

Nine Mine Canyon Special Recreation Management Area Plan

Alternative Development

March 2016 **DRAFT**

Introduction

This alternatives development document solicits public comments to inform the drafting of an activity-level Recreation Area Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. The plan will implement decisions made in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Vernal and Price Field Offices' Resource Management Plans (RMPs, 2008) and actions prescribed by the West Tavaputs Programmatic Agreement (PA, 2010) in the Nine Mile Canyon (NMC) area.

Scoping in 2014 resulted in identifying a range of issues and concerns to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

As required by NEPA, a range of alternatives is presented in the SRMA EA to cover various management options available.

Alternative resolution of challenges, or opportunities identified in scoping, will form the basis of the range of alternatives.

The alternatives developed will reflect the variety of concerns, needs, resource uses and opportunities.

Each alternative is designed to be feasible, reasonable and implementable.

Note: The No Action Alternative does not present a static situation. Current management is a combination of previous planning decisions (1995 SCRMA and 2008 Price and Vernal RMPs) and implemented activity plans.

Three alternatives were determined to capture the issues and concerns brought forward to the BLM price Field Office as a result of scoping:

Alternative A – No Action – Current Management Direction

Under this alternative decisions made in the 1995 SCRMA Plan will be implemented except for the boundary change from the 2008 RMPs. This alternative includes:

- a. Implementing the Veverka Interpretation Plan.
- b. Recreation facilities construction and Interpretation Signing, on a case by case basis.

Alternative B – Dispersed Recreation Opportunities with limited/existing facilities (consistent with RMP decisions) with Emphasis on Education and Interpretation.

Under this alternative management direction would focus on public engagement, education and interpretation with little or no developed new recreation facilities.

This alternative includes:

- a. Implementing the 9-11interp sites (Implementing selective sections of the Veverka Interpretation Plan).
- b. Limited recreation facilities construction and Interpretation Signing (per PA).

Alternative C – Designated Recreation Opportunities with new developed facilities (consistent with RMP decisions) with Emphasis on Education and Interpretation.

Under this alternative management direction would focus on public engagement, education and interpretation with new fully developed recreation facilities.

This alternative includes:

- a. Implementing more than a dozen interp. sites with selective sections of the Veverka Interpretation Plan.
- b. Recreation facilities construction and Interpretation (Signing new + existing facilities).

Nine Mine Canyon Special Recreation Management Area Plan

Alternative Development

Alternative A

No Action – Baseline

Existing Management

This Alternative includes:

- 1995 SCRMA Plan Objectives
- 2008 RMP Objectives
- W. Tav EIS Mitigation Package
- Veverka Interpretation Plan
- PA stipulations implementation

Alternative B

Limited Recreation

No New Designations

This Alternative includes:

- Implementing 9-11 interp sites
- Improving existing facilities
- Selective sections of Veverka
- Public Education/Interpretation
- PA stipulations implementation

Alternative C

Designated Recreation

New Designations

This Alternative includes:

- New recreation facilities
- Improving existing facilities
- Selective sections of Veverka
- Public Education/Interpretation
- PA stipulations implementation

-
- The No Action Alternative does not represent a static situation. Current management is a combination of previous planning decisions (1995 SCRMA and 2008 Price and Vernal RMPs).
 - Each alternative is based on public scoping (conducted in 2014). Each alternative is designed to be feasible, reasonable and implementable and is consistent with the Price and Vernal RMPs.
 - New facilities include: designating roads, trails, parking areas, signage and fee campsites with amenities.