Gap ACEC**.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value	No	Cultural and scenic values were not included as ACEC values in this nomination.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
(including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).		
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	The nominated ACEC provides breeding, nesting, winter and brood-rearing habitat for greater sage-grouse, a candidate species for listing under ESA and a BLM Sensitive Species.
	Yes	Portions of the area contain habitat for the Utah prairie dog, a federally threatened species.
	Yes	Golden eagles are common throughout the area. Other raptors known to occur within the area are Northern harrier, ferruginous hawk, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, burrowing owl, short-eared owl, great-horned owl, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon and turkey vulture. Bald eagles winter in the area. Portions of the area were identified as a key raptor area in the 1989 publication "Raptor Habitat Management under the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Multiple-Use Mandate" by the Raptor Research Foundation. This is addressed more thoroughly in the Parowan Gap Wildlife ACEC proposal.
	Yes	The area contains a large amount of mule deer crucial winter range, as mapped by UDWR.
	No	It does not contain any crucial elk winter range.
	Yes	The nominated ACEC also encompasses portions of the Bald Hills and Panguitch Valley Bird Habitat Conservation Area (Intermountain West Joint Venture, 2005), which provides shrub-steppe habitat for greater sage-grouse and ferruginous hawk,
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Utah prairie dogs modify their environment and in so doing provide habitat for several other species.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	There are no known natural hazards in the proposed ACEC boundary.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act and a BLM Utah sensitive species. Preliminary telemetry studies and monitoring data indicate that greater sage-grouse within the nominated ACEC are migratory.
	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is the only mammal species endemic to Utah and is a federally threatened species. Buckskin Valley is the type locality for the species. The area is part of the West Desert Recovery Unit.
	Yes	Several of the raptor species, including eagles, within the area are BLM sensitive species. However, these species occur elsewhere in the field office and there is nothing distinctive about the populations within the proposed ACEC. The exception would be the concentrated raptor use around Parowan Gap. This is addressed in the Parowan Gap Wildlife ACEC evaluation nomination.
	No	Mule deer are found throughout the field office and western U.S.
	No	The Bald Hills and Panguitch Valley Bird Habitat Conservation Areas are important within the Field Office, but similar areas occur statewide.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	The habitat types are similar to those found elsewhere within the field office and throughout the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The nominated ACEC supports populations of greater sage-grouse, a candidate species for listing under ESA and a BLM Sensitive Species. Greater sage-grouse within this area are one of the southernmost populations within the species range. Greater sage-grouse populations within southern Utah are considered "fringe" populations (Schroeder et al 1999), which are "fragmented and increasingly disjunct from core regions". (Refer to Figure 1.1 Connelly et al 2004).
	Yes	The Utah prairie dog is federally listed as a threatened species. They can be vulnerable to natural and human caused habitat loss and fragmentation, and resource uses such as recreation.
	Yes	Golden eagles and other raptors, including BLM sensitive species that are known to occur within the area, also occur elsewhere in the field office. There is nothing exceptional or particularly threatened about their habitat within the proposed ACEC, except for within the Parowan Gap area, which is discussed under the Parowan Gap Wildlife ACEC evaluation.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Greater sage-grouse are a federal candidate species and a BLM national priority. Utah prairie dogs are a federally listed threatened species.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No public safety or welfare concerns are known in the area.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No threats to human life and safety or property are known in the area.

Summary of Important Values:

The South Central Utah ACEC nomination provides crucial habitat for greater sage-grouse. The unit also contains habitat that is considered essential for the recovery of the Utah prairie dog. The Parowan Gap portion of the nomination contains a high diversity and density of nesting raptors.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential South Central ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

R&I Values	Suggested Special Management
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage casual use and permitted activities • Close sensitive areas to visitors seasonally • Close or limit motorized vehicle use • Close portions of area to mineral leasing and apply stipulations to remainder of area • Close or limit rights-of-way within area • Consider withdrawing portions from mineral entry • Manage vegetation through restoration treatments or appropriate management prescriptions • Close or limit vehicle travel in sensitive locations • Consider acquisition of SITLA sections

South Wah Wah Mountains ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: SUWA

Area Considered	South Wah Wah Mountains ACEC
General Location	Western portion of the Cedar City Field Office in the southern Wah Wah Mountains
General Description	Pine Valley and southern Wah Wah Mountains
Acreage	35,458 public land acres.
Values Considered	Geologic, scenic, wildlife, cultural and historical

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 35,458 acres of public land. Relevant values were found for wildlife, significant historic and cultural resources and natural systems (ponderosa pine). Important values were found for ponderosa pine (natural system), greater sage-grouse and Utah prairie dog (wildlife).

All of the relevant and important values are carried forward as part of the proposed **Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine** and **Western Wildlife ACECs** for a total of 20,577 acres proposed from the original nomination (13,910 acres in Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine and 6,668 acres in Western Wildlife).

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).</p>	Yes	<p>The historic resources associated with mining, such as mine buildings, head frames, ore-tracks, shafts and adits in the Pine Grove area are almost entirely on private land.</p> <p>A literature search of cultural resource information shows that 18 archaeological sites have been recorded in this nomination area. These sites include three historic sites (both on private land), lithic scatters of mostly light density, and often with grayware pottery and groundstone. Four of these sites have been determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Seven of the remaining sites are not eligible and seven were left unevaluated.</p> <p>The three eligible cultural resources and possibly some of the unevaluated sites have potential to provide important information in the prehistory of the area.</p> <p>Although not formally recorded, the charcoal ovens in Lamendorf Canyon are most likely eligible to the National Register for their construction and engineering (Criteria C) and their potential to provide important information to the history of the area (i.e. wood cutting and labor).</p>
	No	<p>In the 2010 VRI inventory of the Field Office area, this area was given a Scenic Quality Rating of B. Most of the area was given a VRI Class of II, with the area around Pine Grove given a VRI Class of III. Scenery is not unique to the Basin and Range.</p>
<p>A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	Yes	<p>The area contains a diversity of habitat types including aspen, mixed conifer, mountain shrub, pinyon pine/juniper woodland, ponderosa pine, riparian/wetland and sagebrush steppe.</p> <p>The following species listed on the nomination form are known to occur within the area: ferruginous hawk, bald eagle, burrowing owl, greater sage-grouse, and Utah prairie dog.</p>

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	The following species listed on the nomination form have no known occurrence within the area, but there may be potential habitat: peregrine falcon Swainson's hawk, willow flycatcher, long-billed curlew, ringtail cat, and Townsend big-eared bat. The following species do not occur within the nominated area: Virgin River montane vole.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	The species listed in the nomination are not threatened, endangered or BLM sensitive plant species.
	No	No rare geological features are known in the proposed ACEC boundary.
	Yes	Oldest known genetic ponderosa pine population in the world. Area includes old-growth stands, scattered groups, and scattered individual trees, including some trees approaching 1,000 years old. Bristlecone pine is an associated species in the northern portions of the proposed ACEC.
	Yes	Utah prairie dogs modify their environment and in so doing provide habitat for several other species. Southern Pine Valley contains historical habitat.
	Yes	The large area of the nomination encompasses a diversity of plant communities including terrestrial and riparian.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Contains the oldest known genetic ponderosa pine in the world. These areas are included in the proposed Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine ACEC
	No	The habitat types are similar to those found on other north to south trending mountain ranges in the field office and throughout the Great Basin.
	No	The following are BLM sensitive species that are known to occur within the area: ferruginous hawk, Northern goshawk, and burrowing owl. These species occur elsewhere in the field office and there is nothing exceptional or particularly threatened about their habitat within the proposed ACEC.
	Yes	The Utah prairie dog, a federally threatened species, occurs in the southwestern corner of the proposed ACEC. This habitat is part of a much larger habitat area and is considered in the proposed Western Wildlife ACEC.
	Yes	The greater sage-grouse occurs along the western edge of the proposed ACEC. This habitat is part of a much larger habitat area and is thoroughly considered under the proposed Western Wildlife ACEC.
	No	Although some of the archaeological sites in the area are eligible or potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, these sites are not more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The riparian systems are not unique to the Basin and Range.
	No	There are no known sensitive or threatened habitats within the area.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	<p>Contains the oldest known genetic ponderosa pine in the world. These areas are included in the proposed Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine ACEC.</p> <p>The Utah prairie dog, a federally threatened species, occurs in the southwestern corner of the proposed ACEC. This habitat is part of a much larger habitat area and is considered in the proposed Western Wildlife ACEC.</p> <p>The greater sage-grouse occurs along the western edge of the proposed ACEC. This habitat is part of a much larger habitat area and is thoroughly considered under the proposed Western Wildlife ACEC.</p>
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	<p>The Utah prairie dog, a federally threatened species, occurs in the southwestern corner of the proposed ACEC. This habitat is part of a much larger habitat area and is considered in the proposed Western Wildlife ACEC.</p> <p>The greater sage-grouse occurs along the western edge of the proposed ACEC. This habitat is part of a much larger habitat area and is thoroughly considered under the proposed Western Wildlife ACEC.</p>
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	None identified in the nominated area.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Summary of Important Values:

The proposed ACEC contains relevant and important values for the ponderosa pine, Utah prairie dog and greater sage-grouse. This nomination overlaps with the proposed Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine and Western Wildlife ACECs. It has been determined that areas within the South Wah Wah Mountains proposed ACEC which have Relevant and Importance values will be incorporated into the Western Wildlife and Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine proposed ACECs.

Suggested Special Management

Special Management for areas found to meet the relevance and importance criteria is incorporated into the proposed Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine and Western Wildlife ACEC evaluation forms.

DRAFT

Spring Creek Canyon ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: BLM

Area Considered	CCFO Spring Creek ACEC
General Location	Spring Creek Canyon and adjacent lands.
General Description	The Spring Creek Canyon ACEC nomination would provide protection for critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, is a key raptor area, and contains scenic red rock slot canyons with intact riparian ecosystems.
Acreage	5,334 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, riparian and wildlife values.

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 5,334 acres of public land. After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team it was found to have relevant values for a significant scenic value and wildlife resources. Importance values for the nomination were identified for more than locally significant qualities and circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, unique, or vulnerable to adverse change. The ACEC contains designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl, a federally listed threatened species. It also contains a Protected Activity Center (PAC) for a breeding pair of Mexican spotted owls.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	The Spring Creek Canyon ACEC is located within red rock canyon habitats that support intact riparian corridors. The area provides tremendous scenic values with cascading waterfalls, contrasting colors that make up the red rock slot canyons and vibrant colors of the evergreen and deciduous vegetation, which change with the seasons. This canyon formation is at the transition point from Colorado Plateau to Great Basin. The scenery was identified as a special feature in the final report for the designation as a WSA.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	Yes	<p>The ACEC is located within U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. It also contains a PAC for breeding owls. The area is considered a key raptor area within the Field Office. The 1989 publication "Raptor Habitat Management under the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Multiple-Use Mandate" by the Raptor Research Foundation identified 2500 acres at Kanarra Canyon as a key area. Additionally, riparian canyon habitats comprise a very small portion of the overall land mass in Utah; however, they provide the most diversity for a variety of migratory birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.</p>
<p>A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	Yes	<p>Intact and diverse riparian plant communities occur within the riparian corridors and canyons encompassed by the ACEC.</p>
<p>Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).</p>	No	<p>None identified in the nominated area.</p>

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Contains critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. The red rock slot canyons are more than locally significant due to their close proximity to I-15 and access from the Basin and Range. While there are many slot canyons in the Colorado Plateau, they are not commonly found in the field office area.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The ACEC nomination supports U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owls. The riparian corridors associated with the red rock canyons also provide outstanding scenic qualities with contrasting colors that change throughout the seasons. Riparian plant communities are diverse and support a variety of wildlife unique to the Colorado Plateau/Great Basin transition in southwestern Utah. This area also receives high recreation use and evidence of the impacts of this use can be observed throughout the ACEC for example through dispersed camping (i.e. fire rings, compacted soils around campsites, trash), rock climbing, braided trails, and unauthorized OHV use within the WSA.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	The area contains designated critical habitat and a PAC for Mexican spotted owls. Portions of the CCFO Spring Creek ACEC nomination are identified as a Wilderness Study Area. Portions of the area have been found to contain potentially eligible rivers in the Draft Evaluation Report, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, Cedar City Resource Management Plan.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	Yes	The ACEC nomination encompasses a public watershed for the town of Kanarraville and other downstream users.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Summary of Important Values:

The CCFO Spring Creek ACEC nomination is important due to its designation as critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, unique riparian/canyon habitats within the Colorado Plateau/Great Basin, and values for providing scenic opportunity. This area also receives high recreation use and evidence of the impacts of this use can be observed throughout the ACEC - for example

through dispersed camping (i.e. fire rings, compacted soils around campsites, trash), rock climbing, braided trails, and unauthorized OHV use within the WSA. This area is adjacent to the Kolob Canyon portion of Zion National Park and many visitors are directed to destinations like Spring Creek, which offer more solitude and no entrance fees. Many websites, hiking guides, and personal blogs are promoting destinations within the ACEC, particularly Kanarra Creek and Spring Creek.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the “term ‘areas of critical environmental concern’ means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 includes the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential CCFO Spring Creek ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

Relevant and Importance Values	Suggested Special Management
Scenic Mexican spotted owl Riparian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRM Class II, outside the Wilderness Study Area • Pursue acquisition of inholdings • Withdraw from mineral entry • No new rights-of-ways • Close Kanarra Mountain Allotment to livestock grazing • Prohibit recreational shooting, not including hunting, in the canyons • Limit or close to recreation use between March 1st through August 31st • Prohibit rock climbing between March 1 through September 30 in designated areas • Restrict recreation users to daylight hours only from March 1 through September 30 • Manage at PFC • Manage to eliminate invasive/noxious weeds (i.e. tamarisk, Scotch thistle, Russian olive, etc) • Allow treatment for non-native invasive species in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to important resources (i.e. Mexican spotted owl) • Issue SRPs for public on a case-by-case basis, when it is determined that adverse impacts can be avoided (avoid the MSO breeding/nesting season)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install interpretation to increase public awareness of resource sensitivity, promote public stewardship, and reduce inadvertent damage to important resources• Close to OHV travel until route designation is complete• Limit equestrian use to existing routes until route designation is complete• Prohibit camping• NSO for fluid mineral leasing• Retain all federal lands and look for options to acquire SITLA and private lands immediately adjacent to ACEC boundary (i.e critical MSO habitat). Acquisitions will include surface and subsurface rights. Manage acquisitions in accordance with ACEC designation.• Equestrian users will be required to use weed-free hay, feed buckets, and tail bags (pack it in pack it out)• Designate hiking trails to control access and prevent damage to natural resources. Allow construction and maintenance of trails and facilities in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to important resources• Prohibit new routes• Commercial tour operators....education and etiquette in accordance with BLM ACEC management• Identify and construct support features (i.e. staging areas, trailheads, interpretive centers) in a manner that avoids the PAC and minimizes impacts to ACEC values
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Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine ACEC

Nomination Evaluation Report

Nominated by: BLM

Area Considered	WAH WAH PONDEROSA PINE ACEC
General Location	Wah Wah Mountains
General Description	Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>)
Acreage	41,592 public land acres.
Values Considered	Natural processes or systems –Ponderosa Pine

Nominated Area

This area was nominated to include 41,592 acres of public land. After being evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team it was found to have relevant and important values. The ponderosa pine forest in this area contains the oldest known individuals of this species. The Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine haplotype is the oldest known ponderosa pine genetic type.

The primary values to be protected within this ACEC are the genetics of the oldest known population of ponderosa pine in the world, as described below.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	None identified in the nominated area.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Oldest known genetic ponderosa pine population in the world. Area includes old-growth stands, scattered groups, and scattered individual trees, including some trees approaching 1,000 years old. Bristlecone pine is an associated species in the northern portions of the proposed ACEC.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Oldest known genetic ponderosa pine in the world.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Have qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The age and unique genetics of the Ponderosa pine in this area warrant protection for its continued persistence. See Hipkins et al, 2011.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Ponderosa Pine conservation is not considered a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Ponderosa Pine conservation is not a public safety or public welfare issue.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	None identified in the nominated area.

Summary of Important Values:

The ponderosa pine forest in this area contains the oldest known individuals of this species. The Wah Wah Ponderosa pine haplotype is the oldest known ponderosa pine genetic type. The genetics for this haplotype have been mapped in Utah's Great Basin and into western Nevada, with less pure strains mapped in extreme northern Arizona and Utah's Henry Mountains. The area mapped for ACEC consideration is the core area for this haplotype and the ponderosa pine within this area are primarily old-growth trees, many of which are in excess of 500 years of age and some of which are in excess of 950 years in age. The population is made up of small stands, small groups of trees, and individuals scattered in a landscape otherwise dominated by pinyon and juniper, primarily.

This population is important for preservation of the genetics contained therein and for understanding how species adapt over time to climate change.

The ponderosa in this area are being threatened by the changed environmental conditions of the last 150 years. Specifically, the lack of periodic fire that helped to keep competing vegetation in check and helped to keep fuel loads such that wildfires remained low intensity and stand-replacing fires were not the norm. Several fires in the last two decades have been high-intensity, stand-replacing fires that resulted in mortality of old-growth stands that had survived periodic fire of previous periods.

Suggested Special Management

Special management is required to protect importance values from identified and potential threats. FLPMA Section 103(a) notes that the "term 'areas of critical environmental concern'

means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.” The ACEC section of the RMP/EIS Chapter 2 and the paragraphs below include the specific management actions and objectives associated with the potential Wah Wah Ponderosa Pine ACEC’s relevant and important values. That management was developed specifically to preserve those values and protect them from potential threats that do or could exist.

Relevant and Importance Values	Suggested Special Management
Ponderosa Pine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform fuels-reduction treatments that cut and remove understory vegetation • Use low-intensity ground fire (management or natural ignitions) after fuel build-has been removed • Restrict the cutting Ponderosa Pine, especially the older trees, to actions that would enhance the sustainability of ponderosa pine with favoritism to maintenance of old-growth trees • Allow thinning of smaller regeneration, sapling, and pole sized ponderosa pine on a limited basis where pockets of younger trees have regenerated following disturbance and where these trees are growing in a closed canopy condition • Allow limited cutting of large old-growth trees only where individuals are insect-infested, diseased, and thus pose a risk to adjacent ponderosa pine • Maintain stand level densities at no more than 60 square feet of basal area per acre immediately post-treatment (pockets and small groups of trees may be denser)

Management to sustain this population of ponderosa pine cannot be “hands-off” management. The inevitable wildfires that will occur on these landscapes, given the build-up of understory fuels and fire susceptible species (such as junipers, pinyon pine, and white fir), have a high likelihood of moving fire from the ground into the crowns of the overstory ponderosa, which in all probability would result in mortality of the ponderosa. The older of these trees have withstood periodic fire prior to the settlement era.

Management should include protection from activities that would cut or destroy ponderosa pine, particularly the older trees on a site. Thinning of smaller regeneration, sapling, and pole sized ponderosa may be warranted on a limited basis where pockets of younger trees have regenerated following disturbance and where these trees are growing in a closed canopy condition. Ponderosa pine health is best maintained when mature and old stand level densities does not exceed 60 square feet of basal area per acre (pockets and small groups of trees may be denser) and young stands do not exceed 80 square feet immediately post-treatment.