

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**NORTH FRUIT DESERT MASTER TRAILS PLAN**  
**DESIGN FEATURES AND RESTRICTIONS**

The following design features, including standard operating procedures and best management practices from Appendix H, and stipulations in Appendix B in the Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) Resource Management Plan (RMP) are included as part of the proposed action to help reduce potential impacts associated with this project.

**DESIGN FEATURES**

- A-32 Restrict surface disturbing activities to periods when wind speeds are less than 25 miles per hour.
- FWS-10: Surface disturbance closer than 20 meters to a listed plant will be considered an adverse effect. Mitigating measures within this narrow buffer are important and helpful to individual plants, but not all adverse effects can be fully mitigated within this distance. Some adverse effects due to dust, dust suppression, loss of pollinator habitat, and toxic spills will likely remain. There are two possible exceptions to this rule: 1) the new disturbance is no closer to a listed plant than preexisting disturbance, and no new or increased impacts to the listed plant are expected; or 2) the listed plant is screened from the proposed disturbance (e.g., tall, thick vegetation, or a berm acts as a screen or effective barrier to fugitive dust and other potential impacts).
- FWS -16: Protect nest sites from human disturbances by implementing Colorado Parks and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Service recommended buffers around known nest sites.
- H-36: Limit surface disturbance near drainage features and minimize surface disturbance on steep slopes, fragile soils, saline soils, and Mancos shale-derived soils.
- H-45: No operations using chemical processes (except for vegetation management) or other pollutants in their activities will be allowed within 200 feet of any water bodies. This includes staging equipment for refueling, as well as equipment maintenance.
- The project would be designed to avoid or otherwise ensure the protection of authorized rights-of-way on public lands within the project area, including coordination with ROW holders during the project development, and notification prior to initiating construction of the trails.
  - LR-9: The Proponent (applying for new right-of-way) shall notify all existing right-of-way holders in the project area prior to beginning any surface disturbance or construction activities. The Holder shall obtain an agreement with any existing right-of-way holders or other parties with authorized facilities that cross or are adjacent to those of the holder to assure that no damage to an existing right-of-way or authorized facility will occur. The agreement(s) shall be obtained prior to any use of the right-of-way or existing facility.

- In the event of inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources during construction, all activities would cease, and the trail construction crew would contact the BLM paleontologist in order to determine an appropriate course of action to protect any found resources.
  - P-5: A standard Education/Discovery stipulation for paleontological resource protection shall be attached to the land use authorization. The operator or its contractor is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that Federal laws protect paleontological resources and they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or destroying any vertebrate fossils or paleontological sites, or collecting any fossilized bones, tracks or any other vertebrate trace fossils from federal lands.
  - P-6: The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA) [16 U.S.C. 470aaa] requires the lessee/operator to immediately suspend activities in the vicinity of a vertebrate fossil discovery, protect the discovery from damage and notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the operator. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.
- REC-65: (Resource objective): Through the life of the RMP, manage the North Fruita Desert RMZ to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: mule deer and elk winter range, water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River), and soils.
- REC-66: (Resource use objective): Through the life of the RMP, minimize impacts from other resource uses to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in the North Fruita Desert RMZ during the planning process: livestock grazing.
- V-1: All new surface-disturbing projects or activities, regardless of size or potential impact, will incorporate visual design considerations during final project design as a reasonable attempt to meet the Visual Resource Management class objectives for the area and minimize the visual impacts of the proposal. Visual design considerations will be incorporated by:
  - Using the Visual Resource Management contrast rating process; and,
  - Providing a brief narrative visual assessment.
- V-6: Restrict visual intrusion in Visual Resource Management Class I and II areas and

within 0.25-miles of historic trails.

- VR-7: Minimize disturbance to soil and native vegetation as much as possible.
- V-12: Repeat form, line, color, and texture elements to blend facilities with the surrounding landscape.
- V-14: Perform final reclamation recontouring of all disturbed areas, including access roads, to the original contour or a contour that blends with the surrounding topography.
- WEED-3: Learn to recognize noxious and invasive weeds. (The BLM would instruct work crews on how to identify noxious weeds common to the area, so if any are found, the BLM can respond with a treatment.)
- WEED-4: Inventory all proposed projects for weeds prior to ground-disturbing activities. If weeds are found, they should be treated (if the timing is appropriate) or removed (if seeds are present) to limit weed seed production and dispersal.
- WEED-5: Be cognizant of moving equipment and machinery from weed contaminated areas to uncontaminated areas. (Trail construction personnel would inspect all construction equipment for weed seeds, and would clean machinery as needed, when entering and leaving the work sites. GJFO RMP Appendix H WEED-5, WEED-6, WEED-7 and WEED-13).
- WEED-6: Locate and use weed-free project staging areas. Avoid or minimize travel through weed-infested areas, or restrict travel to periods when spread of disseminules is least likely.
- WEED-7: Identify sites where equipment can be cleaned. Remove mud, dirt, and plant parts from project equipment before moving it into a project area. Seeds and plant parts should be collected and incinerated when possible.
- WEED-13: Clean all equipment before leaving the project site when operating in weed-infested areas.
- WEED-17: Inspect and document all ground-disturbing activities in noxious weed-infested areas for at least three growing seasons following project completion. For ongoing projects, continue to monitor until reasonably certain that no weeds are present. Plan for follow-up treatments based on inspection results.
- WEED-36: Maintain trailheads, campgrounds, visitor centers, boat launches, picnic areas, roads leading to trailheads, and other areas of concentrated public use in a weed-free condition. Consider high-use recreation areas as high-priority sites for weed eradication.
- WEED-37: Sign trailheads and access points to educate visitors about noxious and invasive weeds and the consequences of their activities.

#### Other Design Features

- Trail construction crews would be instructed to document any encounters with midget-faded rattlesnakes (date, time and location), and to avoid disturbing or harassing the snakes.
- The BLM would advise the trail construction crew that any spill of petroleum products would be reported to the BLM Authorized Officer immediately. The trail crew would quickly remove and properly dispose any soil contaminated by a spill. Contaminated soil could be temporarily stored on and covered by plastic sheathing.

### **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN RESTRICTIONS**

- CSU-08: Avoid Impacts or loss of Significant and/or relict plant communities (including old growth forests and woodlands, and significant plant communities).
- NSO-26: Prohibit surface occupancy and use and surface-disturbing activities within all identified ... midget faded rattlesnake, ... sites.
- STIPULATION TL-3: Migratory Bird Habitat. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities, including vegetation-removal projects, in migratory bird habitat during nesting season (May 15 to July 15 or as site-specific analysis dictates) when nesting birds are present (GJFO RMP page 35).
- STIPULATION TL-20: Prohibit surface occupancy and use, surface-disturbing activities, and intensive human activities from December 1 to May 1 to protect big game winter range as mapped by the CPW. Certain areas and/or routes within big game winter range may be closed to foot, horse, motorized, and/or mechanized travel from December 1 to May 1.
  - This stipulation would apply to 12.4 miles of trails.

#### Proposed Temporary Modification to TL-20 for Trail Construction:

- To minimize impacts within mule deer severe winter range, construction using motorized trail building equipment (trail dozers, excavators, chainsaws) would not occur between December 1 and May 1 annually on the trail segments proposed for seasonal travel restrictions. Construction using hand tools may occur on those segments during that time period if necessary. The BLM would consult with CPW to determine if construction with hand tools could occur after December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- WILDLIFE SENSITIVE RAPTOR NESTS TL CO STIPULATION: No surface use is allowed within an 805-meter (0.5-mile) radius of active or inactive raptor nests, as mapped in the Resource Management Plan, BLM's GIS database or other maps provided by local, state, federal or tribal agencies that are analyzed and accepted by the BLM, during the following time period(s), or until fledging and dispersal of young:
  - Peregrine and prairie falcon nest cliff(s): March 15 to July 31.