



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Preliminary Alternatives Report

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan



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Preliminary Alternatives Report

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan

Prepared by

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
Cañon City, Colorado**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------|--|
| ACEC | Area of critical environmental concern |
| AIM | Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring |
| APD | Application for permit to drill |
| APLIC | Avian Power Line Interaction Committee |
| AUM | Animal Unit Month |
| BAR | Burned area rehabilitation |
| BCA | Backcountry conservation area |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| CDPHE | Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CHAT | Crucial habitat assessment tool |
| CNHP | Colorado Natural Heritage Program |
| CO | Colorado |
| COA | Condition of approval |
| COGCC | Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission |
| CSO | Colorado State Office |
| CSU | Controlled surface use |
| DNR | Department of Natural Resources |
| EA | Environmental assessment |
| ECRMP | Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan |
| EIS | Environmental impact statement |
| EP | Eastern Plains |
| EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| ERMA | Extensive recreation management area |
| ES | Emergency stabilization |
| FLPMA | Federal Land Policy and Management Act |
| FR | Federal Register |
| FRR | Front Range |
| IDT | Interdisciplinary team |
| IM | Instruction Memorandum |
| MLP | Master leasing plan |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standard |

| | |
|--------|--|
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NOI | Notice of intent |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| NSO | No surface occupancy |
| NWSRS | National Wild and Scenic Rivers System |
| OHV | Off-highway vehicle |
| ORV | Outstandingly remarkable value |
| PFC | Proper functioning condition |
| PFYC | Potential Fossil Yield Classification |
| PILT | Payment in lieu of taxes |
| PRPA | Paleontological Resources Preservation Act |
| RF | Rural Foothills |
| RGFO | Royal Gorge Field Office |
| RMP | Resource management plan |
| RMZ | Recreation management zone |
| ROD | Record of decision |
| ROW | Right-of-way |
| SRMA | Special recreation management area |
| SRP | Special recreation permit |
| SUPO | Surface use plan of operations |
| TMP | Travel management plan |
| U.S.C. | United States Code |
| UP | Upper Arkansas |
| USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| USFS | U.S. Forest Service |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USGS | U.S. Geological Survey |
| VCC | Vegetation condition class |
| VRM | Visual resource management |
| WSA | Wilderness study area |
| WSR | Wild and scenic river |

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing a Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) to provide comprehensive management direction for all resources and uses within the Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) in eastern Colorado. The BLM currently manages the RGFO under the Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP (BLM 1996) and the Northeast RMP (BLM 1986), and associated amendments. A new RMP is needed to address a number of issues that have arisen and new information available since development of the existing RMPs. The Eastern Colorado RMP/EIS (also called the ECRMP) will take into account the changing needs of the planning area over the life of the plan and will combine both of the original planning areas under one cohesive plan that establishes specific goals, objectives, allowable uses, management actions, and special designations for managing lands within the RGFO pursuant to the multiple-use and sustained yield mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1701–1785). In addition to overall resource management across the planning area, the ECRMP will consider a Master Leasing Plan (MLP) for the South Park area. The ECRMP planning area does not include the Browns Canyon National Monument, which will undergo its own planning effort.

The planning area for the ECRMP encompasses more than 35 million acres of land under various jurisdictions, including 7,177,100 acres of Federal mineral estate (Figure 1). However, BLM uses and actions considered in this document would only apply to 658,200 acres of BLM-administered surface land (Figure 2) and 3,311,900 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate (Figure 3) within the planning area for which the BLM has the authority to make land use and management decisions—these areas are referred to collectively as the decision area. The decision area includes BLM-administered mineral estate that is underneath privately or State-owned surface, which is commonly referred to as split estate land. Nearly 81 percent (2,673,000 acres) of all BLM-administered mineral estate in the decision area is split estate. The ECRMP will not include planning or management decisions for lands or minerals that are privately owned, owned by the State of Colorado, owned by local governments, or administered by other Federal agencies (e.g., U.S. Forest Service). Table 1 identifies acres of surface ownership¹ in the planning area. Table 2 identifies acres of Federal mineral estate, BLM-administered mineral estate, and split estate in the planning area.

Allowable uses, management actions, and special designations in this document would not change existing rights or authorizations (e.g., terms and conditions of existing oil and gas leases or rights-of-way [ROWs]). However, the BLM could apply mitigation measures to subsequent authorizations (e.g., ROW amendment and assignments) on a case-by-case basis if consistent with these alternatives and required by project-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

¹ Due to re-alignment of field office boundaries (effective October 1, 2016), Saguache County is no longer in the RGFO and is therefore not included in the ECRMP planning area.

analysis or other environmental review. Any new mitigation measures must be in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and applicable existing lease terms.

Table 1. Surface Ownership within the ECRMP Planning Area

| Surface Ownership | Acres ¹ | Percent |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| Bureau of Land Management | 658,200 | 2 |
| Bureau of Reclamation | 100 | <1 |
| Department of Defense | 446,800 | 1 |
| National Park Service | 175,600 | <1 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | 23,800 | <1 |
| U.S. Forest Service | 3,463,000 | 10 |
| Other Federal | 7,100 | <1 |
| State | 2,191,700 | 6 |
| State (Wildlife Areas/Parks), County, City | 226,300 | 1 |
| Private | 28,365,600 | 80 |
| Total Surface Acres | 35,555,000 | 100 |

Source: BLM 2016

¹All acreages rounded to the nearest hundred.

< – less than

Table 2. Federal Mineral Estate within the ECRMP Planning Area

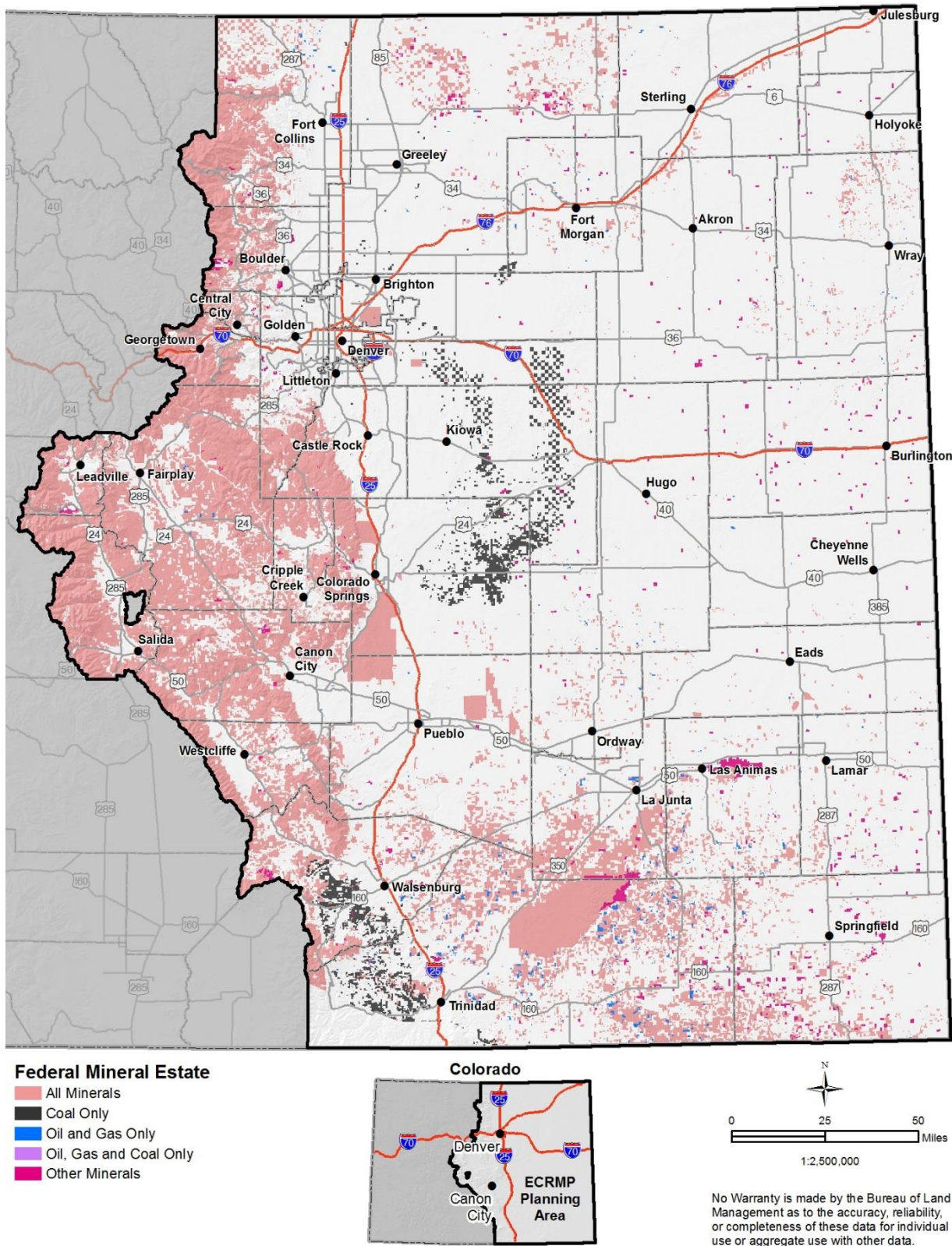
| All Federal Mineral Estate | Acres¹ | Percent |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| All Federal Minerals | 6,408,700 | 89 |
| Coal Only | 436,500 | 6 |
| Oil and Gas Only | 86,700 | 1 |
| Oil, Gas and Coal Only | 1,500 | 0 |
| Other | 243,800 | 3 |
| Total Federal Mineral Estate | 7,177,100 | 100 |
| BLM-Administered Mineral Estate² | Acres | |
| All Minerals | 2,654,200 | 80 |
| Coal Only | 436,200 | 13 |
| Oil and Gas Only | 86,100 | 3 |
| Oil, Gas, and Coal Only | 1,500 | 0 |
| Other | 133,900 | 4 |
| Total BLM-Administered Mineral Estate for Oil and Gas³ (subsurface decision area minus Coal Only) | 2,886,300 | 87 |
| Total BLM-Administered Mineral Estate (subsurface decision area) | 3,311,900 | 100 |
| Split Estate³ | Acres | |
| All Minerals | 2,023,900 | 76 |
| Coal Only | 436,100 | 16 |
| Oil and Gas Only | 86,100 | 3 |
| Oil, Gas and Coal Only | 1,500 | 0 |
| Other | 125,500 | 5 |
| Total Split Estate | 2,673,000 | 100 |

Source: BLM 2016

¹All acreages rounded to the nearest hundred.²Includes areas of BLM, State, local, and private surface over BLM-administered mineral estate. Also includes "Other Federal" surface.³Includes areas of State, local, and private surface over BLM-administered mineral estate.

< – less than

Figure 1. Federal Mineral Estate in the ECRMP Planning Area



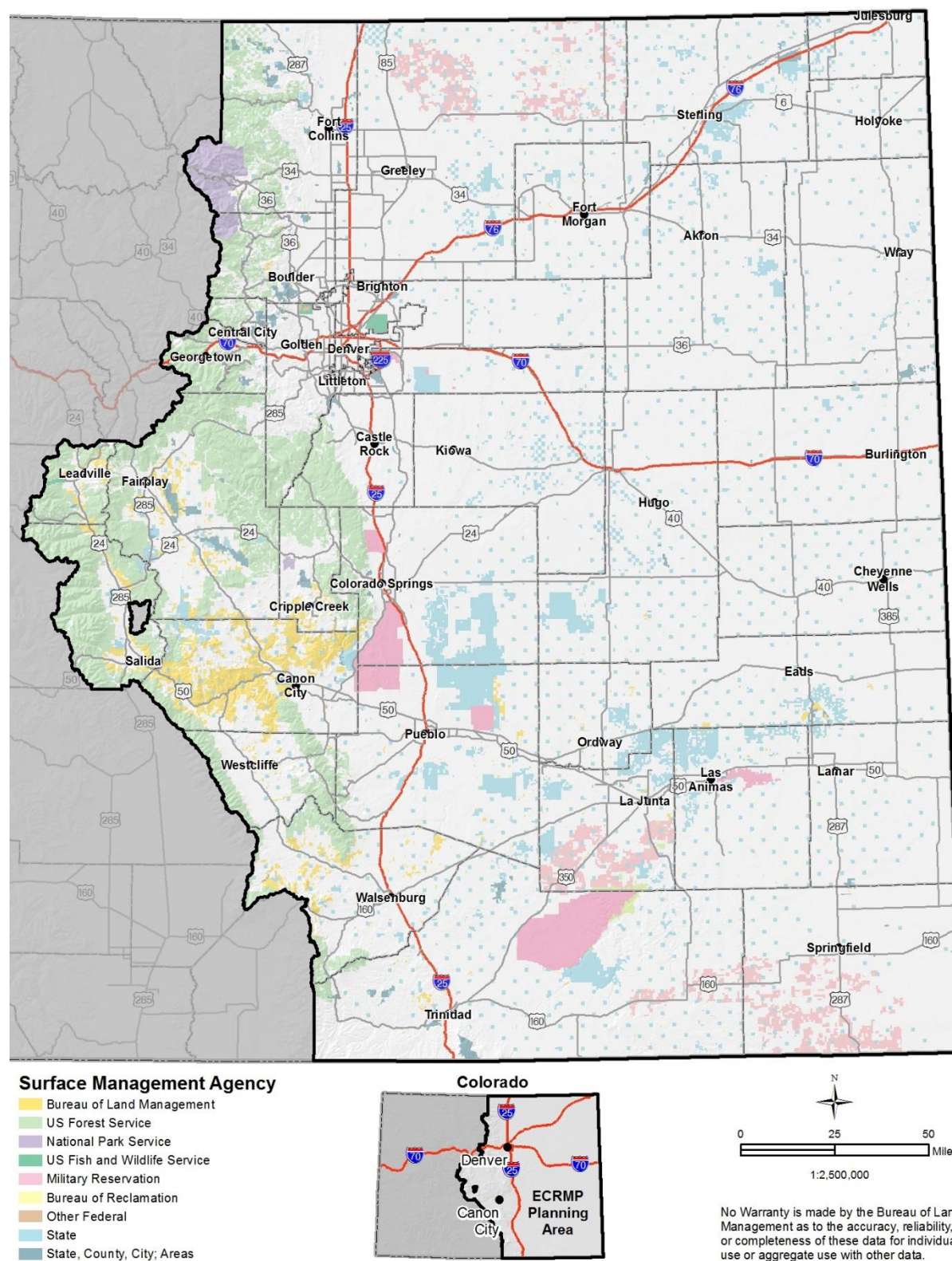
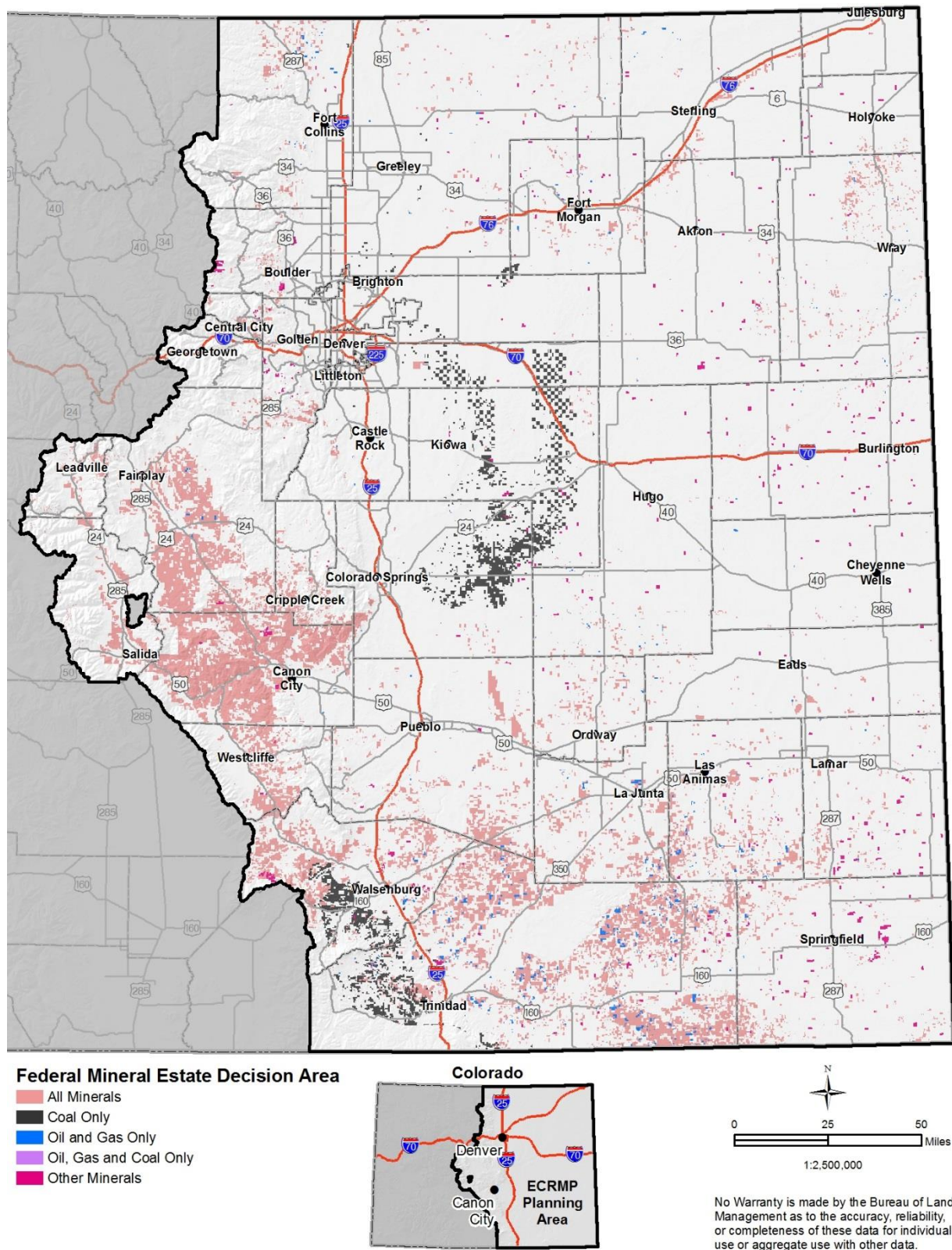


Figure 3. BLM-Administered Mineral Estate in the ECRMP Planning Area



This Preliminary Alternatives Report gives a range of reasonable management approaches that the BLM could implement to meet the purpose and need for the ECRMP. The BLM developed three preliminary action alternatives (alternatives B, C, and D), each built around an identified theme that establishes a unique management framework for the planning area and would guide BLM management of resources, resource uses, special designations, and socioeconomic conditions for the life of the plan.

Each of the preliminary action alternatives presented in this document has a series of interrelated components that relate to the overall alternative theme. Also included is a No Action Alternative (Alternative A), under which the BLM would continue to be guided by the management direction in the two existing RMPs. Although the No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the ECRMP, it is included by law and policy and to allow for comparison with the action alternatives. This report explains how the preliminary alternatives were developed and describes alternatives that the BLM considered but eliminated from detailed analysis and the reasons for their elimination.

This document is available for public review prior to preparation of the draft RMP/EIS to allow the public to raise any concerns and to identify other potential alternatives before the BLM conducts the impact analysis of the management plan alternatives. The BLM will take into account public input on this document when revising the preliminary alternatives. The BLM will also consider public input in determining what combination of plan components from the range of alternatives might be used to create a preferred alternative, or if one of the three preliminary alternatives could become the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will be included with the range of alternatives analyzed in the draft RMP/EIS.

In order to be considered in the development of the alternatives in the draft RMP/EIS, public input on the Preliminary Alternatives must be received by the date identified on the project website. Input may be emailed to ecrmp.comments@blm.gov, faxed to (719) 269-8599, or mailed to John Smeins, Bureau of Land Management, 3028 E Main St., Cañon City, CO 81212.

The BLM encourages interested parties to review both the ECRMP Preliminary Alternatives Report and Draft Basis for Analysis (released concurrently) to further their understanding of the planning process and how the impacts of the management plan alternatives will be analyzed in the draft EIS. Both documents and tips for providing effective input are available electronically via the Documents and Reports page on the ECRMP project website:

<http://on.doi.gov/1HVULcA>.

2.0 HOW THE ALTERNATIVES WERE DEVELOPED

NEPA (40 CFR 1505.1(e)) and BLM land use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-5) require the BLM to develop a range of reasonable alternatives during the RMP planning process.

Developing alternatives is fundamental to the planning process because it assists decision-makers and the public in understanding the potential consequences and benefits of different management scenarios. Alternatives considered for detailed analysis must meet the purpose and

need for the RMP, must be reasonable, must meet the established planning criteria, must address planning issues, and must be consistent with the multiple-use and sustained yield mandate of the FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701–1785) and all other applicable laws, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines.

In 2015, an interdisciplinary team (IDT) of BLM resource specialists began an extensive review of current management decisions from the existing RMPs for the RGFO and associated amendments to identify issues and assess current management. From this effort, which is documented in *Analysis of the Management Situation for the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan* (BLM 2015a), the BLM identified preliminary planning issues that could be addressed in a new RMP.

Public outreach for the ECRMP began with seven envisioning meetings held in May and June 2015. Members of the public were invited to share their vision for management of BLM-administered surface land and BLM-administered mineral estate, and to discuss how management of these lands fits into their vision for the future of their communities. Community values and concerns identified through the envisioning process are detailed in the *Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan Envisioning Report* (Casey 2016) and were used by the BLM in developing the range of alternatives.

The BLM formally initiated the external scoping process on June 1, 2015 with the publication in the *Federal Register* of a Notice of Intent to prepare the ECRMP (80 FR 31063). This began the public scoping period, during which the BLM released the preliminary planning issues identified by the BLM IDT for public review. The BLM hosted eight scoping meetings over a one-month period in June and July 2015. The meetings provided the public with the opportunity to become involved, learn about the project and the planning process, meet the BLM RGFO staff, and identify additional planning issues to be addressed in the alternatives for the ECRMP.

Preliminary planning issues that were identified internally by the BLM IDT or externally through public scoping are listed in each program area in Section 5.0 of this document and detailed in the *Scoping Summary Report for the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan* (BLM 2015b).

After completing public scoping, the BLM held six alternative development workshops attended by the BLM IDT and RGFO management between November 2015 and May 2016. The preliminary alternatives developed through these workshops were subsequently reviewed by staff at the BLM Colorado and Washington offices. The BLM hosted three additional alternative development workshops with cooperating agencies in November and December 2016. The preliminary alternatives were revised based on comments received during each agency and interagency review in preparation for their incorporation into this Preliminary Alternatives Report.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL

The following alternatives were considered but eliminated from detailed analysis because they did not meet the purpose of and need for the RMP or because they were outside of the technical, legal, or policy constraints of developing an RMP for BLM-administered resources and resource uses in the planning area.

3.1 Close Entire Decision Area to Livestock Grazing

The BLM considered an alternative that would close all BLM-administered surface lands to livestock grazing. This alternative was eliminated from detailed analysis for several reasons: First, the BLM did not identify any issues or conflicts during this land use planning process that would require the complete elimination of livestock grazing within the decision area. Second, no comments were received during the scoping process that suggested a no-livestock-grazing alternative should be considered. In some localized areas, the public brought concerns over livestock grazing forward (BLM 2015b). Closures and adjustments to livestock use have been incorporated into the alternatives, as appropriate, on a local basis in order to address these issues. Third, the BLM has considerable discretion through livestock grazing regulations to determine and adjust stocking levels, seasons of use, and livestock grazing management activities, as well as forage allocation.

Management of livestock grazing in the RMP, which includes proposed reductions and closures, considered many issues, including existing and potential areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), riparian issues, water supplies, disturbed areas (e.g., wildfire), private land conflicts, and special use areas (e.g., special status species).

During this planning process, including public scoping, the BLM did not identify issues or conflicts that could only be resolved through the elimination of all livestock grazing throughout the decision area. Where appropriate, the preclusion or adjustment of livestock use within an allotment or area was incorporated into the alternatives to address the issues noted above. This resulted in a reduction in animal unit months (AUMs) and the amount of BLM-administered land available for livestock grazing in Alternative B (approximately 18 percent reduction compared to the No Action Alternative).

Land health has been assessed across the Eastern Colorado RMP decision area using the *Colorado Public Land Health Standards* (BLM 1997). Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of BLM lands. Most lands are meeting land health standards. Less than 1 percent of the planning area was determined not to be meeting Standards 1 and 3 with livestock grazing noted as a significant contributing factor. Alternative B closes grazing in 18 percent of allotments in the planning area that have potential resource concerns.

Closure to grazing is not the only available mechanism to reduce grazing-related impacts. If livestock grazing is identified as a significant factor for not achieving or moving toward achieving land health standards, or if monitoring shows an adjustment is needed, then implementation-level management changes can be made in coordination with the permittees and interested members of the public. Such actions can include adjusting AUMs, changing the season or length of grazing use, implementing vegetation treatments, and adjusting grazing management practices. Permit terms and conditions could also be modified.

In addition, closing the Eastern Colorado RMP planning area to livestock grazing would be inconsistent with planning criteria that (1) established the parameters for the alternatives and (2) provided guidance by program. During the scoping period, no comments were received on the preliminary planning criteria related to livestock grazing.

For these reasons, an alternative proposing no livestock grazing for the entire planning area is not needed and has been removed from further consideration in this analysis.

3.2 Designating New Major Transportation and Energy Corridors

The BLM considered an alternative that would designate major transportation and energy corridors. Because Federal lands are scattered and interspersed with private and State lands throughout most of the planning area, a major transportation or energy corridor would not be feasible to implement, and this alternative was eliminated from detailed analysis. However, in consideration of corridors, the RMP includes a management action that states, “Whenever possible, ROWs would be constructed within or next to compatible existing ROWs, such as roads, pipelines, communication sites, and railroads.” In addition, the designated Section 368 West-wide Energy Corridor was carried forward in all alternatives.

3.3 Closure of All Public Lands to New Fluid Mineral Leasing

Closing all public lands in the planning area to new leasing of Federal fluid minerals, even where there are no identified resource conflicts, was considered but eliminated from further analysis. Closing the entire planning area to new fluid mineral leasing would not meet the BLM’s purpose and need because oil and gas development is an authorized use of public lands and meets the BLM’s multiple-use objectives. In addition, the Federal fluid mineral estate in much of the planning area has already been leased, and the majority of the leases are developed. Furthermore, in the areas with the highest oil and gas potential and greatest amount of activity, the BLM is not the primary owner of mineral interests. If these areas are not available, Federal minerals would be drained with no compensation to the public. Because mineral development of adjacent non-Federal minerals will continue, along with development of existing leases that are subject to valid existing rights, closing the remaining intermingled fluid minerals to development is impractical and could result in greater surface impacts. Public scoping comments indicated a

growing level of concern with the rate and scale of oil and gas leasing and development in the planning area. In response to this concern, the alternatives consider making portions of the planning area unavailable or place restrictions for oil and gas leasing in response to other identified resource needs (see Section 5.2.4).

4.0 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF EACH ALTERNATIVE

Each of the action alternatives presented in this document is composed of a series of interrelated components, including goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions, that relate to an overall alternative theme. Figure 4 illustrates the plan components for each alternative and identifies the section in this document where each component is described. One alternative, Alternative D, also has themes for specific landscapes within the planning area.

Figure 4. Alternative Components and Corresponding Section in the Document

| <u>Alternative A</u> No Action | <u>Alternative B</u> Natural Processes | <u>Alternative C</u> Demand for Resource Use | <u>Alternative D</u> Human Ecoregion |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Alternative Theme | Alternative Theme | Alternative Theme | Alternative Theme |
| Number of Landscapes in Alternative: | | | |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Landscape Themes | Landscape Themes | Landscape Themes | Landscape Themes |
| | Landscape-Level Goals | Landscape-Level Goals | Landscape-Level Goals |
| | Goals Common to All Action Alternatives | | |
| | Resource Goals | Resource Goals | Resource Goals |
| Resource Objectives | Resource Objectives | Resource Objectives | Resource Objectives |
| Allowable Uses and Management Actions | Allowable Uses and Management Actions | Allowable Uses and Management Actions | Allowable Uses and Management Actions |
| Section in document: | 4.0 General Description of Each Alternative | 5.0 Comparison of Alternatives | |

The components under each alternative theme represent potential RMP decisions, which are broad-scale decisions that would guide future resource management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. These components fall into two general categories: desired outcomes (goals and measurable objectives) and strategies to achieve desired outcomes (allowable uses and management actions). The alternatives in the ECRMP have the following themes and components, listed in order of increasing specificity:

- **Alternative themes** provide a unique framework that would guide BLM management of resources, resource uses, special designations, and socioeconomic conditions for the life of the plan.
- **Landscape themes** serve the same purpose as alternative themes, but guide management of specific landscapes within the planning area that have unique characteristics or issues.
- **Goals** are broad statements of desired outcomes that usually are not quantifiable. Goals may be landscape-level or resource-specific and may be common to more than one alternative.
- **Resource objectives** identify specific desired outcomes for resources. To the extent feasible, objectives are quantifiable and measurable and may have established time frames for achievement.
- **Allowable uses** identify uses or allocations that are allowed, restricted, or prohibited on public lands and mineral estate. No surface occupancy, controlled surface use, or timing limitations are types of uses that are applied to surface-disturbing activities to achieve objectives.
- **Management actions** identify measures or criteria to achieve objectives, such as actions to maintain, restore, or improve land health.

4.1 Alternative A: The No Action Alternative

4.1.1 Why Alternative A Was Developed (Purpose and Need for Alternative A)

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA require that environmental impact statements analyze a no action alternative (40 CFR 1502.14(d)). Within the context of revising a land management plan, the no action alternative represents “‘no change’ from current management direction or level of intensity” (46 FR 55, March 23, 1981). Alternative A is the “no action” or “status quo” alternative and is the only alternative that would not respond to the purpose and need for the ECRMP. Nonetheless, Alternative A serves an important purpose by allowing the BLM to compare the environmental impacts of the action alternatives to the impacts of retaining current management.

4.1.2 Overall Theme for Alternative A

Alternative A represents the continuation of current management of BLM-administered surface land and Federal mineral estate in the planning area. The BLM would continue to implement management direction in the two existing RMPs, as amended. The northern portion of the planning area is largely managed under the Northeast RMP and Record of Decision (ROD) (BLM 1986) and a subsequent oil and gas leasing amendment (BLM 1991a). The southern portion of the planning area is currently managed under the Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP/ROD (BLM 1996), which was amended by five travel management plans (TMPs) (BLM 2002a, BLM 2003, BLM 2004a, BLM 2004b, BLM 2008a) and two land tenure adjustments (BLM 2002b, BLM 2009a). Both existing RMPs were amended by the *Colorado Public Land Health Standards* (BLM 1997) and programmatic amendments related to the development of wind energy (BLM 2005), solar energy (BLM 2012), energy corridors (BLM 2009b), and geothermal energy (BLM 2008b). Table 3 summarizes the existing RMPs and amendments that comprise Alternative A. The Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP/ROD has also been revised through 33 maintenance actions between 1996 and 2016.

Table 3. Existing BLM RMPs and Amendments

| RMP/ Amendment | Year | Description | Applicable Planning Area | |
|---|------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | <i>Northeast Resource Area</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area</i> |
| Northeast RMP/ROD | 1986 | RMP containing management decisions for BLM-administered surface land and mineral estate in northeast Colorado | X | |
| Oil and Gas Plan Amendment | 1991 | Amendment to oil and gas leasing decisions for conformance with the <i>Colorado Oil and Gas Leasing and Development Final Environmental Impact Statement</i> (BLM 1991b) | X | |
| Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP/ROD | 1996 | RMP containing management decisions for BLM-administered surface land and mineral estate in southeast Colorado | | X |
| Colorado Public Land Health Standards Amendment | 1997 | Amendment to allow prescribed fire and prescribed natural fire as management tools to enhance other resources | | X |
| Wellsville Land Tenure Amendment | 2002 | Amendment to allow disposal of 45 acres of BLM-administered surface land in Fremont County that were difficult and uneconomical to manage for continued private development | | X |

General Description of Each Alternative

| RMP/ Amendment | Year | Description | Applicable Planning Area | |
|--|------|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | Northeast Resource Area | Royal Gorge Resource Area |
| Cache Creek TMP Amendment | 2002 | Amendment to limit motorized travel to designated routes on 2,160 acres in the Cache Creek area in Chaffee County, Colorado, that were acquired by the BLM in 2000 | | X |
| Fourmile TMP Amendment | 2003 | Amendment to limit motorized travel to designated routes on 13,000 acres of BLM-administered surface land in the Fourmile area in Chaffee County, Colorado, in coordination with the Salida Ranger District of the San Isabel National Forest | | X |
| Box Creek Vegetation and TMP Amendment | 2004 | Amendment to designate a system of roads and trails on 2,360 acres of BLM-administered surface land and 1,570 acres of private land that the BLM subsequently acquired in the Box Creek area in Lake County, Colorado, in coordination with the Leadville Ranger District of the San Isabel National Forest | | X |
| Gold Belt TMP Amendment | 2004 | Amendment to change off-highway vehicle designations to limited for the Penrose Chaining (3,174 acres) and Deer Haven (6,909 acres) areas in Fremont County, Colorado | | X |
| Wind Energy Development Programmatic Amendments | 2005 | Amendment to 52 BLM RMPs in 11 western States to adopt a Wind Energy Development Program | X | X |
| Arkansas River TMP Amendment | 2008 | Amendment to change off-highway vehicle designations from open to limited and closed in the Arkansas River subunit | | X |
| Geothermal Leasing Programmatic Amendments | 2008 | Amendment to 114 BLM RMPs in 11 western States and Alaska to incorporate BLM decisions and guidance on geothermal leasing | X | X |
| South Park Land Tenure Amendment | 2009 | Amendment to land tenure status on 63,599 acres of BLM-administered surface land in the South Park region in Park County, Colorado, based on updated information and newly discovered resource values | | X |
| Designation of Energy Corridors Programmatic Amendments | 2009 | Amendment to 92 BLM RMPs in 11 western States to designate corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities | X | X |

| RMP/ Amendment | Year | Description | Applicable Planning Area | |
|---|------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | <i>Northeast Resource Area</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area</i> |
| Solar Energy Development Programmatic Amendments | 2012 | Amendment to 89 BLM RMPs in 6 southwestern States to identify suitable locations for utility-scale solar development | X | X |

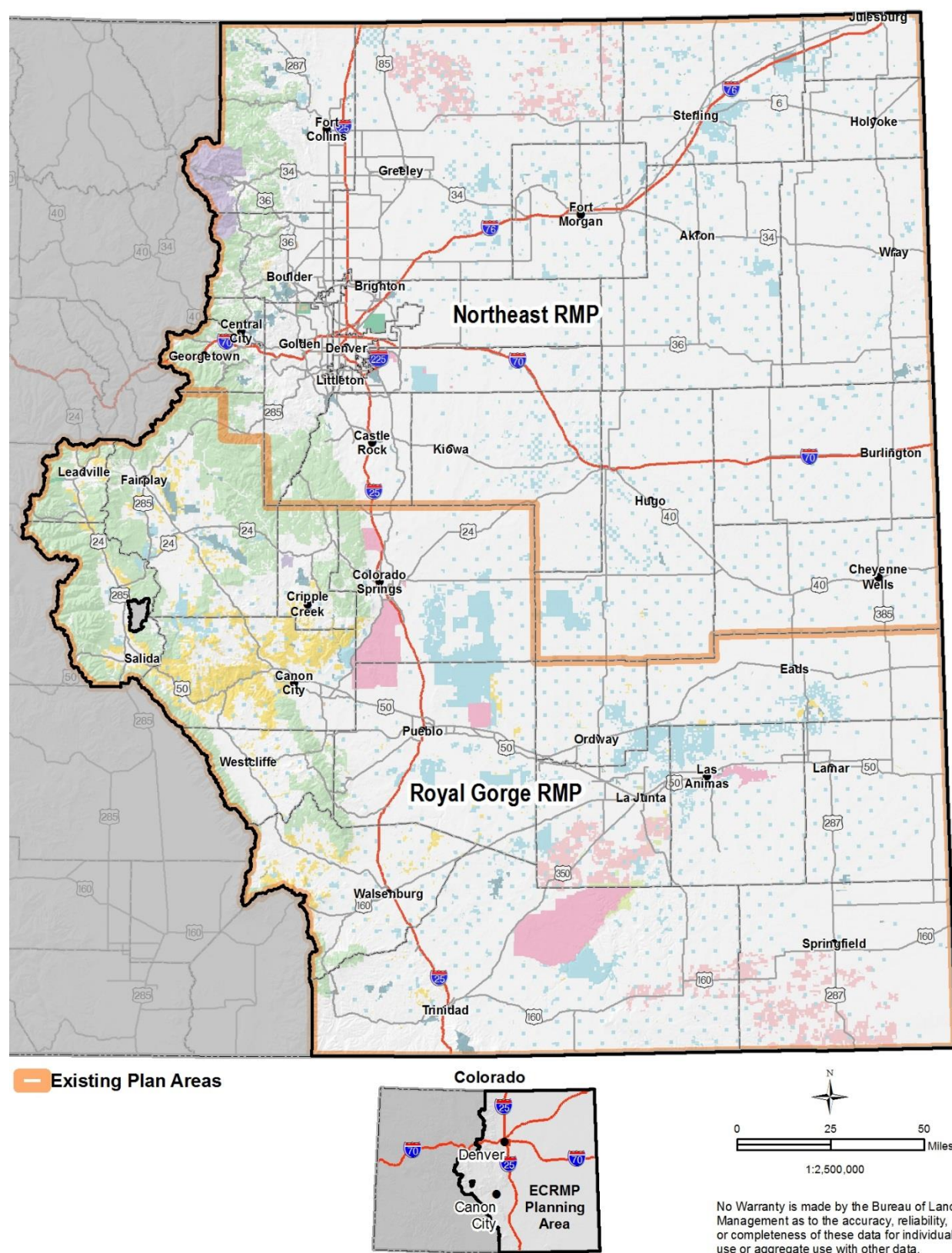
Sources: BLM 1986; BLM 1991a; BLM 1996; BLM 1997; BLM 2002a; BLM 2002b; BLM 2003; BLM 2004a; BLM 2004b; BLM 2005; BLM 2008a; BLM 2008b; BLM 2009a; BLM 2009b; BLM 2012.

BLM – Bureau of Land Management; RMP – Resource management plan; ROD – Record of decision; TMP – Travel management plan

Alternative A has two landscapes (Figure 5) formed by the planning areas of the existing RMPs: the Northeast Resource Area (Section 4.1.3) and the Royal Gorge Resource Area (Section 4.1.4). Alternative A carries forward objectives (if present) and decisions (management actions) from the existing RMPs and associated amendments. In general, the existing RMPs do not identify specific landscape goals; therefore, no landscape goals are included in Alternative A. Additionally, objectives are only identified in a few instances in the Northeast RMP/ROD, and not at all in the Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP/ROD. In contrast, the action alternatives identify integrated goals and objectives for each landscape, as well as management actions.

In some instances, the original order or wording of objectives and management actions has been modified so it can be understood outside of its original context. The presentation and discussion of these objectives and management actions in this document seek to convey their original meaning and intent, as understood by the BLM today. For additional context on proposed management under Alternative A, refer to the source documents listed in Table 3.

Figure 5. Alternative A Landscape Boundaries



4.1.3 Northeast Resource Area

The Northeast Resource Area is the planning area for the Northeast RMP. The ECRMP adopts this 18,430,000-acre area as 1 of 2 landscapes that comprise the planning area under Alternative A. The Northeast Resource Area encompasses all or parts of 22 counties in the northeast quarter of Colorado and three major cities along the Front Range—Fort Collins, Boulder, and Denver (Figure 4). Human and environmental uses of the landscape vary widely from the foothills of the Front Range to the Eastern Plains that spread toward Wyoming, Nebraska, and Kansas. The BLM currently administers 8,500 acres of surface lands and 1,731,900 acres of Federal mineral estate within the Northeast Resource Area. There are 494,200 acres of Federal mineral estate where the surface owner is a non-Federal entity. Most lands in the Northeast Resource Area are privately owned (16,009,400 acres). Other public lands not administered by the BLM (2,412,500 acres) are managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service, Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the State of Colorado, counties, and cities.

The need for the Northeast RMP, as identified during its development in the 1980s, was to comprehensively address rapid population growth occurring in urban areas along the Front Range; public concern over the development of coal, oil, and gas; and concern about the effects of public land management on the social and economic well-being of local communities (BLM 1986). The BLM developed the objectives and management actions in the Northeast RMP/ROD in response to this need, and the BLM would continue to implement these actions under Alternative A.

The primary goal of Alternative A within the Northeast Resource Area, as stated in the Northeast RMP/ROD, is “to increase management efficiency and reduce the costs of public land management by improving management efficiency” (BLM 1986). In pursuit of this goal, management actions emphasize transfer or disposal of BLM-administered surface land that is difficult or costly to manage to public or non-public entities that can manage them more efficiently.

For lands recommended for retention, the Northeast RMP/ROD identifies which resource uses are allowed (e.g., mineral development, timber harvest, or recreation) and which measures would be applied to protect or improve resource values (e.g., wildlife habitat, vegetation, or water quality). The Northeast RMP divides the Northeast Resource Area into 10 management zones based on physical features, political boundaries, land ownership patterns, and resource values. These management zones are subdivided into management units (ranging from 1 to 24 units per zone), which are the discrete land areas to which land use allocations in the Northeast RMP/ROD are applied. Acreages reported in land use allocations represent the aggregate acreage of each use across all management units in the Northeast Resource Area at the time the RMP/ROD was written, unless otherwise stated. Appendix A of the Northeast RMP/ROD includes maps and land use allocations specific to each management unit (BLM 1986).

4.1.4 Royal Gorge Resource Area

The Royal Gorge Resource Area is the planning area for the Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP. The Eastern Colorado RMP/EIS adopts this 17,148,400-acre area as 1 of 2 landscapes that comprise the planning area under Alternative A. The Royal Gorge Resource Area encompasses all or parts of 16 counties in the southeast quarter of Colorado, including the cities of Colorado Springs, Pueblo and many rural communities (Figure 5). The eastern and central portions of the landscape are dominated by extensive plains and grasslands that rise gently from Kansas and Oklahoma toward the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at the landscape's western edge. The BLM currently administers 659,400 acres of surface lands and 5,466,900 acres of Federal mineral estate within the former Royal Gorge Resource Area. There are 2,179,700 acres of Federal mineral estate where the surface owner is a non-Federal entity. Most surface lands in the Royal Gorge Resource Area are privately owned (12,356,000 acres). Other public lands not administered by the BLM (4,133,000 acres) are managed by the USFS, Department of Defense, National Park Service, the State of Colorado, counties, and cities.

The overall objective for the Royal Gorge Resource Area, as stated in the RMP/ROD, is “to provide a variety of levels, methods, and mix of multiple use resource management, utilization, and protection” (BLM 1996). Management actions for this landscape generally emphasize the conservation or enhancement of important wildlife habitats, visual resources, and dispersed recreation opportunities. Many management actions call for the development of integrated activity plans to determine the appropriate multiple-use management for lands in the Royal Gorge Resource Area; however, few integrated activity plans were prepared and none are currently in use (BLM 2015a).

The existing RMP divides the Royal Gorge Resource Area into 10 geographic subregions, each with a distinct list of applicable management actions. Acreages of land use allocations represent the aggregate acreage of each use across all subregions in the resource area at the time the RMP/ROD was written, unless otherwise stated. Land use allocations specific to each subregion are provided in the RMP/ROD (BLM 1996).

4.2 Alternative B: Emphasis on Natural Processes

4.2.1 Overall Theme for Alternative B

This alternative prioritizes maximization of proper ecosystem function according to ecoregional assessments or other metrics. Management will focus on proactive preservation and restoration of ecoregion components to meet desired future conditions as well as the *Colorado Public Land Health Standards* (BLM 1997). Resource uses (e.g., oil and gas, recreation, rights-of-ways, livestock grazing) will be managed adaptively as required to make long-term progress toward meeting the desired future conditions and improving resource resiliency.

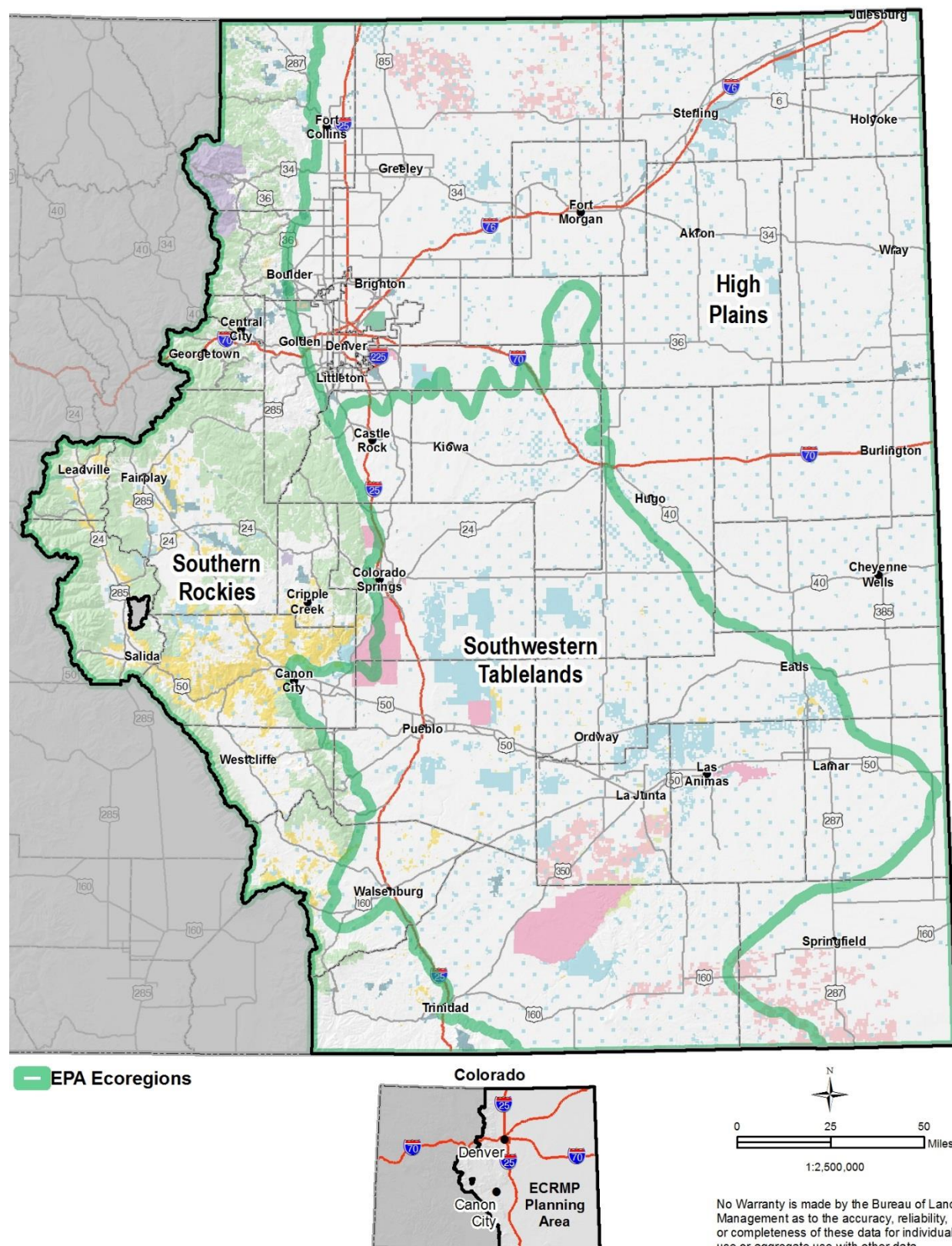
Three ecoregions (Southwestern Tablelands, High Plains, and Southern Rockies) (Figure 6) are within the planning area. Descriptions of the ecoregions are below.

Southwestern Tablelands: The Southwestern Tablelands Ecoregion is part of the larger Southern Great Plains Rapid Ecosystem Assessment and Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The Southwestern Tablelands within the planning area consist largely of private lands with some national grasslands and military reservations. BLM surface management is limited; however, there are some blocks of BLM-administered surface that contain important ecosystem components. In this ecoregion, the BLM would consider the ecological interaction of surrounding lands and their conservation status to try to maximize ecosystem function.

Great Plains: The Great Plains Ecoregion is part of the larger Southern Great Plains Rapid Ecosystem Assessment and Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The Great Plains within the planning area consist largely of private lands with some national grasslands. BLM-administered surface land is very limited; however, Federal subsurface management is active. In this ecoregion, the BLM would largely consider how management of subsurface Federal minerals interacts with surface management and with surrounding lands to maximize ecosystem function.

Southern Rockies: The Southern Rockies Ecoregion within the planning area is not covered by a BLM Rapid Ecosystem Assessment; however, many organizations have assessed this ecoregion. The bulk of surface lands managed by the BLM within the planning area are located within the Southern Rockies; however, these lands are scattered with few areas of truly large, contiguous blocks. In this ecoregion, the BLM would strive to maximize protection of larger blocks and leverage the conservation status of surrounding lands to protect the ecosystem function.

Figure 6. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Level III Ecoregions in the ECRMP Planning Area



4.2.2 Landscape-level Goals

Alternative B has the following landscape-level goals for the Eastern Colorado RMP planning area:

1. Restore, maintain, protect, or improve resource condition or ecosystem function to promote ecosystem diversity, productivity, and natural processes.
2. Move toward resilient landscapes by managing resources and resource uses to maintain or establish large natural areas and maintain healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species as well as maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape scale features to ensure protection of aquatic systems to which species, populations, and communities are adapted.
3. Reduce or mitigate the effects of climate change on resources.
4. Manage the human demand for resource use while improving and prioritizing the health of ecosystems, ecosystem processes, and cultural resources.
5. Protect the integrity of unique resources and provide opportunities for compatible uses.
6. Emphasize collaboration with adjacent landowners, Federal and State agencies, tribes, communities, other agencies, and other individuals and organizations as needed to attain and monitor healthy ecosystem conditions.
7. Maintain existing partnerships and develop new partnerships to inventory and monitor resource conditions.

4.3 Alternative C: Emphasis on Responding to Demand for Resource Use

4.3.1 Overall Theme for Alternative C

In this alternative, public demand for use will be the basis for resource management, and management will rely mostly on existing laws and regulations to protect the long-term sustainability of resources. Adaptive management will be used as a tool to respond to demand. The BLM will keep resources open for greater commercial use as demand dictates. The BLM will maximize accessibility to resource use to facilitate development for commercial and public use for things such as: mineral extraction, grazing, ROWs, renewable energy projects, and recreation.

Under Alternative C, the landscape would be defined by the geopolitical boundaries of the State of Colorado on the north, east, and south and by the Eastern Colorado RMP planning area boundary on the west. The entire landscape would be looked at as one to develop goals, objectives, and management actions to meet the alternative theme.

4.3.2 Landscape-level Goals

Alternative C has the following landscape-level goals for the Eastern Colorado RMP planning area:

1. Maximize opportunities to meet current human demand for commercial resource use.
2. Maintain the long-term resiliency and preservation of resources through adaptive management and mitigation by applying restrictions as required by laws, regulations, policies, and guidance.
3. Improve availability and access for resource use to all lands not directly restricted by law, regulation, or policy.

4.4 Alternative D: The Human Ecoregion

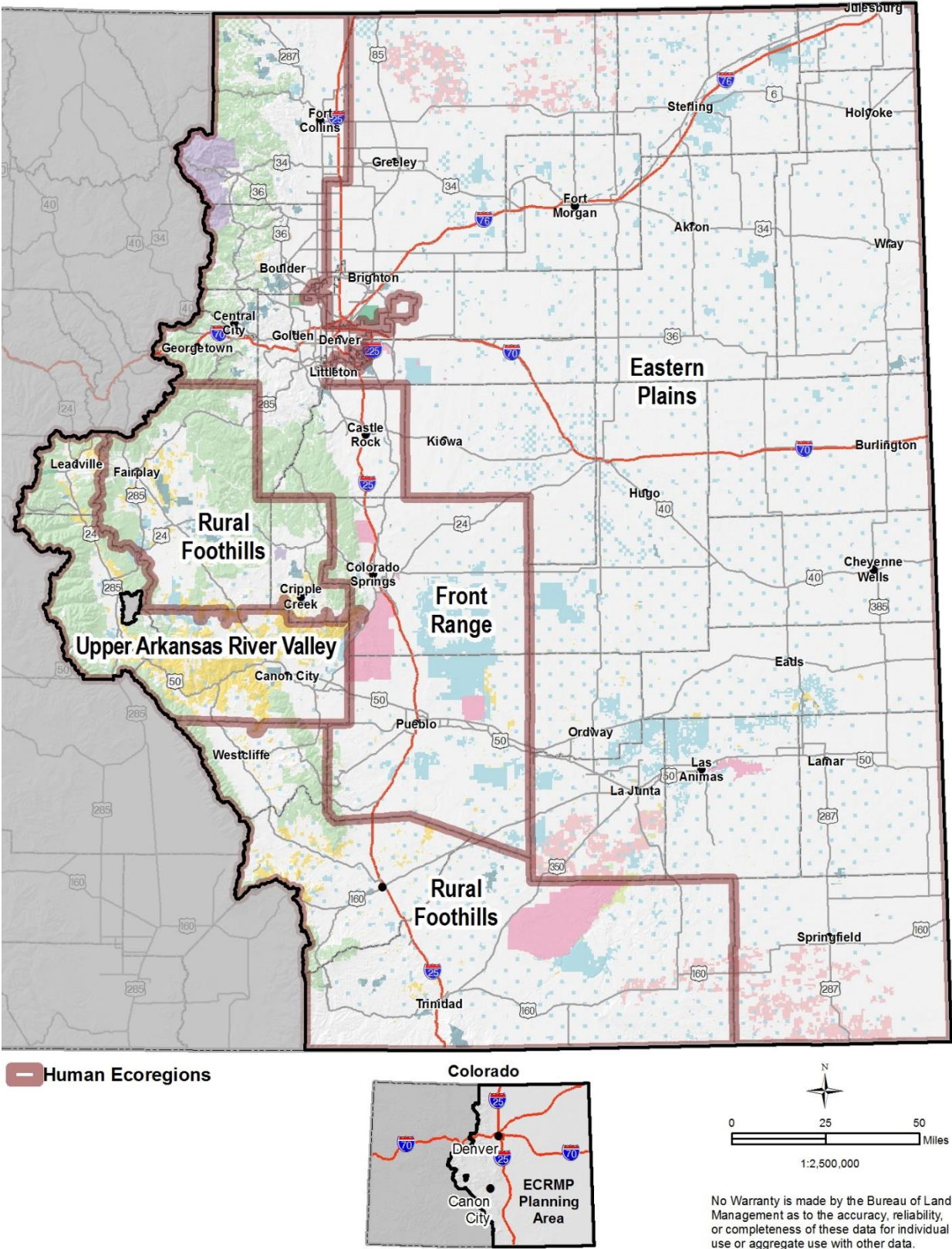
4.4.1 Overall Theme for Alternative D

This alternative adaptively manages resources to allow for local community use and interest based on people's desires and based on the interactions the BLM has with the public, cooperators and feedback during the, envisioning, scoping, and other forums.² It recognizes the value of public lands to the public and emphasizes managing for the ways in which local people and communities want to interact with public lands and resources. The following four landscapes (Figure 7) that characterize Alternative D were identified during scoping; each is focused on a different set of goals:

- Eastern Plains
- Upper Arkansas River Valley
- Rural Foothills
- Front Range

² The goals listed for each landscape in this alternative reflect what the BLM RGFO has heard from the public thus far; they may change over the course of alternative development and with further public input. To the extent available, local land use plans or other published city/county documents will be consulted to provide defensible justification for how these visions are characterized in this alternative. This will also help to avoid the myopia that can ensue as a result of hearing only from a very small and not necessarily representative subset of a given community.

Figure 7. Alternative D Landscape Boundaries



4.4.2 Eastern Plains Landscape

The Eastern Plains are the rural areas east and south of the Front Range. BLM-administered surface is very limited in this area and mainly consists of small scattered parcels; however, there is a great deal of scattered subsurface mineral estate in this area. In general, this area is difficult for the BLM to manage due to the fragmented land pattern, inaccessibility, and pressures from surrounding lands where small parcels are surrounded by private lands. The residents of the area generally lean toward less-restricted use of public lands and allowing the market to determine access to the resources (Casey 2016).

4.4.2.1 Landscape-level Goals

The Eastern Plains landscape has the following overall goals:

1. Maximize opportunities to meet human demand for resource use while balancing local and regional needs with BLM's mandates.
2. Within the framework of applicable laws, regulations, policies, and guidance, respond to local and regional desires for use of public lands.
3. Minimize designations that would place restrictions on development.
4. Manage wildland fire, vegetation, and fuels on BLM-administered surface land, in cooperation with adjacent land owners, in a manner that is commensurate with the values at risk and provides for firefighter and public safety.
5. Facilitate land tenure adjustments to address resource issues and local needs for more efficient and effective management of public lands.
6. Emphasize outreach and enhance coordination with landowners, stakeholders, local governments and communities, other agencies, tribes, and other individuals and organizations.

4.4.3 Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape

The Upper Arkansas River Valley consists of small- to medium-sized communities that value public lands for their rural open space feel and support for mineral collection (Casey 2016). However, communities along the Arkansas River (i.e., Leadville, Buena Vista, Salida, and Cañon City) tend to want more developed recreational opportunities directly adjacent to town (Casey 2016).

4.4.3.1 Landscape-level Goals

The Upper Arkansas River Valley landscape has the following overall goals:

1. Allow opportunities to meet human demand for resource use while balancing local and regional needs with BLM's mandates.
2. Within the framework of applicable laws, regulations, policies, and guidance, respond to local and regional desires for use of public lands.
3. Special designations would be utilized primarily to balance local and regional preferences for resources with those for resource uses and to prioritize site-specific management needs within a larger landscape.
4. Manage wildland fire, vegetation, and fuels to maintain, achieve, or exceed desired ecological and forest health conditions to create sustainable and resilient landscapes and reduce the probability of loss of life and property in the wildland-urban interface.
5. Facilitate land tenure adjustments to manage parcels more efficiently and address the demand for additional access to public lands and recreational opportunities.
6. Maintain and enhance collaboration and cooperation with landowners, stakeholders, local governments and communities, other agencies, tribes, and other individuals and organizations.

4.4.4 Rural Foothills Landscape

The rural foothills consist of small communities and rural subdivisions where a quiet lifestyle is desired, with low populations. Public lands are valued for their largely undeveloped open space and support for hunting and fishing, the rural character of the landscape and unobstructed views, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and the natural environment (Casey 2016).

4.4.4.1 Landscape-level Goals

The Rural Foothills landscape has the following overall goals:

1. Allow opportunities to meet human demand for resource use while balancing local and regional needs with BLM's mandates.
2. Within the framework of applicable laws, regulations, policies, and guidance, respond to local and regional desires for use of public lands.
3. Special designations would be utilized primarily to balance local and regional preferences for resources with those for resource uses and to prioritize site-specific management needs within a larger landscape.
4. Manage wildland fire, vegetation, and fuels to maintain, achieve, or exceed desired ecological and forest health conditions to create sustainable and resilient landscapes and reduce the probability of loss of life and property in the wildland-urban interface.

5. Facilitate land tenure adjustments to manage parcels more efficiently and address the demand for additional access to public lands and recreational opportunities.
6. Emphasize outreach and enhance coordination with landowners, stakeholders, local governments and communities, other agencies, tribes, and other individuals and organizations.

4.4.5 Front Range Landscape

BLM-administered surface land is limited along the Front Range; most surface acreage is in small, isolated parcels. Most of this land is in the “backyard” of a large population where people recreate and have seen undeveloped land diminish. Public lands in this area are largely valued for their open space that gives the area a less crowded feel, water, wildlife and viewsheds (Casey 2016).

4.4.5.1 Landscape-level Goals

The Front Range landscape has the following overall goals:

1. Allow opportunities to meet human demand for resource use while addressing local and regional needs with BLM’s mandates.
2. Within the framework of applicable laws, regulations, policies, and guidance, respond to local and regional desires for use of public lands.
3. Manage wildland fire, vegetation, and fuels on BLM-administered surface land, in cooperation with adjacent land owners, in a manner that is commensurate with values at risk and reduces the probability of loss of life and property in the wildland-urban interface.
4. Facilitate land tenure adjustments to address resource issues and local needs for more efficient and effective management of public lands.
5. Emphasize outreach and enhance coordination with landowners, stakeholders, local governments and communities, other agencies, tribes, and other individuals and organizations.

5.0 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

This section identifies and compares how the BLM would manage specific program areas under the Eastern Colorado RMP alternatives. The various program areas addressed in the RMP are categorized as resources, resource uses, special designations, and social and economic conditions for each alternative, as shown in the lists below.

| Resources | Resource Uses | Special Designations | Social and Economic Conditions |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality and Climate • Soil Resources • Water Resources • Terrestrial Wildlife • Aquatic Wildlife • Vegetation • Wetlands and Riparian Resources • Special Status Species • Wildland Fire and Fuel Management • Cultural Resources • Tribal Concerns • Paleontological Resources • Visual Resources • Lands with Wilderness Characteristics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation • Livestock Grazing • Forestry • Fluid Minerals • Solid Minerals • Coal • Renewable Energy • Travel and Transportation Management • Lands and Realty • South Park Master Leasing Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of Critical Environmental Concern • Backcountry Conservation Areas • National and State Scenic Byways • Wild and Scenic Rivers • Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health and Safety • Social and Economic Values |

Each program area addressed below includes the following:

- Issues identified during internal and external (public) scoping, as well as any additional issues that were subsequently identified by the BLM during preparation of the alternatives.
- Primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of that program area.
- Goals common to all action alternatives.
- A table comparing resource goals, resource objectives, allowable uses, and management actions across the alternatives.

Supplemental information supporting the preliminary alternatives is contained in the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Glossary
- Appendix B – Eastern Colorado Mitigation Strategy
- Appendix C – Adaptive Drought Management

- Appendix D – Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Maps
- Appendix E – Recreation and Visitor Services Management
- Appendix F – BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado
- Appendix G – Mineral Resources Maps
- Appendix H – Coal Screening Criteria in the Royal Gorge Field Office
- Appendix I – Renewable Energy Maps
- Appendix J – Lands and Realty Maps
- Appendix K – South Park Master Leasing Plan Maps
- Appendix L – Backcountry Conservation Areas
- Appendix M – Special Designations Maps

5.1 Resources

5.1.1 Air Quality and Climate

The following air quality and climate issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the BLM maintain and/or enhance air resources, including maintaining and/or improving air quality within State and Federal air quality standards and addressing actions affecting Class I airsheds?
2. How will proposed activities be managed in conformance with restrictions in place for nonattainment and maintenance areas?
3. How will the BLM ensure that air quality monitoring is based on accurate baseline measurements and current air quality and meteorological data, including Colorado Air Resources Management Modeling Study analysis?
4. How will the BLM ensure compliance with the air Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and all agency, State, and Federal air quality regulations, address impacts from oil and gas development on air resources, and include appropriate mitigation measures?
5. What type of management and mitigation will be implemented to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from proposed alternatives?
6. How will the BLM determine appropriate baseline data and ensure that management addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of climate change and provides appropriate mitigation measures, while recognizing the uncertainty of some climate change studies?

5.1.1.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of air quality and climate within the planning area include:

- The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401–7642)
- National Ambient Air Quality Standards (40 CFR 50)
- Regional haze regulations (40 CFR 51, Subpart P)
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (40 CFR 52.21)
- National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (40 CFR 61)
- Colorado Ambient Air Quality Standards (5 Colorado Code of Regulations 1001-14 [I.B.])
- *Colorado BLM Comprehensive Air Resource Protection Protocol* (BLM 2015c)
- BLM Manual 7300 – Air Resource Management Program
- *Memorandum of Understanding Among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Interior, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Regarding Air Quality Analyses and Mitigation for Federal Oil and Gas Decisions through the National Environmental Policy Act Process* (USDA et al. 2011)
- New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) OOOO Regulations

5.1.1.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goals are common to all action alternatives for air quality and climate:

- **Air Resource Goal 1:** Limit air quality degradation from BLM-authorized actions by applying mitigation measures and providing appropriate analyses for compliance with Colorado and National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and other applicable Federal, State, and local air quality laws, rules, regulations.
- **Air Resource Goal 2:** Ensure that BLM-authorized actions provide for compliance with applicable State and Federal air quality standards and regulations.

5.1.1.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 4 identifies management for air quality and climate across the alternatives.

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Table 4. Comparison of Alternatives: Air Quality and Climate

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.1.1.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Air Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Ensure that BLM authorized actions do not adversely impact Federal- and State-mandated Class I areas or Federal Land Manager-specified sensitive Class II areas. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Air Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Air Management Action 2</i> | All public lands are in the “General” (attainment or unclassified areas) category, where Federal prevention of significant deterioration Class II or Colorado State Category II standards apply. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Air Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | Obtain a Colorado Open Burning Permit prior to implementation of prescribed fires. | Required by law, therefore no similar action. | Required by law, therefore no similar action. | Required by law, therefore no similar action. | Required by law, therefore no similar action. | Required by law, therefore no similar action. | Required by law, therefore no similar action. |
| <i>Air Management Action 4</i> | Projects will be designed to minimize air pollutants and will be monitored by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division to ensure that standards are not exceeded. | Minimize air quality degradation through strict compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations and implementation plans. | Adhere to the Colorado Air Resource Protection Protocol (BLM 2015), which defines BLM analysis strategies for achieving adaptive management related to protecting air resources in Colorado. Focus implementation-level mitigation efforts on Air | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | Quality Related Value impacts to Class I and sensitive Class II areas potentially impacted by RGFO management actions. | | | | | |
| <i>Air Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | In areas designated as nonattainment or maintenance for the Colorado or National Ambient Air Quality Standards, the RGFO will require, where determined technically feasible by implementation-level analysis of the action(s), no net increase of the pollutant(s) or its precursors above baseline levels. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Air Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from BLM authorized actions to the maximum extent feasible, as determined by implementation level analysis of the action(s). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Air Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Where greenhouse gas emissions cannot be minimized from BLM authorized actions, the RGFO will consider supplemental projects as appropriate to offset the emissions or provide for climate change adaptation to the maximum extent feasible, and in accordance with other resource management goals and objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

5.1.2 Soil Resources

The following soil resource issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. Which specific soils need special management or protection from the perspective of human health, ecosystem health, water quality, or other public uses? Which areas would be considered priority areas on the landscape?
2. What types of measures will be identified to benefit and/or protect soil resources?

5.1.2.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of soil resources within the planning area include:

- *Technical Reference 1730-2, Biological Soil Crusts: Ecology and Management* (BLM and U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 2001)
- BLM Manual H-4180-1, Rangeland Health Standards
- *BLM Soil Resource Program Strategy, Focus on the Challenge, 2015–2020* (BLM 2015d)
- *Colorado Public Land Health Standards* (BLM 1997)

5.1.2.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.1.2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 5 identifies management for soil resources across the alternatives.

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Table 5. Comparison of Alternatives: Soil Resources

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Soil Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Improve overall resource conditions as measured by the BLM <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> or other identified metric. | Maintain resource conditions as measured by the BLM <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> or other identified metric. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Soil Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Protect soil resources during drought. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Soil Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Soil Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Maintain or restore soil erosion from upland locations to natural rates (as measured by maintaining appropriate and desirable ground cover defined in a soil’s ecological site description or other reference). Where management actions take place, ensure all areas undergoing reclamation achieve ground cover consistent with the desired future condition within five growing seasons. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Soil Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Maintain or restore stream banks, riparian areas, and floodplains to a stable and functioning condition, similar to a reference reach or expected condition, and do not allow more than a 10% loss of stream bank, channel bed degradation, or aggradation. | No similar resource objective. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Soil Objective 3</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Do not allow compacted soils (roads, well pads, etc.) attributed to BLM management to increase by more than 5% in a sixth-level watershed. Increases | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | greater than 5% could be acceptable if mitigation is shown that would minimize or eliminate offsite impacts to the watershed as a whole. | | | | | |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Soil Allowable Use 1</i> | Special corrective management actions are needed on 850 acres classified as “Problem Areas” to arrest unacceptable soil loss, restore soil stability, and/or return soil productivity. Practices such as vegetation establishment, soil additives, road construction limitations and standards, mining controls, off-road vehicle restrictions, etc., may be necessary. Annual monitoring of the erosion condition will identify the need for more intense actions. | Manage soil disturbing activities to avoid soil erosion and loss of watershed values. | Avoid surface-disturbing activities in areas with fragile soils of moderate or high concern or slopes over 30% that do not benefit the functionality of soils. | Allow surface-disturbing activities in areas with fragile soils of high concern or slopes over 30%. Require geotechnical design and BMPs for if there is risk of sedimentation of water bodies. | Same as Alternative C. | Avoid surface-disturbing activities in areas with severe or very severe erosion hazard, fragile soils of high concern, or slopes over 30% based on the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey, onsite inspection, or other accepted maps. For construction projects (e.g., communication sites, roads, well pads, mining facilities) in these areas, specialized design features, timing limitations, and additional steps may be required (e.g., professional engineering and reclamation plans) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain or improve site productivity and stability.• Adequately control surface runoff.• Protect offsite areas from accelerated erosion such as rilling, gullyng, and mass wasting.• Prevent disturbance of saturated soils. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. |
| <i>Soil Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | As part of interim and final reclamation, allow organic soil amendments and seeding of areas affected by surface-disturbing activities or areas not meeting resource objectives using BLM-approved seed mixtures of native species. | As part of interim and final reclamation, allow soil amendments and seeding using approved nonnative and native species. | As part of interim and final reclamation, allow soil amendments and seeding of areas affected by surface-disturbing activities and areas not meeting resource objectives using BLM-approved seed mixtures. | As part of interim and final reclamation, allow soil amendments and seeding of areas affected by surface-disturbing activities and areas not meeting resource objectives using BLM-approved seed mixtures of native and nonnative species where appropriate. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Soil Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | Standards with stipulations for other resource actions will decrease erosion and potentially enhance watershed characteristics. | Prohibit surface occupancy by fluid mineral activities on fragile soils of moderate or high concern. | Open fragile soils to fluid mineral leasing with standard lease stipulations. | Restrict surface use by fluid mineral activities on fragile soils of high concern as necessary. | Prohibit surface occupancy by fluid mineral activities on fragile soils of high concern. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Soil Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy by fluid mineral activities on slopes greater than 30%. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use by fluid mineral activities on lands with slopes greater than 30% as needed. | Prohibit surface occupancy by fluid mineral activities on slopes greater than 30%. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Soil Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Soil Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Surface-disturbing activities will include plans for reclamation. Site-specific reclamation plans should reflect the complexity of the project, environmental concerns, the reclamation potential of the site, and the ecological function of the area. | Require reclamation plans as needed or by law and design them to minimize resource degradation and stabilize the site. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Soil Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | In disturbed areas, reestablish resilient, healthy native plant communities based on NRCS ecological site descriptions or current accepted standard. | In disturbed areas, reestablish plant communities to facilitate resource objectives for commodity production. Reestablished plant communities may include nonnative species and their composition may differ from NRCS ecological site descriptions or current accepted standard. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Soil Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Remove and reclaim facilities or improvements no longer necessary or desirable, provided no historic properties are adversely affected. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Soil Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Protect soils from excessive compaction by implementing seasonal use restrictions where necessary. | Allow multiple uses to occur year round, while mitigating adverse effects from soil compaction. | Same as Alternative C. | Protect fragile soils from excessive compaction and erosion by implementing seasonal use restrictions on a case-by-case basis. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Soil Management Action 6</i> | After construction of any project, annual monitoring checks for erosion will identify the need for any actions on 32,310 acres classified as “Stable/Slight” erosion hazard and 3,930 acres classified as “Moderate” erosion hazard. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

5.1.3 Water Resources

The following water resource issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What areas will be managed to protect water quality and what types of additional protection/best management practices are needed?
2. What management restrictions are needed to protect water quality in ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams, wetlands, springs, and seeps?
3. What measures are needed, including filing for water rights under applicable State or Federal permit procedures, to ensure water availability for multiple-use management and functioning, healthy wetland or stream systems?
4. What areas, such as abandoned mine lands, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use areas, or mineral development areas, need restoration to improve water quality?
5. Which watersheds need special management or protection from the perspective of human health, ecosystem health, source water protection, water quality, or other public uses? What areas would be considered priority areas on the landscape?
6. What, if any, area-wide use restrictions or other protective measures are needed to meet local and State water quality requirements?
7. What comprehensive background water quality data, effective monitoring, and appropriate measures to limit water quality and quantity impacts from development activities will be identified?

5.1.3.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of water resources within the planning area include:

- Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251)
- Clean Water Rule: Definition of "Waters of the United States" (40 CFR 230.3)
- Permits for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material Into Waters of the United States (33 CFR 323)
- The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of July 9, 1956, as amended
- Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act
- Executive Order 11288, Prevention, Control, and Abatement of Water Pollution by Federal Activities

- Executive Order 11752 Prevention, Control, and Abatement of Water Pollution at Federal Facilities
- Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management
- Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- *Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the State of Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the BLM* (Colorado Division of Natural Resource [DNR] et al. 2011)
- Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission rules and regulations (317B)
- MOU Implementation of Colorado’s nonpoint source pollution program developed under Section 319 of CWA of 1987
- BLM Manual 7240 – Water Quality
- BLM Manual 7250 – Water Rights
- Safe Drinking Water Act, Underground Sources of Drinking Water (40 CFR 144.3)

5.1.3.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.1.3.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 6 identifies management for water resources across the alternatives.

Table 6. Comparison of Alternatives: Water Resources

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Water Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Provide sufficient water quantity on BLM lands for multiple use management (e.g., recreation, stock water) and functioning, healthy riparian, wetland, aquatic, and upland systems. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Water Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Protect water resources during drought. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Water Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Improve overall resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Maintain resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) standards or other identified metric. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Water Resource Goal 4</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Water Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Maintain water quality to meet State of Colorado water quality standards or better. Improve water quality on segments that are not meeting standards if the condition of BLM-administered lands or BLM-authorized activities contribute to the degraded condition. Maintain and improve surface and groundwater resources within source water protection watersheds and consider locally driven best management approaches within source water protection watersheds. | Maintain water quality to meet State of Colorado water quality standards or better. | Maintain water quality to meet State of Colorado water quality standards or better. Maintain and improve surface and groundwater resources within source water protection watersheds and consider locally driven best management approaches within source water protection watersheds. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Water Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Work with partners, including the Colorado Water Conservation Board, to establish and maintain stream flow protection for ecological and stream function purposes. Collaborate with partners, including local governments, to identify strategies for protecting flows needed to support water-dependent recreational activities. Work through the Colorado water court system and with the Colorado Division of Water Resources to establish water rights to support multiple use activities, such as water rights for livestock watering, recreational facilities, and wildlife habitat. Collaborate with CDPHE and partners for source water protection. | Work through the Colorado water court system and with the Colorado Division of Water Resources to establish water rights to support multiple use activities, such as water rights for livestock watering. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Water Objective 3</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Maintain or restore stream banks, riparian areas, and floodplains to a stable and functioning condition, similar to a reference reach or expected condition, and do not allow more than a 10% loss of stream bank, channel bed degradation, or aggradation. | No similar resource objective. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Water Objective 4</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Maintain groundwater quality at baseline conditions. Groundwater quality on BLM-administered surface land will be monitored through a program mirroring COGCC rules for groundwater baseline sampling and monitoring for fluid mineral activities. Off BLM-administered surface land, groundwater monitoring is | No similar resource objective. | No similar resource objective. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | under the authority of COGCC and will follow State regulations. | | | | | |
| Water Objective 5 | No resource objective. | Maintain minimum State water quality standards for all activities. Continue to maintain or improve water quality in accordance with State and Federal standards. BLM will consult with the appropriate State agencies. Make watershed activity planning a component of integrated activity plans in areas where livestock grazing plan adjustments do not fully correct any determined water quality problems. | Manage water resources to meet or exceed the Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, achieve PFC, and meet Colorado water quality standards. Take appropriate actions to improve the biological, chemical, and geomorphic conditions of streams adversely impacted by BLM-authorized actions and permitted activities. | No similar resource objective. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative C. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES Water Allowable Use 1 | No similar action. | No similar action. | To minimize effects to natural stream flow regimes, do not allow new on-channel reservoirs. | Allow new on-channel reservoirs that would affect natural stream flow regimes if authorized by the BLM in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and consistent with protection measures for other resources. | Allow new on-channel reservoirs that would affect natural stream flow regimes if the proposed project incorporates multipurpose benefits. Require project proponents to mitigate assisted impacts. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| Water Allowable Use 2 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Do not allow surface discharge of produced water from oil and gas development activities on BLM-administered surface. | Allow surface discharge of produced water from oil and gas development activities on BLM-administered surface, when permitted by the State of Colorado. | Same as Alternative C. | Allow surface discharge of produced water from oil and gas development activities on BLM-administered surface if erosive conditions, channel stability, soil characteristics, and other resource values would not be impaired. Coordinate the permitting process with the State of Colorado. | Same as Rural Foothills Landscape. | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Water Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities on lands located within 1,000 feet from a classified surface water supply stream segment (as measured from the average high water mark) for a distance of 5 miles upstream of a public water supply intake, public water supply diversion, or upstream drinking water storage reservoir with the classification “ <i>Water Supply</i> ” by the State of Colorado. | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities on lands located within 1,000 feet from a classified surface water supply stream segment (as measured from the average high water mark) for a distance of 5 miles upstream of a public water supply intake with the classification “ <i>Water Supply</i> ” by the State of Colorado. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Water Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for oil and gas activities, as needed, on lands located more than 1,000 feet but less than 2,640 feet from a classified surface water supply stream segment (as measured from the average high water mark) for a distance of 5 miles upstream of a public water supply intake, public water supply diversion, or upstream drinking water storage reservoir with the classification “ <i>Water Supply</i> ” by the State of Colorado. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Water Allowable Use 5</i> | Modifications and developments within the 100-year floodplain must not interfere with the natural beneficial functions of the floodplain nor create hazards to life or property without proper mitigation. Protection of critical watersheds and floodplains will go into effect immediately. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities within 1,312 feet of the ordinary high water mark or within 500 feet of the 100-year floodplain, whichever is greater, of the following major waterways: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas River• South Platte River• Poudre River• Big Thompson River• Little Thompson River• St. Vrain River | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boulder Creek• Clear Creek• Monument Creek• St. Charles River• Huerfano River• Cucharas River• Purgatoire River• Cimarron River | | | | | |
| Water Allowable Use 6 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities within 2,641 feet of public groundwater supply wells. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Water Allowable Use 7 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities within 500 feet of waterways, including ephemeral streams. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities within 328 feet of waterways, including ephemeral streams. | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities within 328 feet of waterways, including ephemeral streams. | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities within 328 feet of waterways, including ephemeral streams. | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities within 328 feet of waterways, including ephemeral streams. |
| Water Allowable Use 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid ROWs within 100-year floodplains. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS Water Management Action 1 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Water Management Action 2 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Maintain or improve water supply and flow regimes for water users while acknowledging downstream users. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Water Management Action 3 | No similar action. | Design management actions on BLM-administered lands within designated municipal watersheds to protect water quality and quantity. | Apply BMPs and mitigation measures to all BLM and BLM-authorized activities to protect watersheds. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| Water Management Action 4 | All water rights and seven known water sources on public land will be managed according to Colorado water law. Non-BLM vested water rights will be recognized, respected, and protected. Water rights to sources needed for BLM management purposes will be acquired according to Colorado water law. Water rights acquired by the BLM or its licensees will not cause harm to other vested water rights. | Acquire water rights, in compliance with State law, in support of BLM programs. Continue to implement the BLM water use inventory and water rights program in the Area. | Proactively secure and maintain instream flow water rights and file for water use permits to protect all water uses on BLM lands, as allowed by State water law. Uses for which the BLM will apply for water rights will include, but are not limited to, livestock, wildlife watering, wildlife habitat, recreation, and fire suppression. In addition, the BLM will make recommendations to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for protection or enlargement of instream flows on appropriate stream segments that cross BLM lands. | File for water rights on BLM water projects as needed. Uses for which the BLM will apply for water rights will include, but are not limited to, livestock, wildlife watering, wildlife habitat, recreation, and fire suppression. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Water Management Action 5 | No similar action. | Interface watershed activity planning with existing plans as appropriate. | Participate in the development and implementation of local watershed management plans, source water protection plans, and/or total maximum daily loads with interested stakeholders and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Water Management Action 6 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Develop watershed improvement practices in cooperation with stakeholders to reduce water quality impacts in stream and river systems, as well as lakes and reservoirs. Once developed, include watershed improvement practices in all activity plans and permitted activities. | Develop watershed improvement practices and treatments in cooperation with stakeholders to reduce sediment loading and other water quality concerns in stream and river systems, as well as lakes and reservoirs. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| Water Management Action 7 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Strive to prevent streams from being listed on the on Colorado’s Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters by requiring mitigation to protect water quality and working with stakeholders to implement projects to make progress towards delisting. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Water Management Action 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | In areas where no existing water wells are located on BLM surface, the installation of monitoring wells may be required for fluid minerals development. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Water Management Action 9 | The 23,880 acres of watersheds in “Concern Areas” will require measures to correct pollution or maintain quality such as removal or modification of pollution sources, monitoring for potential sources, and limitations or preventative measures on uses or actions that may result in pollution. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Water Management Action 10 | Impacts to water quality in “General Areas” will be minimized by stipulations in project design. Preventative practices such as runoff control devices, proper logging practices, proper road location and design, maintenance of vegetative cover, and confinement and treatment of pollutants will be included to minimize potential pollution. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Water Management Action 11 | No similar action. | Continue monitoring selected groundwater and surface water stations in cooperation with the USGS. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Water Management Action 12</i> | No similar action. | Ensure that monitoring and evaluating water quality and quantity, as well as controlling erosion and sediment production, remain high priority management goals. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. |
| <i>Water Management Action 13</i> | No similar action. | Continue to emphasize all watershed activities that provide protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the watershed resources. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. |
| <i>Water Management Action 14</i> | No similar action. | Continue to take an active role in control of nonpoint source pollution on BLM-administered lands. Nonpoint source control projects will be implemented as funding and manpower allow. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. |

5.1.4 Terrestrial Wildlife

The following terrestrial wildlife issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What management of the various multiple uses and physical and biological resources will be developed that simultaneously enhances, protects, maintains, and develops wildlife species, their populations, and their habitats for the social and economic well-being of the public?
2. Which specific and appropriate standards, guidelines, stipulations, or conservation measures will be needed for a variety of management actions (e.g., livestock grazing, oil and gas development, mining, motorized or nonmotorized recreation) to enhance, protect, maintain, and develop wildlife species, their populations, and their habitats so they may fulfill their life history needs (e.g., reproduction) and what protection measures will be included?
3. What type of management will be developed to maintain large contiguous blocks of wildlife habitats, maintain wildlife movement corridors, and minimize fragmentation of those habitats so that various wildlife species can fulfill their life histories and thrive in a manner that maintains viable populations?
4. What areas or habitat types (e.g., peregrine falcon eyries, bighorn sheep lambing, bat maternity roosts, mule deer winter range) are important to wildlife assemblages or are needed so that wildlife species can fulfill their natural histories, and how will these areas be appropriately maintained, restored, or improved?
5. How will the BLM manage and monitor BLM activities to meet Migratory Bird Treaty Act obligations?
6. What are the desired future conditions needed for specific wildlife species of interest and wildlife assemblages for a given environment that should be incorporated into an area-wide plan to promote biodiversity, achieve viable wildlife populations, and maintain a thriving natural ecological system?
7. How will the BLM ensure that baseline data for wildlife habitat are complete and accurate based on the best available data?
8. How will the BLM ensure that the EIS includes a thorough analysis of the impacts of various multiple uses on wildlife and their habitats, and of conservation measures to avoid or minimize these impacts?

9. What appropriate measures will be identified to support habitat for big game species, including mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk?
10. What appropriate measures will be identified to support larger habitat linkages, landscape-scale movement, and ranges?

5.1.4.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of terrestrial wildlife within the planning area include:

- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250)
- BLM Manual 6500, Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingle-Johnson Act) (16 U.S.C. 777, *et seq.*)
- Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act) (16 U.S.C. 669, *et seq.*)
- Federal Cave Resource Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 4301, *et seq.*)
- Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 777, *et seq.*)
- Federal Power Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 791, *et seq.*)
- Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments (Clean Water Act) (33 U.S.C. 1251, *et seq.*)
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980, as amended (16 U.S.C. 2901, *et seq.*)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 (16 U.S.C. 661, *et seq.*)
- Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 7421, *et seq.*)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fisher Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*)
- Joint Resolution Regarding Tule Elk, January 1986 (16 U.S.C. 673, *et seq.*)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601, *et seq.*)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401, *et seq.*)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703–712)
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 3701, *et seq.*)
- National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 4701, *et seq.*)
- Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701, *et seq.*)
- Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901, *et seq.*)
- Reclamation Act of 1902 (16 U.S.C. 391, *et seq.*)

- Salmon and Steelhead Conservation and Enhancement Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 3301, *et seq.*)
- Sikes Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 670, *et seq.*)
- Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (16 U.S.C. 2001, *et seq.*)
- The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*)
- FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701, *et seq.*)
- Watershed Restoration and Enhancement (Wyden Amendment) (16 U.S.C. 1011, *et seq.*)

5.1.4.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.1.4.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 7 identifies management for terrestrial wildlife across the alternatives.

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Table 7. Comparison of Alternatives: Terrestrial Wildlife

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Prevent the unintentional take of migratory birds subject to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and avoid adverse alterations in their priority habitats. | Avoid or minimize the unintentional take of migratory birds and minimize adverse alterations in nesting habitat, with specific focus on Bureau sensitive species, USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern, and the Colorado Partners in Flight high priority species for the Central Shortgrass Prairie and Southern Rocky Mountains physiographic regions | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain or improve the short- and long-term utility of suitable raptor habitats, including prey base, nest sites, and other special habitat features necessary to help stabilize or allow increases in regional raptor populations, particularly those species where regional declines have been detected. | Maintain the short-term utility of suitable raptor habitats, including prey base, nest sites, and other special habitat features necessary to help stabilize or maintain regional raptor populations, particularly those species where regional declines have been detected. | Maintain the short-term utility and minimize long-term modifications to habitats that show indications or have a documented history of raptor nesting use. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain or improve priority habitats for native terrestrial species (e.g., non-special status reptiles, amphibians, pollinators) as described in Colorado’s State Wildlife Action Plan. | Maintain priority habitats for native terrestrial species (e.g., non-special status reptiles, amphibians, pollinators) as described in Colorado’s State Wildlife Action Plan. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Goal 4</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Avoid potential for human disturbance of big game species (e.g., mule deer [<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>], white-tailed deer [<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>], elk [<i>Cervus canadensis</i>], antelope [<i>Antilocapra americana</i>], bighorn sheep [<i>Ovis canadensis</i>], moose [<i>Alces alces</i>]) in winter ranges (e.g., winter range, severe winter range, winter concentration areas), | Minimize potential for human disturbance of big game species (e.g., mule deer [<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>], white-tailed deer [<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>], elk [<i>Cervus canadensis</i>], antelope [<i>Antilocapra americana</i>], bighorn sheep [<i>Ovis canadensis</i>]) in winter ranges, (e.g., winter range, severe winter range, winter concentration areas), and production areas. | Minimize potential for human disturbance of big game species (e.g., mule deer [<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>], white-tailed deer [<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>], elk [<i>Cervus canadensis</i>], antelope [<i>Antilocapra americana</i>], bighorn sheep [<i>Ovis canadensis</i>], moose [<i>Alces alces</i>]) in winter ranges, (e.g., winter range, severe winter range, winter concentration areas), | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | production areas, priority habitats, concentration areas, and migration corridors | | production areas, priority habitats, concentration areas, and migration corridors. | | | |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Goal 5</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain, improve, and restore ecosystem components, such as habitat for big game species within production areas and winter ranges (e.g., critical winter range, winter concentration areas, severe winter range) by providing contiguous high quality and quantities of forage and browse, and hiding, and thermal cover. | Maintain habitat for big game species within production areas and winter ranges (e.g., critical winter range, winter concentration areas, severe winter range) by providing contiguous high quality and quantities of forage and browse, and hiding and thermal cover. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Goal 6</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain, improve, and restore migration corridors, linkages, and connectivity of ranges for big game species, including important waterways. | No similar resource goal. | Maintain migration corridors, linkages, and connectivity of ranges for big game species, including important waterways. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Goal 7</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain or improve resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Maintain resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Goal 8</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Goal 9</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Prioritize treatments that have synergies for resources such as range (improved grazing conditions), wildlife (improved habitat), and forestry products for increased economic activity. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Manage BLM lands within the RGFO to meet Standard 3 of the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). The objective is for 90% of BLM-administered lands to meet this Standard. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Conduct and maintain current inventories of non-special status upland birds and raptors on BLM-administered lands to evaluate actions undertaken on BLM-administered where BLM has discretion. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Objective 3</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Ensure that wildlife habitat treatments are meeting the desired future conditions indicated in site specific project objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | Identified use conflicts with big game critical winter range will be addressed through cooperative efforts with Federal and State agencies and private groups. Fluid leasing will be available with timing limitations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big game critical winter habitat (December 1 to April 30) Mineral operations will be available with timing limitations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big game critical winter habitat (December 1 to April 30) | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mule deer severe winter range; white-tailed deer winter range; elk winter concentration areas and severe winter range; and moose winter range - December 1 to April 15• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15• Pronghorn winter concentration areas – January 1 to March 31 | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mule deer severe winter range; white-tailed deer winter range; elk winter concentration areas and severe winter range; and | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | moose winter range - December 1 to April 15 • Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 • Pronghorn winter concentration areas – January 1 to March 31 | | | | | |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 3 | No similar action. | Big game birthing habitat will be limited as follows: • Recommended for mineral withdrawal • Closed to mineral materials disposal • Closed to coal leasing • Excluded from major ROWS • OHV use limited to designated roads and trails Fluid leasing will be available with timing limitations for: • Big game birthing habitat • Elk calving and deer fawning (April 16 – June 30) • Pronghorn antelope fawning (May 1 – July 15) • Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep lambing (May 1 – July 15) | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: • Elk production (calving) – May 15 through June 15 • Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 4 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: • Elk production (calving) – May 15 through June 15 • Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit domestic sheep and goat grazing on allotments within historic, occupied, and potential bighorn sheep habitat. | Prohibit domestic sheep and goat grazing on allotments within occupied bighorn sheep habitat. | No similar action. | Minimize domestic sheep and goat grazing on allotments within occupied bighorn sheep habitat. Allow on a case-by-case basis per the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presence of topographic features (e.g., natural barriers, rivers) to separate domestic and bighorn sheep;• Adequate separation zones between domestic and bighorn sheep (WAFWA 2010);• The need to protect potential habitat;• Local and national research results;• Risk assessments from wildlife agencies or BLM;• Timing of domestic sheep grazing and goat; or• Monitoring results indicating conflicts. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within moose priority habitat and concentration areas to protect moose habitat. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within migration and movement corridors for mule deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and elk. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 8</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.6 mile of active greater prairie chicken leks. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.6 mile of active greater prairie chicken leks. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 9</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 0.6 mile of active greater prairie chicken leks. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 10</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close areas within 0.6 mile of active greater prairie chicken leks to mineral materials actions. Restrictions on commercial mineral materials disposal may be waived on a case-by-case basis if the restriction will result in a larger cumulative impact to the resource of concern than avoidance. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 11</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 2.2 miles of active greater prairie chicken leks from March 1 to June 30 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 12</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 2.2 miles of active greater prairie chicken leks from March 1 to June 30 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 13</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Limit noise levels from post-drilling operation facilities for fluid mineral development to 10 dBA above pre-development background levels measured at dawn (based on default pre-development background levels of 20-22 dBA) measured 30 feet from the source within 2.2 miles of active greater prairie chicken leks. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 14</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.4 mile of active plains sharp-tailed grouse leks. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.4 mile of active plains sharp-tailed grouse leks. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 15</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 0.4 mile of active plains sharp-tailed grouse leks. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 16</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close areas within 0.4 mile of active plains sharp-tailed grouse leks to mineral materials actions. Restrictions on commercial mineral materials disposal may be waived on a case-by-case basis if the restriction will result in a larger cumulative impact to the resource of concern than avoidance. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 17</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 1.25 miles of active plains sharp-tailed grouse leks from March 1 to June 30 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 18</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 1.25 miles of active plains sharp-tailed grouse leks from March 1 to June 30 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 19</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Limit noise levels from post drilling operation facilities for fluid mineral development to 10 dBA above pre-development background levels measured at dawn (based on default pre-development background levels of 20-22 dBA) measured 30 feet from the source within 1.25 miles of active plains sharp-tailed grouse leks. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 20</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within sand hill crane production or migration habitat | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within sand hill crane production or migration habitat. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within sand hill crane production or migration habitat from March 1 to October 16. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 21</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within sand hill crane production or migration habitat from March 1 to October 16. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 22</i> | No similar action. | Mineral operations will be available with timing limitations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wild turkey winter habitat (December 1 to April 1) Fluid leasing will be available with timing limitations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wild turkey winter habitat (December 1 to April 1) | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within turkey winter habitat as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within turkey winter habitat as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within turkey winter habitat as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife from December 1 to April 1. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 23</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within turkey winter habitat as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife from December 1 to April 1. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 24</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid actions that disturb live or dead/dying vegetation in previously undisturbed settings from April 15 to July 15 or as site-specific analyses dictate when nesting migratory birds are present. | In breeding habitat for Birds of Conservation Concern (USFWS 2008), avoid actions that disturb live or dead/dying vegetation in previously undisturbed settings from May 15 to July 15 or as site-specific analyses dictate when nesting Birds of Conservation Concern are present. | Avoid actions that disturb live or dead/dying vegetation in previously undisturbed settings from May 15 to July 15 or as site-specific analyses dictate when nesting migratory birds are present. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 25</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development to protect waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries within significant production areas as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development to protect waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries within significant production areas as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 26</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities to protect waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries within significant production areas as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 27</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development from April 15 to July 15 in a 0.25-mile radius of habitat identified as production | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | areas for water birds (i.e., waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds) by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | | | | | |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 28 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities from April 15 to July 15 in a 0.25-mile radius of habitat identified as production areas for water birds (i.e., waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds) by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 29 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within an area centered on a raptor nest site to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. Buffer radii for non-special status raptors are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.25 mile – osprey, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper’s hawk, Swainson’s hawk, red-tailed hawk, non-special status owls; and• 0.33 mile – red-tailed hawk; and• 0.5 mile – prairie falcon.• All other non-special status raptors (accipiters, falcons [except kestrel], buteos, and owls): 0.125 mile. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development to activities within an area centered on a nest site to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. Buffer radii for non-special status raptors are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.25 mile – osprey, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper’s hawk, Swainson’s hawk, red-tailed hawk, non-special status owls;• 0.33 mile – red-tailed hawk; and• 0.5 mile – prairie falcon.• All other non-special status raptors (accipiters, falcons [except kestrel], buteos, and owls): 0.125-mile. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 30 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within an area centered on a raptor nest site to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. Buffer radii for non-special status raptors are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.25 mile – osprey, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper’s hawk, Swainson’s hawk, red-tailed hawk, non-special status owls; | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.33 mile – red-tailed hawk; and• 0.5 mile – prairie falcon.• All other non-special status raptors (accipiters, falcons [except kestrel], buteos, and owls): 0.125 mile. | | | | | |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 31 | No similar action. | Raptor nesting/fledging habitat will be available for fluid minerals leasing with an NSO stipulation. Mineral operations will be available with timing limitations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raptor nesting and fledgling habitat (March 1 to July 31) | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development (beyond what historically occurred prior to nest establishment) to protect raptor nesting and fledgling habitat during use. The timing limitation is applied within a 0.25-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-special status owls – February 15 to July 15• Swainson’s hawk – April 1 to July 15• Osprey – April 1 to August 31• Cooper’s hawk, sharp-shinned hawk – April 15 to July 15. The timing limitation is applied within a 0.33-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red-tailed hawk – February 15 to July 15. The timing limitation is applied within a 0.5-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prairie falcon – March 15 to July 15. The timing limitation is applied within a 0.125-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">All other non-special status raptors (accipiters, falcons [except kestrel], buteos, and owls): November 15 to April 15. | | | | | |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 32 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities (beyond what historically occurred prior to nest establishment) to protect raptor nesting and fledgling habitat during use. The timing limitation is applied within a 0.25-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-special status owls – February 15 to July 15Swainson’s hawk – April 1 to July 15Osprey – April 1 to August 31Cooper’s hawk, sharp-shinned hawk – April 15 to July 15. The timing limitation is applied within a 0.33-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Red-tailed hawk – February 15 to July 15 The timing limitation is applied within a 0.5-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prairie falcon – March 15 to July 15. The timing limitation is applied within a 0.125-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">All other non-special status raptors (accipiters, | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | falcons [except kestrel], buteos, and owls): November 15 to April 15. | | | | | |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 33</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 300 feet of occupied river otter habitat. | No similar actions | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 300 feet of occupied river otter habitat. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 34</i> | No similar action. | Big game birthing and critical winter habitat will be avoided by major ROWS. | Apply ROW avoidance areas to wildlife habitat treatments. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 35</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to leasing for minerals, mineral materials actions, and recommend for mineral withdrawal State-owned and/or managed wildlife areas, habitat areas, natural areas, parks, and conservation easements. Close to oil and gas leasing of Federal mineral estate underlying these areas. Restrictions on commercial mineral materials disposal may be waived on a case-by-case basis if the restriction will result in a larger cumulative impact to the resource of concern than avoidance. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 36</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.25-mile of State-owned and/or managed wildlife areas, habitat areas, natural areas, parks, and conservation easements. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.25-mile of State-owned wildlife, habitat, and natural areas, parks, and conservation easements. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Allowable Use 37</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within boundaries of Federal wildlife refuges, National Park units, and county parks. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development to activities within boundaries of State-owned and/or managed wildlife areas, habitat areas, natural areas, parks, and conservation easements, Federal wildlife refuges, National Park units, and county parks. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage big game habitat to meet or exceed the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). | Manage big game habitat to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 3</i> | Maintain or improve habitat on 33,910 acres of land classified as “Important” wildlife habitat consistent with the objectives of the Colorado Division of Wildlife3 strategic plan. Projects proposed could include water developments (guzzlers, catchments, and spring developments), vegetative manipulation (clearcuts, chaining, burning, seeding, and planting), road control (closures and seasonal restrictions), stream improvements (gabions, log dams, trash collectors, fencing, and rock placement), and breeding habitat improvement (island stabilization or isolation, nesting structures, and artificial reefs), etc. Specific project design will be developed during the environmental analysis process and will include appropriate BLM specifications. | Consider all BLM-administered lands for protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat values. Wildlife activity planning will be accomplished within integrated activity plans. | Prioritize wildlife habitat improvement projects (e.g., chemical, mechanical, prescribed fire and unplanned natural ignitions managed for resource benefit, biological, and seeding) to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the amount of available, palatable, and nutritious forage by setting back succession and creating a diverse age structure of plants;• Reduce the encroachment by pinyon-juniper trees and other woody species into the mountain shrub and park plant communities;• Reduce the canopy cover in mature uniform-aged brush and mature pinyon-juniper and other forest stands;• Manage for a diversity of forest age classes, including old growth forest habitats – where | Prioritize wildlife habitat improvement projects (e.g., chemical, mechanical, prescribed fire and unplanned natural ignitions managed for resource benefit, biological, and seeding) to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mitigate resource consumptive projects that remove functional habitat;• Minimize wildlife conflicts and game damage complaints to other human demands;• Increase the amount of available, palatable, and nutritious forage by setting back succession and creating a diverse age structure of plants;• Reduce the encroachment by pinyon-juniper trees and other woody species into the mountain shrub and park plant communities;• Reduce the canopy cover in mature uniform-aged brush and mature pinyon-juniper and other forest stands; | Prioritize wildlife habitat improvement projects (e.g., chemical, mechanical, prescribed fire and unplanned natural ignitions managed for resource benefit, biological, and seeding) to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the amount of available, palatable, and nutritious forage by setting back succession and creating a diverse age structure of plants;• Reduce the encroachment by pinyon-juniper trees and other woody species into the mountain shrub and park plant communities;• Reduce the canopy cover in mature uniform-aged brush and mature pinyon-juniper and other forest stands;• Manage for a diversity of forest age classes, including old growth forest habitats – where | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | potential exists; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stimulate sprouting and regrowth in decadent aspen patches, shrub species; or• Increase the diversity and abundance of grasses and forbs in the understory of transition and winter range habitats for the critical period of late fall through early spring. | brush and mature pinyon-juniper and other forest stands; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage for a diversity of forest age classes, including old growth forest habitats – where potential exists;• Stimulate sprouting and regrowth in decadent aspen patches or shrub species; or• Increase the diversity and abundance of grasses and forbs in the understory of transition and winter range habitats for the critical period of late fall through early spring. | potential exists; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stimulate sprouting and regrowth in decadent aspen patches; or• Increase the diversity and abundance of grasses, forbs, and shrubs in the understory of transition and winter range habitats for the critical period of late fall through early spring.• Mitigate resource consumptive projects that remove functional habitat.• Minimize wildlife conflicts and game damage complaints to other human demands. | | | |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Where appropriate within pronghorn range, ensure that newly constructed fences and replaced or repaired existing fences accommodate passage by pronghorn. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities within moose priority habitat and concentration areas to protect moose habitat. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Reduce and/or minimize habitat fragmentation and restore wildlife habitat connectivity during travel management planning by considering road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas (Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and elk), and winter ranges (Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range, mule deer severe winter range, white-tailed deer winter range, elk winter concentration areas and | No similar action. | Minimize habitat fragmentation during travel management planning by considering road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas (Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and elk), and winter ranges (Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range, mule deer severe winter range, white-tailed deer winter range, elk winter concentration areas and severe winter range, pronghorn winter | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | severe winter range, pronghorn winter concentration areas, and moose winter range) to provide protection of big game production areas and winter ranges from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods. | | concentration areas, and moose winter range) to provide protection of big game production areas and winter ranges from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods. | | | |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 7 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities to protect migration and movement corridors for mule deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and elk. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities within 0.6 mile of active greater prairie chicken leks. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 9 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities within 0.4 mile of active plains sharp-tailed grouse leks or within plains sharp-tailed grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 10 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities to avoid impacts to populations Birds of Conservation Concern (USFWS 2008), Partners In Flight priority species, and other species of concern. | Use minimal management strategies as required by policy to conserve and avoid impacts to populations of Birds of Conservation Concern. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 11 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Broadly manage all forest types to provide a minimum average snag retention density of three snags per acre. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 12 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Reduce the risk of direct mortality to migratory birds by removing or modifying infrastructure that may be hazardous (e.g., capping pipes, marking wires). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 13</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities to protect waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries within significant production areas as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 14</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Protect big game habitat by retaining BLM lands within: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big game migration corridors;• Mule deer severe winter range; white-tailed deer winter range, elk winter concentration areas and severe winter range; moose winter range; Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range, severe winter range and winter concentration areas; and pronghorn winter concentration areas;• Elk production (calving) and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambling) areas. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 15</i> | Existing habitat management plans for the following areas will be implemented until transfer is complete: Riverside Reservoir, South Platte Reservoirs, and Fort Collins Reservoirs. | Continue monitoring existing habitat management plans and crucial big game winter range, birthing areas, and raptor sites until integrated activity plans are prepared. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 16</i> | No similar action. | Manage all other non-game wildlife consistent with A Fish and Wildlife Plan for Colorado: Program for the Decade (BLM 1990). | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 17</i> | Management of “Important” wildlife habitat may be provided through cooperative management agreements with an appropriate State or Federal wildlife agency or through | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | the development of a BLM habitat management plan. New wildlife habitat management plans or cooperative management agreements will be developed for interim management. High priority areas include: Tamarack Ranch, other areas identified by agency or public interest, and areas identified by the land status specific review process. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Terrestrial Wildlife Management Action 18</i> | Before any major action occurs on 3,180 acres classified as “General” wildlife habitat, inventories will be done to determine if any important values are present. General wildlife habitat will be protected by considering wildlife concerns in the environmental assessments of proposed actions and incorporating stipulations and mitigating measures. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.1.5 Aquatic Wildlife

No specific aquatic wildlife issues have been identified for consideration in the ECRMP.

However, aspects of the following general wildlife issues identified during internal and external (public) scoping, or during the development of the alternatives, may be applicable to aquatic wildlife. General wildlife issues identified during internal and external (public) scoping, as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What management of the various multiple uses and physical and biological resources will be developed that simultaneously enhances, protects, maintains, and develops wildlife species, their populations, and their habitats for the social and economic well-being of the public?
2. Which specific and appropriate standards, guidelines, stipulations, or conservation measures will be needed for a variety of management actions (e.g., livestock grazing, oil and gas development, mining, motorized or nonmotorized recreation) to enhance, protect, maintain, and develop wildlife species, their populations, and their habitats so they may fulfill their life history needs (e.g., reproduction) and what protection measures will be included?
3. What type of management will be developed to maintain large contiguous blocks of wildlife habitats, maintain wildlife movement corridors, and minimize fragmentation of those habitats so that various wildlife species can fulfill their life histories and thrive in a manner that maintains viable populations?
4. What areas or habitat types (e.g., peregrine falcon eyries, bighorn sheep lambing, bat maternity roosts, mule deer winter range) are important to wildlife assemblages or are needed so that wildlife species can fulfill their natural histories, and how will these areas be appropriately maintained, restored, or improved?
5. How will the BLM ensure that baseline data for wildlife habitat are complete and accurate based on the best available data?
6. How will the BLM ensure that the EIS includes a thorough analysis of the impacts of various multiple uses on wildlife and their habitats, and of conservation measures to avoid or minimize these impacts?

5.1.5.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of aquatic wildlife within the planning area include:

- Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251)

5.1.5.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.1.5.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 8 identifies management for aquatic wildlife across the alternatives.

Table 8. Comparison of Alternatives: Aquatic Wildlife

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Aquatic Wildlife Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Protect seasonal playa habitats and areas with frequent standing waters in areas such as canyons. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain or improve resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Maintain resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Aquatic Wildlife Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Work with partners, including the Colorado Water Conservation Board, for the life of the plan, to establish and maintain stream flow protection for ecological and stream function purposes. Collaborate with partners, including local governments, to identify strategies for maintaining the natural range of flows needed to support natural stream functions such as channel maintenance flows and flushing flows. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Remove or relocate 25% of unnecessary, existing infrastructure out of floodplains within 15 years and allow for reclamation if necessary. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Objective 3</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Manage 90% of riparian areas in at least PFC. Riparian health will be a partial surrogate indicator | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | for aquatic health and further supplemented by AIM or other monitoring protocol. In areas of special designation, riparian and wetland resources will move towards an advanced succession seral stage. Areas outside of special designation but recognized as Potential Conservation Areas, Critical habitat for ES, or SS will also be managed to advanced seral stage conditions where practical. (Approximated that 10% of riparian areas are modified such that proper function is unobtainable, or the riparian reach length is overwhelmed and influenced by factors outside of BLM control). | | | | | |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Aquatic Wildlife Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | All streams will be protected through standard lease terms for fluid minerals; locatable mineral entry withdrawal recommendations except for recreational placering; mineral material disposal closures; and limiting OHV use to designated roads and trails. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 500 feet of the high water elevation of playas. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 328 feet of the high water elevation of playas. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Apply water allowable uses and riparian/wetlands decisions to aquatic wildlife. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | | | | | |
| Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 2 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Maintain and/or acquire appropriate water rights for protection of the resource for all categories of wetlands (riparian vegetation, ponds, springs, playas, fens, etc.). Appropriate water rights may include an instream flow water right or natural lake level water right acquired by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, a BLM application for a surface water right on a spring or a reservoir, or a BLM application for a livestock tank permit. Complete inventory of small seeps and springs, stock ponds, etc., and compare to CSO/State database. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid new, and remove existing unnecessary infrastructure, dumps, etc., placed such that damage from extreme flood events within floodplains or flood prone areas is possible (excluding fences necessary for grazing needs and infrastructure such as diversions designed to resist flooding) for all categories of wetlands (riparian, ponds, springs, playas, fens, etc.). New, unavoidable, infrastructure in floodplains would require special design considerations to protect the resource and infrastructure. | Require special design considerations for new, unavoidable, infrastructure in floodplains to protect the resource and infrastructure. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Treat weed infestations and minimize their expansion for all categories of wetlands (riparian, ponds, springs, playas, fens, etc.). | Treat weed infestations and limit their expansion for all categories of wetlands (riparian, ponds, springs, playas, fens, etc.). | Treat weed infestations and minimize their expansion to the maximum extent possible with priority treatment determined by local communities for all categories of wetlands (riparian, ponds, springs, playas, fens, etc.). | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Monitor riparian and wetlands to ensure they meet or exceed PFC. In areas of special designation, manage riparian and wetland resources towards an advanced succession seral stage. Wetland or riparian areas outside of special designation but recognized as CNHP Potential Conservation Areas, Critical habitat for endangered species, or sensitive species will also be managed to advanced seral stage conditions unless individual species management dictate otherwise. All other riparian and wetland will be managed to be at least be in PFC. | Monitor riparian and wetlands to ensure they are moving towards PFC. | Enact or continue management actions to sustain in, or advance resource conditions to PFC for riparian and wetland resources on lands not likely to be disposed of, that are of a size or reach length where BLM management actions can realistically influence area resource conditions. | Monitor riparian and wetlands to ensure they are moving towards or meeting PFC. In areas of special designation, manage riparian and wetland resources to move towards an advanced succession seral stage. Areas outside of special designation but recognized as Potential Conservation Areas, Critical habitat for ES, or SS will also be managed to advanced seral stage conditions. All other riparian and wetland will be managed to be at least be in PFC. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Work with NRCS, landowners, other riparian/wetland interest groups to make improvements towards PFC or advanced seral stage where small parcel BLM land condition is more influenced by the condition and management of the dominant surrounding lands. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Review all Cooperative Management arrangements, ROWs, etc., to ensure BLM parcels managed cooperatively with other entities, (reservoirs | Review all Cooperative Management arrangements, ROWs, etc., to ensure parcels under other than BLM management, (reservoirs company | Review all Cooperative Management arrangements, ROWs, etc., to ensure parcels under other than BLM management, (reservoirs company | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | company ROW’s, State agency agreements, lands incorporated into urban land plans, etc.) enhance riparian/wetland objectives when reviewing realty actions and agreements. | ROW’s, State agency agreements, lands incorporated into urban land plans, etc.) include riparian/wetland objectives that are least restrictive to respond to demand and comply with environmental regulation. | ROW’s, State agency agreements, lands incorporated into urban land plans, etc.) include riparian/wetland maintenance goals. | | | |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | Maintain all existing stream fisheries. Conflicts between fishery habitat and other values (e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, etc.) will be resolved in favor of the fishery habitat. | Manage fishery habitat to maintain and enhance habitat values. Conflicts with other uses (e.g., livestock grazing, mineral development, recreation, etc.) will be resolved in favor of fisheries. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | Supplemental releases and reintroductions for native fish species could be authorized following environmental analysis. | Individual aquatic species management is under jurisdiction of the State of Colorado, and BLM will work with the State to allow for introductions and removal of species under the State’s management authority. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 10</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Actively engage in regional water planning activity (Source Water, State Water Plan, Municipal Plans, etc.) to anticipate water needs to aid in the balance of aquatic resource protection. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 11</i> | No similar action. | Accomplish improvement in condition and stability through riparian, wildlife forestry, grazing, and recreation programs where potential exists. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Aquatic Wildlife Management Action 12</i> | No similar action. | All fishery habitat activity planning will be accomplished within integrated activity plans. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.1.6 Vegetation

The following vegetation issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the BLM address changing vegetation composition, such as pinyon-juniper woodland encroachment and increasing density replacing many diverse grassland communities?
2. What measures will be identified to manage noxious weeds and aquatic nuisance species?
3. How will the BLM prepare for and manage drought conditions?
4. What types of appropriate vegetation management measures will be included in the range of alternatives including, but not limited to, fire, mechanical treatments, and restoration activities?
5. What inventory and management actions are needed to appropriately control and reduce the direct and indirect impacts of proposed activities on noxious weeds?

5.1.6.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of vegetation within the planning area include:

- Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species
- Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536)
- BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management
- BLM Handbook H-1740-2, Integrated Vegetation Handbook
- *Colorado Public Land Health Standards* (BLM 1997)
- National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration 2015-2020
- WO IM No. 2016-013 Managing for Pollinators on Public Lands
- *BLM Handbook H-9214-1: Fuels Management and Community Assistance Handbook*

5.1.6.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.1.6.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 9 identifies management for vegetation across the alternatives.

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Table 9. Comparison of Alternatives: Vegetation

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Vegetation Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Protect soil, water and vegetation resources during drought. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Vegetation Resource Goal 2 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Utilize vegetation management treatments and invasive species control to maintain, restore, or improve ecosystem processes, landscape health, resiliency, and diversity. | Prioritize treatments that have synergies for resources such as range (improved grazing conditions), wildlife (improved habitat for hunting for outfitters), and forestry products for increased economic activity. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource goal. |
| Vegetation Resource Goal 3 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain or improve resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Maintain resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Vegetation Resource Goal 4 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) and promote economic return. | No similar resource goal. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | No similar resource goal. |
| Vegetation Resource Goal 5 | No similar resource goal. | Determine desired plant community in all vegetation manipulation areas. | Restore natural disturbance regimes such as fire, and use vegetative treatments to accomplish biodiversity objectives to promote resilient plant communities. | Use vegetative treatments and fire to accomplish objectives to promote resource production. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Vegetation Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Manage BLM lands within the RGFO to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). Livestock grazing will not be a causal factor in preventing 86 I & M category allotments from meeting the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> within 10 years of signing the RGFO RMP (time frame may be delayed due to drought years). Take | Manage BLM lands within the RGFO to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). Livestock grazing will not be a causal factor in preventing 98 I & M category allotments from meeting the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> within 10 years of signing the RGFO RMP (time frame may be delayed due to drought years). Take | Manage BLM lands within the RGFO to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). Livestock grazing will not be a causal factor in preventing 46 I category allotments from meeting the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> within 10 years of signing the RGFO RMP (time frame may be delayed due to drought years). Take in to account | Manage BLM lands within the RGFO to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). Livestock grazing will not be a causal factor in preventing 81 I & M category allotments from meeting the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> within 10 years of signing the RGFO RMP (time frame may be delayed due to drought years). Take | Manage BLM lands within the RGFO to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). Livestock grazing will not be a causal factor in preventing 29 I & M category allotments from meeting the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> within 10 years of signing the RGFO RMP (time frame may be delayed due to drought years). Take | No similar objective due to no I or M category allotments. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | in to account site potential as determined by ecological site inventories, Range/Ecological Site Descriptions, Soils, completed Land Health Assessments, and site-specific management. | in to account site potential as determined by ecological site inventories, Range/Ecological Site Descriptions, Soils, completed Land Health Assessments, and site-specific management. | site potential as determined by ecological site inventories, Range/Ecological Site Descriptions, Soils, completed Land Health Assessments, and site-specific management. | in to account site potential as determined by ecological site inventories, Range/Ecological Site Descriptions, Soils, completed Land Health Assessments, and site-specific management. | in to account site potential as determined by ecological site inventories, Range/Ecological Site Descriptions, Soils, completed Land Health Assessments, and site-specific management. | |
| <i>Vegetation Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Prevent new infestations and reduce the acreage of A list noxious species and limit the expansion of B list species throughout the RGFO for the life of the plan. Treatment on 1,000 acres per year would occur in priority infestations. Priority infestations would first focus on A list species and secondly on B list species including but not limited to; yellow toadflax, various knapweeds, and leafy spurge. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</i> <i>Vegetation Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Vegetation Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | Manage vegetation as follows: to accomplish other BLM initiatives (e.g., riparian, wildlife); improve forage conditions through cooperative efforts (e.g., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program); manage forest lands for enhancement of other values; develop desired plant condition objectives | Maintain or restore vegetative communities to provide soil stability and resistance to erosion. Use vegetative treatments to improve diversity, reduce noxious and invasive species, and restore native plant communities to support wildlife and livestock. Ensure that managed activities (grazing, | Maximize vegetative treatments to improve diversity, reduce noxious and invasive species, and restore native plant communities to support wildlife and livestock. Ensure that managed activities (grazing, recreation, energy development, etc.) are not leading to degraded | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | for all integrated activity plans; and monitor vegetation on an interdisciplinary basis. Identify site-specific resource objectives, including specific desired plant community, in integrated activity plans. In most cases, this will result in a reasonably diverse community of grasses, shrubs and trees. Monitor the overall trend, condition, and forage production of vegetation. These factors are expected to improve. | recreation, energy development, etc.) are not leading to degraded conditions. | conditions. | | | | |
| Vegetation Management Action 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Use naturally ignited wildfires and prescribed fire to meet resource objectives as described below (reduce encroachment, create openings and a mosaic of age classes)and use Land Health Assessments, Ecological Site Inventories, Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation monitoring, and prescribed fire monitoring to identify potential management opportunities. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Vegetation Management Action 4 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Implement treatments designed to reduce encroachment and density of pinyon-juniper, conifer, and other woody species, replenish diminished native seed banks, control noxious and invasive species, and provide periods of grazing rest or reduced usage during drought. | Implement mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire treatments designed to improve forage production and forest products, reduce encroachment and density of pinyon-juniper, conifer, and other woody species, replenish diminished native seed banks, and control noxious and invasive species. | Implement mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire treatments on parcels where adjacent land owners are working in a collaborative effort. | Implement mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire treatments designed to reduce encroachment and density of pinyon-juniper, conifer, and other woody species, replenish diminished native seed banks, and control noxious and invasive species. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Implement mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire treatments on parcels where adjacent land owners are working in a collaborative effort. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Vegetation Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Use prescribed fire, unplanned natural ignitions, and mechanical and biological treatments to create openings within dense stands of woodlands. | Use prescribed fire, unplanned natural ignitions, and mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments to create openings within dense stands of woodlands to increase forage production. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Vegetation Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Maintain past and manage future treatment areas in pinyon and juniper and other conifer with an emphasis on creating a mosaic of age classes and seral stages. Allow habitat improving treatments on pinyon and juniper and sites with other woody species. | Maintain past and manage future treatment areas in pinyon and juniper and other conifer with an emphasis on creating forest products and forage producing sites. Allow forage producing treatments on pinyon and juniper and sites with other woody species. | Maintain past and manage future treatment areas in pinyon and juniper and other conifer with an emphasis on creating a mosaic of age classes and forage producing sites. Allow forage producing or habitat improving treatments on pinyon and juniper and other woody species. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Vegetation Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prioritize treatment areas for noxious and invasive species based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current State, county, and BLM priority weed lists;• Appropriate time of year for the most effective treatment; and• Increased emphasis on landscape ecosystem health. | Prioritize treatment areas for noxious and invasive species based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current State, county, and BLM priority weed lists;• Appropriate time of year for the most effective treatment; and• Impacts to resource users. | Prioritize treatment areas for noxious and invasive species based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current State, county, and BLM priority weed lists;• Appropriate time of year for the most effective treatment; and• Priorities of local communities. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Vegetation Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Continue early detection of new infestations, and a rapid treatment response (National Early Detection and Rapid Response Strategy). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Vegetation Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | Manage noxious weeds according to the principles of integrated pest management and the Colorado Undesirable Plant Act. | Implement best management practices for weed management for activities included in but not limited to oil and gas operations; ROWs; range developments; special recreation permits (SRP); and construction and mechanical vegetation treatment activities as | Implement measures required by law and policy for weed management for activities included in but not limited to oil and gas operations; ROWs; range developments; special recreation permits (SRP); and construction and mechanical vegetation treatment activities as | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | authorized in contracts and permits. | authorized in contracts and permits. | | | | |
| Vegetation Management Action 10 | No similar action. | Develop cooperative efforts with county weed boards to control infestations. Methods used will include chemical, cultural, mechanical, and biological control. | Develop cooperative efforts with county weed boards and other entities to control infestations. Methods used will include: chemical, cultural practices such as hand pulling and targeted grazing, mechanical, fire, and biological control. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Vegetation Management Action 11 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Implement strategies that best protect vegetative resources during periods of drought (<i>Note: See Appendix C for the drought classification system</i>). | No similar action. | No similar action. | Implement strategies that best protect vegetative resources and community desires during periods of drought (<i>Note: See Appendix C for the drought classification system</i>). | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. |
| Vegetation Management Action 12 | No similar action. | Determine desired plant community in all disturbed sites. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.1.7 Wetlands and Riparian Resources

The following wetland and riparian resource issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What categorization and management strategies will be identified to manage numerous small parcels of BLM-administered surface land with less riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat, or when only fractional portions of watersheds versus management strategies are necessary on larger parcels?
2. How will the RMP address riparian area management considering changing landscapes beyond the BLM's control (e.g., rapid subdivision of adjacent ranch lands)?
3. What water flow and water right protection strategies will be identified to protect flows for BLM-administered water-dependent resources? How will the BLM anticipate future water development needs to be evaluated for large rivers, creeks, small seeps, springs, and fens (many of which were developed years ago and may or may not have water rights or be functional)?
4. How will the BLM manage resource uses that potentially indirectly affect wetland, riparian, and aquatic resources, such as obligate species disturbance, habitat fragmentation, invasive species introduction, and overland flow rate alteration?
5. The BLM RGFO has recognized important values in situations of fen wetlands and playa wetlands, and added emphasis has been needed for certain aquatic wildlife species since the Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP (BLM 1996) was completed. What additional planning considerations will be identified to foster long-term sustainability of these less common resources in consideration of resource uses, such as oil and gas development?
6. What appropriate information on the baseline status of riparian, wetland, springs, and fen habitats will be included in the RMP and what are the appropriate measures to protect riparian areas from resource uses?

5.1.7.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of wetlands and riparian resources within the planning area include:

- Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251)
- Clean Water Rule: Definition of "Waters of the United States" (40 CFR 230.3)
- Permits for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material Into Waters of the United States (33 CFR 323)
- Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands (42 FR 26961)

- Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management (42 FR 26951)
- BLM Technical Reference 1737-16, Riparian Area Management: A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and the Supporting Science for Lentic Areas
- *Colorado Public Land Health Standards* (BLM 1997)

5.1.7.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goal is common to all action alternatives for wetlands and riparian resources:

- **Wetlands and Riparian Resource Goal 1:** Maintain or improve wetland and riparian resources.

5.1.7.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 10 identifies management for wetlands and riparian resources across the alternatives.

Table 10. Comparison of Alternatives: Wetlands and Riparian Resources

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.1.7.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Wetlands and Riparian Resource Goal 2 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain or improve resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. Follow BLM policy and guidance on further wetland and riparian management. | Maintain resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Wetlands and Riparian Resource Goal 3 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Integrate resource management activities to meet <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES Wetlands and Riparian Objective 1 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Remove or relocate 25% of unnecessary, existing infrastructure out of floodplains within 15 years. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Wetlands and Riparian Objective 2 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Manage 90% of riparian areas in at least PFC. Riparian area health will be a partial surrogate indicator for aquatic health and further supplemented by AIM or other monitoring protocol. In areas of special designation, manage riparian areas toward an advanced seral stage. In areas outside of special designation, but recognized as CNHP Potential Conservation Areas, critical habitat for endangered species, or important habitat for BLM special status species, manage toward an advanced seral stage where feasible. (The BLM estimates that 10% of | Same as Alternative B, except do not manage riparian areas toward an advanced seral stage. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | riparian areas are modified such that proper function is unobtainable, or the riparian reach length is overwhelmed and influenced by factors outside of BLM control). | | | | | |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Wetlands and Riparian Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar allowable use | Limit fluid mineral operations in riparian areas by CSU stipulations. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 500 feet of the high water elevation of playas. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 328 feet of the high water elevation of playas. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar allowable use | No similar action. | Apply all water allowable uses and aquatic wildlife decisions to riparian/wetlands. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar allowable use | No similar action. | Avoid ROW within 500 feet of streams/springs possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | Eliminate grazing on riparian habitat in poor condition. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | Recommend to withdraw perennial riparian areas to locatable mineral entry except for recreational placering, close to mineral material disposal, recommend all withdrawals for waterpower/reservoir sites for revocation, and limit all OHV use to designated roads and trails. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | | | | | |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Maintain or acquire appropriate water rights for the protection of the wetland resource, for all categories of wetlands; (riparian, ponds, springs, playas, fens, etc.) where any State-permitted water right is logical, or required (e.g., in-stream flow, spring water rights filing, exempt stock pond water right). Complete an inventory of small seeps and springs, stock ponds, etc., and compare to CSO/State database. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Strive to prevent new, and remove existing unnecessary infrastructure, dumps, etc., such that damage from extreme flood events within floodplains or flood prone areas is possible (excluding fences necessary for grazing needs and infrastructure such as diversions designed to resist flooding) for all categories of wetlands (riparian, ponds, springs, playas, fens, etc.). Require special design considerations for new, unavoidable, infrastructure in floodplains. | Require special design considerations for new, unavoidable, infrastructure in floodplains. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Minimize expansion of weeds and treat infestations for all categories of wetlands (riparian, ponds, springs, playas, fens, etc.). | Same as Alternative B. | Minimize expansion of weeds and treat infestations to the maximum extent possible and consistent with community priorities for all categories of wetlands (riparian, ponds, springs, playas, fens, etc.). | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Continue to improve management with implementation of BLM guidance to maintain and/or improve current conditions in riparian zones. Achieve properly functioning condition for 75 percent of all riparian areas by 1997. | Adaptively manage and monitor wetlands and riparian areas to ensure they meet or exceed PFC and in areas of special designation move towards or in an advance seral stage. | Monitor wetlands and riparian areas to ensure they are moving toward PFC. | Enact or continue management actions to sustain or advance resource conditions to PFC for wetlands and riparian resources on lands not likely to be disposed of, that are of a size or reach length where BLM management actions can realistically influence area resource conditions. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Work with NRCS, landowners, other riparian/wetland interest groups to make improvements towards PFC or advanced seral stage where small parcel BLM land condition is more influenced by the condition and management of the dominant surrounding lands. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Review all cooperative management arrangements, ROWs, etc., to ensure BLM parcels managed cooperatively with other entities, (reservoirs company ROWs, State agency agreements, lands incorporated into urban land plans, etc.) enhance riparian/wetland objectives when reviewing realty actions and agreements. | Review all cooperative management arrangements, ROWs, etc., to ensure parcels under other than BLM management, (reservoirs company ROWs, State agency agreements, lands incorporated into urban land plans, etc.) include riparian/wetland objectives to meet PFC. | Review all cooperative management arrangements, ROWs, etc., to ensure parcels under other than BLM management, (reservoirs company ROWs, State agency agreements, lands incorporated into urban land plans, etc.) include riparian/wetland maintenance goals. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | Prior to implementation, assess all actions within riparian areas for the effects on the resource. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | Complete riparian area inventories and map them as soon as possible. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 10</i> | No similar action. | Emphasize interdisciplinary support for riparian restoration. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Wetlands and Riparian Management Action 11</i> | No similar action. | Reflect riparian objectives in all integrated activity plans. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.1.8 Special Status Species

The following issues pertaining to special status species were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What are the short-and long-term desired future conditions needed to maintain viable special status species, considering their populations and their habitats?
2. What are the desired future conditions needed to meet recovery requirements for federally listed threatened, endangered, and proposed species?
3. How will the BLM work with other agencies and partners to conserve and recover special status species and what actions would be needed?
4. What are the long-term goals, objectives, and strategies for managing habitat for special status species, and what management actions would be developed to ensure habitat is available for these species?
5. What is the appropriate mix of native vegetation types, structure, seral stage, patch size, and composition necessary across the landscapes to maintain special status species?
6. How will the BLM manage a site when general land health standards are met but site conditions are still such that it is not meeting functional habitat requirements for special status species?
7. How will the BLM manage areas that provide a unique or substantial contribution toward one or more special status species?
8. How will the BLM ensure the inclusion of a complete special status species inventory and geospatial analysis to define the scope and magnitude of sensitive wildlife habitats?
9. How will the BLM include the appropriate level of impact analysis to determine potential impacts on special status species from development activities?
10. How will the BLM protect sensitive wildlife habitats and species during future resource development, and what monitoring measures will be developed to determine whether the RMP decisions are effective?

5.1.8.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of special status species within the planning area include:

- BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management
- Departmental Manual 235.1.1.A, General Program Delegation, Director, Bureau of Land Management

- Departmental Manual 632.1.1-1.6, Endangered Species Management
- Information Quality Act (44 U.S.C. 3504(d)(1) and 3516)
- Oregon and California Land Act (43 U.S.C. 1184a, *et seq.*)
- Secretarial Order 3206 (American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act).
- Sikes Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 670, *et seq.*)
- The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*)
- FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701, *et seq.*)

5.1.8.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goals are common to all action alternatives for special status species:

- **Special Status Species Resource Goal 1:** Engage local, State, and Federal partners in program and project design to address management issues and minimize or avoid impacts to special status species and their habitats across jurisdictional boundaries.
- **Special Status Species Resource Goal 2:** Inventory and monitor special status species and their habitats to contribute to a greater understanding of their abundance and distribution within the planning area.

5.1.8.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 11 identifies management for special status species across the alternatives.

Table 11. Comparison of Alternatives: Special Status Species

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.1.8.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Conserve special status species by maintaining, restoring, or improving occupied and suitable habitat in support of species recovery to minimize the likelihood of and need for listing of these species under ESA. | Conserve special status species by maintaining occupied and suitable habitat in support of species recovery. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Resource Goal 4</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain or improve resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Maintain resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Resource Goal 5</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Special Status Species Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Conduct and maintain current inventories of BLM special status species on BLM-administered lands as described in BLM Manual 6840-Special Status Species Management. Determine, to the extent practicable, the distribution, abundance, population condition, current threats, and habitat needs for sensitive species and evaluate the significance of BLM-administered lands and actions undertaken by the BLM in the conservation of those species where BLM has discretion. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage special status species habitat as ROW avoidance areas unless otherwise specified as ROW exclusion areas. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | Special status species habitat will be protected through elimination of conflicting uses. | Avoid land use authorizations and other permits within known threatened and endangered species habitat. Allow authorizations and permits only when they are shown to have no effect or have beneficial effects on threatened and endangered species or their habitat. | Avoid land use authorizations and other permits within known threatened and endangered species habitat. Allow authorizations and permits only when they are shown to not jeopardize threatened and endangered species or their habitat. | Avoid land use authorizations and other permits within known threatened and endangered species habitat. Allow authorizations and permits only when they are shown to not likely to adversely affect threatened and endangered species or their habitat. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | For new travel management actions, close or relocate travel routes that adversely affect special status species if the result of the closure or relocation will improve conditions for these species. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of the entrance of maternity roosts from April 15 to August 31 and hibernacula from November 15 to April 15 to protect Bureau sensitive bat species. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.25-mile radius of the entrance of maternity roosts from April 15 to August 31 and hibernacula from November 15 to April 15 to protect Bureau sensitive bat species. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| Special Status Species Allowable Use 6 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of the entrance of known maternity roosts or hibernacula of Bureau sensitive bat species except when the decision is in conflict with public safety. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.25-mile of special status bat maternity, hibernation, and fall swarming sites. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Special Status Species Allowable Use 7 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.25-mile radius of the entrance of known maternity roosts or hibernacula of Bureau sensitive bat species except when the decision is in conflict with public safety. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Special Status Species Allowable Use 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 300 feet of active prairie dog colonies. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 300 feet of active prairie dog colonies. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Special Status Species Allowable Use 9 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 328 feet of active prairie dog colonies. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Special Status Species Allowable Use 10 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.25-mile of active swift fox dens. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.25-mile of active swift fox dens. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Special Status Species Allowable Use 11 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 0.25 mile of active swift fox dens. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within 0.25-mile of active swift fox dens. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| Special Status Species Allowable Use 12 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Within Canada lynx habitat in Lynx Analysis Units, forest treatments primarily focused on commercial timber harvest and over-snow motorized travel will not be allowed. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Within Canada lynx habitat in Lynx Analysis Units: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage timber harvest consistent with the August 2013 Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy.• Limit the expansion of consistent snow compaction unless it serves to consolidate use and improve lynx habitat. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 13</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Designate Canada lynx landscape linkages as a ROW avoidance area (including renewable energy sites such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass development). | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 14</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 300 feet of active prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets. | Restrict surface use to fluid mineral development within 300 feet of active prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 15</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 300 feet of active prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within 328 feet of active prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 16</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 300 feet of stream centerline of occupied reaches to protect New Mexico and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse. | Restrict surface use to fluid mineral development within 300 feet of stream centerline of occupied reaches to protect New Mexico and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 17</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 300 feet of stream centerline of occupied reaches to protect New Mexico and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within 300 feet of stream centerline of occupied reaches to protect New Mexico and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 18</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within designated critical habitat for New Mexico and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse. | Restrict surface use to fluid mineral development within designated critical habitat for New Mexico and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 19</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within federally designated critical habitat for New Mexico and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within federally designated critical habitat for New Mexico and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 20</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 656- foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within occupied suitable habitat of federally listed and | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | Bureau sensitive plants to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | | | | |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 21</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | No similar management action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within occupied suitable habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 22</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit collection of rare plants or plant parts, except as permitted by the authorized officer for scientific research when the action would not adversely affect the population. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 23</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development from March 16 to September 30 to protect white pelican nesting and feeding habitat during usage. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 24</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities from March 16 to September 30 to protect white pelican nesting and feeding habitat during usage. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 25</i> | No similar action. | Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bald eagle winter roosting habitat (November 16 – April 15) Special status animal species habitat will have timing limitations for mineral operations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bald eagle winter roosting habitat | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development to maintain the integrity of sites and surrounding habitat as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within 0.5-mile if topographic and/or vegetative buffers exist to 1 mile if nest is in line-of-sight of occupied and historic bald eagle nest sites, and• Within 0.25-mile if topographic and/or vegetation buffers exist to 1-mile if roost is in line-of- | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of bald eagle winter roosts, occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years), or historic nest sites to maintain the integrity of sites and surrounding habitat. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of bald eagle winter roosts, occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years), or historic nest sites to maintain the integrity of sites and surrounding habitat. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | sight for all known bald eagle winter roosts. | | | | | |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 26</i> | No similar action. | Special status animal species habitat will be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and closed to mineral materials disposal in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bald eagle winter roosting habitat Special status animal species habitat will have timing limitations for mineral operations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bald eagle winter roosting habitat | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.25-mile radius of bald eagle winter roosts, occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years), or historic nest site to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.25-mile radius of bald eagle winter roosts or occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 27</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 1-mile radius around bald eagle nest sites from October 15 to July 31 and around winter roost sites from November 15 to March 15 to: (a) protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest; and (b) prevent disruption of wintering bald eagles at winter roost sites. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius around bald eagle nest sites from October 15 to July 31 and around winter roost sites from November 15 to March 15 to: (a) protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest; and (b) prevent disruption of wintering bald eagles at winter roost sites | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 28</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius around bald eagle nest sites from October 15 to July 31 and around winter roost sites from November 15 to March 15 to: (a) protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest; and (b) prevent disruption of | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | wintering bald eagles at winter roost sites. | | | | | |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 29</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | Restrict surface use to fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 30</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 31</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 32</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 33</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied golden eagle nest sites until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 34</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of occupied northern goshawk nest sites or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of occupied northern goshawk nest sites or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 35</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of occupied northern goshawk nest sites or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of occupied northern goshawk nest sites or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 36</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development from March 1 to September 15 within a 0.5-mile radius of northern goshawk nest sites to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 37</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities (beyond that which historically occurred prior to nest establishment) from March 1 to September 15 within a 0.5-mile radius of northern goshawk nest sites to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 38</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of occupied ferruginous hawk nest sites or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of occupied ferruginous hawk nest sites or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 39</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of occupied ferruginous hawk nest sites or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of occupied ferruginous hawk nest sites or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 40</i> | No similar action. | Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ferruginous hawk nesting and fledgling habitat (February 1 – August 15) Special status animal species habitat will be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and to closed mineral materials disposal in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ferruginous hawk nesting and fledgling habitat Special status animal species habitat will have timing limitations for mineral operations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ferruginous hawk nesting and fledgling habitat | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development from February 1 to July 15 within a 0.5-mile radius of ferruginous hawk nest sites to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 41</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities (beyond that which historically occurred prior to nest establishment) from February 1 to July 15 within a 0.5-mile radius of a ferruginous hawk nest site to protect reproductive activity at nest sites. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 42</i> | No similar action. | Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with an NSO stipulation in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peregrine falcon nesting habitat Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peregrine falcon habitat (March 16 – July 31) Special status animal species habitat will be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and closed to mineral materials disposal in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peregrine falcon habitat Special status animal species habitat will have timing limitations for mineral operations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peregrine falcon nesting habitat | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5 -mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 43</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 44</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile buffer around peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes from March 15 to July 31 to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 45</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities (beyond that which historically occurred prior to nest establishment) within a 0.5-mile buffer around peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes from March 15 to July 31 to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 46</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied peregrine falcon nest sites until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 47</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.25 mile of active burrowing owl nest sites from March 1 to August 15 to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 300 feet of active burrowing owl nest sites from March 1 to August 15 to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 48</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 0.25 mile of active burrowing owl nest sites from March 1 to August 15 to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 300 feet of active burrowing owl nest sites from March 1 to August 15 to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 49</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within a 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest sites to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within a 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest sites to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 50</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within a 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest sites to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within a 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest sites to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 51</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within federally designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within federally designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 52</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within federally designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within federally designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 53</i> | No similar action. | Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with an NSO stipulation in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within a 0.5-mile radius of confirmed Mexican spotted owl roosting and nesting sites Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mexican spotted owl habitat (February 1 – July 31) Special status animal species habitat will be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and closed to | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within suitable Mexican spotted owl breeding habitat from March 1 to August 31. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest site from March 1 to August 31. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | mineral materials disposal in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mexican spotted owl habitat Special status animal species habitat will have timing limitations for mineral operations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mexican spotted owl habitat | | | | | | |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 54</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within a 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest sites from March 1 to August 31. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 55</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within known breeding sites of long-billed curlew. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within known breeding sites of long-billed curlew. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 56</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within known breeding sites of long-billed curlew. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within known breeding sites of long-billed curlew. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 57</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within known breeding sites of white-faced ibis. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within known breeding sites of white-faced ibis. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 58</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within known breeding sites of white-faced ibis. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within known breeding sites of white-faced ibis. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 59</i> | No similar action. | Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mountain plover (April 10 – July 10; South Park only) | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within suitable mountain plover nesting habitat (as mapped by CPW or BLM) from April 10 to July 31. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 60</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within suitable mountain plover nesting habitat (as mapped by CPW or BLM) from April 10 to July 31. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 61</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 300-feet of the ordinary high water mark of CPW defined nesting areas for least tern, piping plover, and western snowy plover. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 300-feet of the ordinary high water mark of defined CPW nesting areas for least tern, piping plover, and western snowy plover. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 62</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 300-feet of the ordinary high water mark of CPW defined nesting areas for least tern, piping plover, and western snowy plover. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within 300-feet of the ordinary high water mark of defined CPW nesting areas for least tern, piping plover, and western snowy plover. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 63</i> | No similar action. | Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Least tern and piping plover nesting habitat (April 1 – July 31) Special status animal species habitat will be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and closed to mineral materials disposal in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Least tern and piping plover nesting habitat | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within defined CPW defined nesting areas for least tern, piping plover, and western snowy plover from April 1 to July 31. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 64</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within defined CPW defined nesting areas for least tern, piping plover, and western snowy plover from April 1 to July 31. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 65</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.25-mile of the ordinary high-water mark or within 328 feet of the 100-year flood plain on the Arkansas River within the range of the yellow-billed cuckoo and southwest willow flycatcher. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.25-mile of the ordinary high-water mark or within 328 feet of the 100-year flood plain on the Arkansas River within the range of the yellow-billed cuckoo and southwest willow flycatcher. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 66</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 0.25-mile of the ordinary high-water mark or within 328 feet of the 100-year flood plain on the Arkansas River within the range of the yellow-billed cuckoo and southwest willow flycatcher. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within 0.25-mile of the ordinary high-water mark or within 328 feet of the 100-year flood plain on the Arkansas River in the High Plains. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 67</i> | No similar action. | Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with an NSO stipulation in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within a 0.25-mile radius of lesser prairie-chicken leks Special status animal species habitat will be available for fluid leasing with seasonal stipulations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesser prairie-chicken nesting habitat (March 1 – July 31) Special status animal species habitat recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and closed to mineral materials disposal in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesser prairie-chicken habitat | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within focal areas, connectivity zones, or within 1.25 miles of known lesser prairie chicken leks that have been active at least once within the previous 5 years, as well as sites dominated by tracts of native grass and shrublands. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.6 mile of active lesser prairie chicken leks. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.6 mile of active lesser prairie chicken leks. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 68</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within focal areas, connectivity zones, or within 1.25 miles of known lesser prairie chicken leks that have been active at least once within the previous 5 years, as well as sites dominated by tracts of native grass and shrublands. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within 0.6 mile of active lesser prairie chicken leks. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 69</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 2.2 miles of active lesser prairie chicken leks from March 15 to June 15. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 70</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 2.2 miles of active lesser prairie chicken leks from March 15 to June 15. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 71</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close all occupied lesser prairie chicken habitat to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 72</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid non-emergency operations, construction and maintenance activities, where humans are present, during lekking, nesting, and brooding season (March 1 to July 15) within 1.25 miles of lesser prairie chicken leks recorded active within the previous 5 years. Emergency operations are those activities unexpectedly and urgently required to prevent or address immediate threats to human health, safety, or property; the environment; or national defense or security. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 73</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Do not conduct seismic surveys and similar activities that require extensive off road travel in rangeland or planted grass cover during the lekking nesting and brooding season (March 1 to | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | July 15) within 1.25 miles of lesser prairie chicken leks recorded active within the previous 5 years. Lek surveys shall be required in CHAT categories 1-3 prior to any breeding season seismic surveys. | | | | | |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 74</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | For non-emergency operations, construction and maintenance activities, where humans are present, that cannot be avoided and must occur from March 1 to July 15, restrict activities between the hours of 3:00 am and 9:00 am in areas within 1.25 miles of lesser prairie chicken leks that have been recorded as active within the previous 5 years. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 75</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Institute noise abatement year-round for new facility operations (post-construction, post-drilling, post-completion, and post-recompletion) located within 1.25 miles of lesser prairie chicken leks recorded as active within the previous 5 years. Noise from these new facilities shall not exceed 75-dB when measured at 30-feet from the Facility Boundary. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 76</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.5 mile of identified breeding sites of Bureau sensitive amphibians. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.5 mile of identified breeding sites of Bureau sensitive amphibians. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 77</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 0.5 mile of identified breeding sites of Bureau sensitive amphibians. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within 0.5 mile of identified breeding sites of Bureau sensitive amphibians. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 78</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.25 mile of identified Bureau sensitive snake hibernacula. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.25 mile of identified Bureau sensitive snake hibernacula. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 79</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 0.25 mile of identified Bureau sensitive snake hibernacula. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within 0.25 mile of Bureau sensitive snake hibernacula. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 80</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within known occupied sites of Pawnee montane skipper and the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within known occupied sites of Pawnee montane skipper and the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 81</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within known occupied sites of Pawnee montane skipper and the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within known occupied sites of Pawnee montane skipper and the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Allowable Use 82</i> | No similar action. | The relict plant community habitat will be protected through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACEC designation• Changes in livestock grazing• NSO for fluid mineral leasing• Recommending for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry• Closing to mineral materials disposals• OHV restrictions | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Special Status Species Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | | | | | |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | Retain sensitive animal species habitat in public ownership. | Retain BLM lands with special status species (i.e., federally proposed, candidate, and listed species and Bureau sensitive species) habitats and pursue land tenure adjustments that facilitate the conservation and/or recovery of special status species. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Fluid mineral lease areas may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. The BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further species conservation and management objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Require a biological inventory prior to approval of fluid mineral leasing operations in areas of known or suspected habitat of special status species, or habitat of other species of interest such as but not limited to raptor nests and migratory bird nests. The operator, in coordination with the BLM, shall use the inventory to prepare mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of affected species and/or their habitats. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Manage uses in areas with special status plants in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Achieve any reintroduction of Federal or State listed endangered, threatened, candidate, and sensitive | Cooperate with the USFWS and appropriate State agencies in planning and providing for the recovery of federally listed or Bureau sensitive species. This includes the reestablishment or release of federally listed, bureau sensitive species, or | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | species following environmental analysis and consultation with the USFWS, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (<i>Note: the Colorado Division of Wildlife is now Colorado Parks and Wildlife</i>) Colorado Natural Areas Program, and other affected parties. | experimental populations of federally listed species within their historical range. NEPA compliance is required before introductions, transplants and reestablishments may be approved. | | | | | |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 6</i> | No similar action | No similar action | Ensure that management of native, naturalized and exotic species enhances, restores, and does not reduce the biological and genetic diversity of natural ecosystems. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | Inventory and monitor, as necessary, threatened and endangered and sensitive species and plant communities to provide information for proper management. | Inventory and monitor, as necessary, threatened and endangered and sensitive species to provide information for proper management with an emphasis on areas near surface-disturbing activities. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage special status species and their habitat to meet or exceed the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). | Manage special status species and their habitat to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | Avoid actions that further jeopardize listed and sensitive species and enhance these species when possible as directed by the Endangered Species Act. | Avoid actions that adversely affect federally listed species. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 10</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify and protect important bat use areas (e.g., maternity roosts and hibernacula) and take appropriate action to protect these areas such as recreational closures, mineral withdrawals, and installation of bat gates for abandoned mine closures. | Identify and protect important bat use areas (e.g., maternity roosts and hibernacula) and take appropriate action to protect these areas such as installation of bat gates for abandoned mine closures. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Special Status Species</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Caves and other structures utilized by bats may be | Caves and other structures utilized by bats may be | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Management Action 11</i> | | | closed to public access in the event of a disease outbreak in which humans may be vectors that threatens bat populations. | closed to public access or mitigated in the event of a disease outbreak in which humans may be vectors that threatens bat populations. | | | | |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 12</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface-disturbing activities within 328 feet of active prairie dog colonies. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 13</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow prairie dog relocation and recovery activities in existing, occupied, or historic prairie dog complexes where consistent with other management and ecosystem objectives. | Allow prairie dog relocation and recovery activities in existing, occupied, or historic prairie dog complexes where consistent with other management and resource uses. | Allow prairie dog relocation and recovery activities in existing, occupied, or historic prairie dog complexes where consistent with other management and community objectives. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 14</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Provide healthy and productive habitat for a variety of raptor species by protecting nest sites, and maintain or improve important raptor nesting habitat. | No similar action. | Provide healthy and productive habitat for a variety of raptor species by protecting nest sites and maintaining nesting habitat. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 15</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage for restoration or improvement of yellow-billed cuckoo habitat and increase canopy cover and mid-story tree and shrub cover within the range of the yellow-billed cuckoo where large stands of cottonwoods occur. | Manage for restoration or improvement of yellow-billed cuckoo habitat and increase canopy cover and mid-story tree and shrub cover, unless it conflicts with resource use within the range of the yellow-billed cuckoo where large stands of cottonwoods occur. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 16</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | For operators likely to affect lesser prairie chicken, the BLM recommends enrollment in “The Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-wide Conservation Plan” administered by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 17</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Focus development on lands already altered or cultivated (such as row-crop agriculture or developed oilfields), and away from areas of undeveloped native grass or shrublands. Select fragmented or degraded habitats over relatively intact areas and select sites with lower lesser prairie chicken habitat potential over sites with greater habitat potential. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 18</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Use common rights of way for multiple types of infrastructure in locating new roads, fences, powerlines, well pads, flow lines, compressors, and other associated oil and gas infrastructure within lesser prairie-chicken focal areas, connectivity zones, or in other areas identified as high probability lek and nest habitat by CHAT categories 1-3. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 19</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Utilize horizontal or directional drilling, pad drilling (multiple wells per pad), and common tank batteries where feasible within lesser prairie-chicken focal areas, connectivity zones, or in other areas identified as high probability lek and nest habitat by CHAT categories 1-3 to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation of habitat. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 20</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid use of herbicide treatments and limit this use to the project footprint and/or right of way within lesser prairie-chicken focal areas, connectivity zones, or in other areas identified as high probability lek and nest habitat by CHAT categories 1-3. Where practical and | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | applicable, utilize an herbicide that is targeted for specific use and spot treatments as opposed to a broadband herbicide and broadcast treatments. Apply in conditions that minimize drift. | | | | | |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 21</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Locate new roads, fences, powerlines, well pads, flow lines, compressors, and other associated oil and gas infrastructure and their Impact Buffers outside lesser prairie-chicken focal areas, connectivity zones, or in other areas identified as high probability lek and nest habitat by CHAT categories 1-3. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 22</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Bury new distribution lines within 1.25 miles of lesser prairie chicken leks active within the previous 5 years. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 23</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Utilize mono-pole construction for new electrical transmission lines within CHAT categories 1-3 to minimize transmission line footprint. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 24</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Install appropriate fence markings along new fences within 0.25 mile of a lesser prairie chicken lek that has been recorded as active within the previous 5 years. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 25</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | During the lesser prairie chicken breeding season (March 1 to July 15), minimize traffic volume, control vehicle speed, control access where feasible, and avoid off-road travel within focal areas and areas identified as high probability lek and nest habitat by the CHAT. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 26</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Recommend installing raptor deterrents on new electrical distribution and transmission poles within 1.25 miles of lesser prairie chicken leks as indicated by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006, as amended. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 27</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Provide escape ramps, rafts or ladders, depending on configuration, in exposed, human-made water containment sources, as necessary. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 28</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | For operators likely to deplete water from the South Platte Basin, the BLM recommends enrollment in the South Platte Water Related Activities Program to protect federally listed species that are likely to be adversely affected by water depletions in the South Platte Basin. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 29</i> | No similar action. | Determine desired plant community in vegetation manipulation areas to enhance habitat for the species. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 30</i> | No similar action. | Complete full compliance in all cases with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act before invoking specific actions resulting from RMP decisions. This requires mandatory consultation and coordination with the USFWS and clearance of lands inhabited by these species. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 31</i> | No similar action. | Do inventory, analysis, and monitoring for special status species and plant communities. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 32</i> | No similar action. | Complete clearances for special status species for all proposed management actions. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 33</i> | No similar action. | Limit intensive recreation development to protect existing and potential special status species habitat. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Special Status Species Management Action 34</i> | No similar action. | Special status species habitat activity planning will be accomplished within integrated activity plans. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.1.9 Wildland Fire and Fuel Management

The following wildland fire issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. Where and under what conditions should prescribed and managed wildfire be used as a vegetative management tool?
2. How will fuel management or vegetation management treatments be used to address land health goals and condition class?
3. What will the management response be to wildfires throughout the planning area?
4. How will the BLM address emergency stabilization and rehabilitation following wildfires?
5. What areas, if any, will have restrictions on fire management practices when needed to protect natural and cultural resource values?
6. What measures will be used to address fuel loading and fire risk while minimizing the impacts on other resources?

5.1.9.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of wildland fire and fuels within the planning area include:

- Federal Wildland Fire Policy of 1995, updated 2001
- Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Instructional Memorandum [IM] 2009-112)
- *Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide* (National Wildfire Coordinating Group 2014)
- *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book)* (BLM and USFS 2016)
- *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* (Wildland Fire Leadership Council 2011)
- BLM Manual 9200, Fire Program Management
- BLM Handbook H-9238-1, Fire Trespass Handbook
- BLM Handbook H-1742, Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Handbook
- BLM Handbook H-9211-1: Fire Planning Handbook
- BLM Handbook H-9214-1: Fuels Management and Community Assistance Handbook

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Counties in the Eastern Colorado Planning Area (Various)
- *Programmatic Agreement among the BLM, the State of Colorado, the USFS, the State Historic Preservation Office of Colorado, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the Management of Wildland Fire for Resource Benefits* (Agreement No. 1102-002-98-038)

5.1.9.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goals are common to all action alternatives for wildland fire and fuel management:

- **Fire Resource Goal 1:** Manage wildland fire and fuels to protect, maintain, and enhance resources, as well as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires. Emphasize firefighter and public safety as the first priority in every wildland fire and fuels management activity.
- **Fire Resource Goal 2:** In partnership with local, State, and Federal partners, conduct fire mitigation and fire prevention activities to reduce human-caused wildfire ignition and improve public safety.

5.1.9.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 12 identifies management for wildland fire and fuel across the alternatives.

Table 12. Comparison of Alternatives: Wildland Fire and Fuel Management

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.1.9.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Fire Resource Goal 3 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Manage fire to maintain, achieve, or exceed desired ecological and forest health conditions to create sustainable and resilient landscapes. | Integrate fire, fuels, and forest management to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997), to reduce the risk of fire in the wildland urban interface, and to meet natural resource goals across all levels of government and jurisdictional boundaries. | Integrate fire, fuels, and forest management to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997), to reduce the risk of fire in the wildland urban interface, and to meet natural resource goals across all levels of government and jurisdictional boundaries. | Integrate fire, fuels, vegetative, and forest management to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997), to reduce the risk of fire in the wildland urban interface, and to meet natural resource goals across all levels of government and jurisdictional boundaries. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Integrate fire, fuels, and forest management to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997), to reduce the risk of fire in the wildland urban interface, and to meet natural resource goals across all levels of government and jurisdictional boundaries. |
| Fire Resource Goal 4 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Prioritize treatments that utilize timber harvesting, or projects that utilize biomass and forest products (including but not limited to fire wood, fencing materials, and timber). Increase the number of these treatments that have synergies for resources such as range (improved grazing conditions), wildlife (improved habitat for hunting for outfitters), and forestry products for increased economic activity. Due to the small parcels and scattered BLM surface ownership, priority would be given to fuels treatment areas that could be implemented in a cooperative effort with adjacent land owners where vegetation treatments would be more effective at reducing the risk and spread of uncharacteristic wildfire if they are larger and more continuous areas. | Prioritize treatments that utilize timber harvesting, or projects that utilize biomass and forest products (including but not limited to fire wood, fencing materials, and timber). Increase the number of these treatments that have synergies for resources such as range (improved grazing conditions), wildlife (improved habitat for hunting for outfitters), and forestry products for increased economic activity. Integrate fire, fuels, and forest health management to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency to natural disturbance by prioritizing treatments within the wildland urban interface and high risk landscapes. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Integrate fire, fuels, and forest health management to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency to natural disturbance. Due to the small parcels and scattered BLM surface ownership, priority would be given to project areas that could be implemented in a cooperative effort with adjacent land owners where vegetation treatments would be more effective at reducing the risk and spread of uncharacteristic wildfire if they are larger and more continuous areas. |
| Fire Resource Goal 5 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | After wildfires, prioritize emergency stabilization (ES) and burned area | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | rehabilitation (BAR) work to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, improve lands that are unlikely to recover naturally from the effects of wildfires and to repair or replace infrastructure damaged by the fire. | | | | | |
| Fire Resource Goal 6 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Following fires and other disturbance, minimize threats to life and property, and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources. | Following fires and other disturbance, minimize threats to life or property to prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources by implementing emergency stabilization. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES Fire Objective 1 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restore Vegetation Condition Class [VCC] Classes II (a&b) and III (a&b) towards Class I (a&b) and maintain areas of VCC I (a&b).• Meet the Colorado Public Land Health Standards (BLM 1997).• Monitor departure of current vegetation conditions on a landscape from estimated historical conditions. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Fire Objective 2 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Improve vegetative conditions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementing treatments to improve understory conditions, alter fuel loading, reduce the number of stems per acre, and raise crown base height.• Implementing post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Fire Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts (e.g., increases in fuel loading, human caused ignitions) to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Fire Management Action 2</i> | <p>The prevention and suppression of wildfire will be accomplished on 22,520 acres classified as “Cooperative” by either a MOU or a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements for wildfire protection will be made immediately and followed until cancellation upon tenure change.</p> <p>Wildfire protection through a special cooperative agreement is historically not considered necessary for areas classified as “General” because of the rarity of fire occurrence. If a fire occurs, reimbursement may be provided to the appropriate suppression agency(s).</p> <p>Wildfires occurring area would not be managed for resource benefits. These fires would be managed under the full suppression management option.</p> <p>Mechanical, chemical, or biological vegetation treatments on parcels that have been identified to allow for vegetation treatments in the Northeast</p> | <p>Naturally ignited wildfires could potentially be managed for resource benefits.</p> <p>There may be some instances where full or modified suppression tactics, or other response to wildfire procedures, are the only management option due to proximity to values at risk, and firefighter safety.</p> | <p>Utilize a full range of wildfire management strategies (from Fire Exclusion to Fire Inclusion), to improve ecological conditions and to reduce the probability of loss from fire. The strategy, tactics, and level of engagement on any individual wildfire will be based on the objectives provided in this plan (and any subsequent amendments or revisions) as well as the conditions at the time of the fire as they affect the safety of firefighters and the public and ability to accomplish objectives. All BLM lands within the planning area are considered suitable for managing unplanned natural ignitions for resource benefits.</p> <p>Actions that may be taken to support accomplishment of land use plan resource and protection objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct attack, indirect attack, and confinement by natural or man-made barriers.• Monitor until conditions | Same as Alternative B. | <p>Due to the small acreage parcels and highly scattered BLM surface ownership, a limited range of wildfire management strategies or a combination of these strategies will be utilized to improve ecological conditions and to reduce the probability of loss from fire. The strategy, tactics, and level of engagement on any individual wildfire will be based on the objectives provided in this plan (and any subsequent amendments or revisions) as well as the conditions at the time of the fire as they affect the safety of firefighters and the public and ability to accomplish objectives.</p> <p>All BLM lands within the planning area are considered suitable for managing unplanned natural ignitions for resource benefits.</p> <p>Actions that may be taken to support accomplishment of land use plan resource and protection objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct attack, indirect attack, and confinement | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | RMP. Due to the small acreage of land within the BLM parcels, priority would be given to project areas that could be implemented in a cooperative effort with adjacent land owners. | | change that would call for or allow a different action. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Placement of firefighting resources on the fire site to track the fire’s spread intensity or other characteristics.• Development of contingency actions to identify necessary firefighting resources and specific actions necessary to meet the management objective. | | by natural or man-made barriers. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor until conditions change that would call for or allow a different action.• Placement of firefighting resources on the fire site to track the fire’s spread intensity or other characteristics.• Development of contingency actions to identify necessary firefighting resources and specific actions necessary to meet the management objective. | | | |
| <i>Fire Management Action 3</i> | All BLM-administered surface lands are classified as “Open” for prescribed burning. Proposals for prescribed burning will be reviewed through the environmental assessment process to determine acceptability and to design the burn project. Criteria to review include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earlier beneficial successional stage of vegetation• Necessary reduction of fuel hazard• Necessary manipulation of species composition• Achievable reduction of noxious weeds• No threatened private property• Less fire danger than or equal to Class III (moderate)• Acceptable smoke dispersal and obtainable permit• Full consideration of other resource values | Prescribed fire and prescribed natural fire could be used as a management tool to enhance resources (BLM 1997). Describe desired plant community and initiate fire projects through integrated activity plans prior to fire prescription. Prepare a specific burn plan, including NEPA documentation, in advance of a prescribed burn. Vegetation management will be as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vegetation will be managed to accomplish other BLM initiatives (i.e., Riparian, Wildlife).• Improved forage conditions will be distributed through cooperative efforts (i.e., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program).• Management of forest lands will be for enhancement of other values.• Desired Plant Condition | Implement a variety of fuels and vegetative treatments to improve ecological conditions, to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire to high-risk landscapes (e.g., high departure/VCC 2 and 3), and to facilitate or allow for the future use and management of natural ignitions to return fire to the ecosystem for resource benefit. These treatments may include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanical• Manual• Prescribed fire• Chemical• Aerial, mechanical, or ground seeding of BLM-approved native species to reduce the chance of the establishment of undesirable species.• Biological | Implement a variety of fuels and vegetative treatments to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire in the wildland urban interface, to critical infrastructure, and to high-risk landscapes (e.g., municipal watersheds). These treatments would emphasize the utilization of biomass and forest products including fire wood, fencing materials, landscaping materials, timber, etc. These treatments may include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanical• Manual• Salvage operations following wildfire or insect and disease outbreak or other natural disturbance.• Prescribed fire• Chemical• Aerial or ground seeding of native or nonnative species to reduce the chance of the establishment of undesirable species and to | Due to the small acreage parcels and scattered BLM surface ownership, priority would be given to fuels treatment areas that could be implemented in a cooperative effort with adjacent land owners or cooperating agencies where vegetation treatments would be more effective if they are larger and more continuous areas. Emphasis would be placed on fuels and vegetative treatments that would reduce the probability of loss of life and property in the wildland urban interface and for the protection of critical infrastructure. Treatments may be designed to improve control feature effectiveness (e.g., the creation of shaded fuel breaks, fuel breaks along roads) and improve point protection around values at risk. These treatments include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanical | Implement a variety of fuels and vegetative treatments to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire in the wildland urban interface, to critical infrastructure, to high risk landscapes (e.g., municipal watersheds, insect and disease infestation, or other natural disturbance areas), and to improve forest and ecosystem health and function. Treatments will be designed to improve control feature effectiveness (the creation of shaded fuel breaks, fuel breaks along roads etc., and improved point protection around values at risk. These treatments would encourage the utilization of biomass and forest products to provide opportunity for the public to obtain fire wood, fencing materials, landscaping materials, timber, etc. These treatments may include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanical | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Due to the small acreage parcels and scattered BLM surface ownership, priority would be given to fuels treatment areas that could be implemented in a cooperative effort with adjacent land owners or cooperating agencies where vegetation treatments would be more effective if they are larger and more continuous areas. Emphasis would be placed on fuels and vegetative treatments to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire in the wildland urban interface and for the protection of critical infrastructure or high risk landscapes. Treatments may be designed to improve control feature effectiveness (e.g., the creation of shaded fuel breaks, fuel breaks along roads) and improve point protection around values at risk. These treatments would encourage the utilization of biomass and forest products to provide opportunity for the |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | objectives will be developed for all Integrated Activity Plans (integrated activity plans). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vegetation monitoring will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis.• Adoption of the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997), especially related to Standard 3. | | increase forage conditions for livestock and wildlife. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biological | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manual• Prescribed fire• Chemical• Aerial or ground seeding of native or nonnative species to reduce the chance of the establishment of undesirable species (i.e., cheat grass), and to increase forage conditions for livestock and wildlife.• Biological | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manual• Salvage operations post fire or post insect and disease or other natural disturbance.• Prescribed fire• Chemical• Aerial or ground seeding of native or nonnative species to reduce the chance of the establishment of undesirable species, and to increase and improve forage conditions for livestock and wildlife.• Biological | | public to obtain fire wood, fencing materials, landscaping materials, timber, etc. These treatments include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanical• Manual• Salvage operations post fire or post insect and disease or other natural disturbance.• Prescribed fire• Chemical• Aerial or ground seeding of native or nonnative species to reduce the chance of the establishment of undesirable species (i.e., cheat grass), and to increase forage conditions for wildlife.• Biological |
| <i>Fire Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Determine the need to prescribe and implement emergency stabilization treatments based on severity of impact following fires and other disturbance. Emergency stabilization priorities include and are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human life and safety, or infrastructure that requires protection.• Unique or sensitive cultural or historical resources that are at risk.• Soils that are susceptible to accelerated erosion.• Water quality• Residual vegetation post fire is not expected to provide soil and watershed protection in two years.• A high potential of noxious weed | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | establishment and invasion. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restoration of threatened, endangered, or special status habitat to reduce or prevent adverse impacts.• Stabilization is necessary to meet other resource objectives. | | | | | |
| <i>Fire Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Design and implement Burned Area Rehabilitation treatment actions within three years of containment of a wildland fire. These treatment actions include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repairing landscapes unlikely to recover naturally.• Implementing weed treatments to remove invasive or undesirable species.• Planting native species to restore or establish resilient ecosystems (including seeding and planting efforts). | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Fire Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | Managed wildfire, vegetation treatment, and post fire rehabilitation activities that occur within a WSA will be managed in accordance with BLM Manual 6330-Management of BLM Wilderness Study areas or current policy. | Utilize the management of unplanned natural ignitions in WSAs, ACECs, lands managed for wilderness characteristics, and BCAs to allow for the frequency and intensity of the natural fire regime to play its inherent role in the ecosystem using “minimum impact suppression tactics” wherever possible, while providing for the safety of firefighters and public. The use of vegetation management treatments and prescribed fire in WSAs, ACECs, and lands managed for wilderness characteristics can be utilized in accordance with | Utilize the management of unplanned natural ignitions in WSAs, ACECs, lands managed for wilderness characteristics, and BCAs to allow for the frequency and intensity of the natural fire regime to play its inherent role in the ecosystem while providing for the safety of firefighters and public. The use of vegetation management treatments and prescribed fire in WSAs, ACECs, BCAs, and lands managed for wilderness characteristics can be utilized in accordance with policy. Due to the scattered land pattern and limited large expanses of BLM- | No similar action. | Utilize the management of unplanned natural ignitions in WSAs, ACECs, lands managed for wilderness characteristics, and BCAs to allow for the frequency and intensity of the natural fire regime to play its inherent role in the ecosystem while providing for the safety of firefighters and public. The use of vegetation management treatments and prescribed fire in WSAs, ACECs, and lands managed for wilderness characteristics can be utilized in accordance with policy. Due to the scattered land pattern and limited large expanses of BLM- | Utilize the management of unplanned natural ignitions in lands managed for wilderness characteristics, and BCAs to allow for the frequency and intensity of the natural fire regime to play its inherent role in the while providing for the safety of firefighters and public. The use of vegetation management treatments and prescribed fire in lands managed for wilderness characteristics and BCAs can be utilized in accordance with policy. Due to the scattered land pattern and limited large expanses of BLM-administered surface, | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | policy. Due to the scattered land pattern and limited large expanses of BLM-administered surface, proactive vegetation management activities in or adjacent to these special designation areas may be required to allow for the management of unplanned natural ignitions in these areas due to the moderate to high departure of fuel and vegetation conditions. | administered surface, proactive vegetation management activities in or adjacent to these special designation areas may be required to allow for the management of unplanned natural ignitions in these areas due to the moderate to high departure of fuel and vegetation conditions. | | administered surface, proactive vegetation management activities in or adjacent to these special designation areas may be required to allow for the management of unplanned natural ignitions in these areas due to the moderate to high departure of fuel and vegetation conditions. | proactive vegetation management activities in or adjacent to these special designation areas may be required to allow for the management of unplanned natural ignitions in these areas due to the moderate to high departure of fuel and vegetation conditions. | |
| Fire Management Action 7 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Take an active role in public education with the use of news releases, social media, signage, participation at public meetings, to reduce the incidence of human ignition and other threats from wildfire and to educate about fire and fuels management and the role it plays in ecosystem and forest health. Examples of public education programs or topics include the National Fire Protection Association’s Firewise Communities Program, and defensible space. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Fire Management Action 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Collaborate with cooperators and the public in the development and implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

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5.1.10 Cultural Resources

The following cultural resource issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the BLM manage cultural resources to ensure they are available for appropriate use by present and future generations?
2. What measures will be developed to ensure that significant cultural resources on decision area lands are identified and managed?

5.1.10.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of cultural resources within the planning area include:

- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.)
- Protection of Historic Properties, Regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Governing the Section 106 Review Process (36 CFR 800)
- American Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 U.S.C. 320301-320303)
- Historic Sites Acts of 1935 (54 U.S.C. 320101-320106)
- National Trails System Act of 1968
- Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960, as amended by the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (54 U.S.C. 312501-312508)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (U.S.C. 470aa et seq.)
- Protection of Archaeological Resources (43 CFR 7)
- Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment
- Executive Order 12072, Federal Space Management
- Executive Order 13006, Locating Federal Facilities on Historic Properties in Our National's Central Cities (61 FR 26071)
- Executive Order 13287, Preserve America
- Executive Order 13195, Trails for America in the 21st Century
- BLM Manual 8110, Identifying and Evaluating Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8100, The Foundations for Managing Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8130, Planning for Uses of Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8140, Protecting Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8150, Permitting Uses of Cultural Resources

- BLM Manual 8170, Interpreting Cultural Resources for the Public
- BLM Manual 6280 – Management of National Scenic and Historic Trails and Trails Under Study or Recommended as Suitable for Congressional Designation
- BLM IM No. CO-90-072, Colorado Burial Discovery Procedures
- BLM IB No. WO-2002-101, Cultural Resource Considerations in Resource Management Plans
- BLM IB No. WO-2004-154, Amendments to 36 CFR Part 800, Protection of Historic Properties
- Programmatic Agreement Among the BLM, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers regarding the manner in which the BLM would meet its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (BLM 2012b)
- State Protocol Agreement Between the Colorado State Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Manner in Which the BLM Will Meet Its Responsibilities Under the National Historic Preservation Act and the 2012 National Programmatic Agreement Among the BLM, the Advisory Council On Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (BLM 2014)
- Programmatic Agreement among the BLM, the State of Colorado, the USFS, the State Historic Preservation Office of Colorado, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the Management of Wildland Fire for Resource Benefits (Agreement No. 1102-002-98-038)

5.1.10.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goals are common to all action alternatives for cultural resources:

- **Cultural Resource Goal 1:** Make cultural resources available for specific uses, based on resource value.
- **Cultural Resource Goal 2:** Expand the Section 110 program by proactively inventorying, researching, monitoring, stabilizing, and interpreting cultural resources in addition to compliance responsibilities.

5.1.10.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 13 identifies management for cultural resources across the alternatives.

Table 13. Comparison of Alternatives: Cultural Resources

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.1.10.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Resource Goal 3 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Emphasize public archaeology. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Plan and carry out no fewer than two public education events annually. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Objective 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Cultural Objective 2 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Perform no fewer than 75 acres of proactive cultural resources inventory annually. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Objective 3 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Plan and carry out no fewer than two proactive data recovery or research projects annually. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Objective 4 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Respond to as many protections issues as necessary or perform protective activities, such as signing, on no fewer than two sites annually. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Objective 5 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Monitor no fewer than nineteen sites annually. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close Federal minerals that underlie historic properties of national or regional significance to leasing. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Allowable Use 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Cultural Allowable Use 2 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Exclude areas containing cultural resources of regional or national significance for ROWs. | Avoid areas containing cultural resources of regional or national significance for ROWs. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Allowable Use 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to fluid mineral leasing within a 0.5-mile buffer from the following nationally or regionally significant sites: Site 5PW48, the Grenada Relocation Center (Amache); the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic | Same as Alternative B. | Close to fluid mineral leasing within a 0.5-mile buffer from the following nationally or regionally significant sites: 5PW48, the Grenada Relocation Center (Amache); the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site; 5LO101 | Close to fluid mineral leasing within a 0.5-mile buffer from site 5FN2387 (Reburial site). | Close to fluid mineral leasing within a 0.5-mile buffer from the following nationally or regionally significant culturally sensitive sites: 5PA1300 and 5PA718 (the White Buffalo Site). | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | Site; Site 5LO101 (Peavey Rockshelter); Site 5PA1300; Site 5PA718 (the White Buffalo Site); National Historic Trails, including, but not limited to, Site 5MR994.1 (Overland Trail) and the Santa Fe Trail in various counties; and Site 5FN2387 (Reburial site). | | (Peavey Rockshelter); National Historic Trails, including, but not limited to, 5MR994.1 (Overland Trail) and the Santa Fe Trail in various counties. | | | |
| Cultural Allowable Use 4 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy or use for oil and gas activities on lands within 328 feet from the boundary of locally significant eligible cultural resources, culturally sensitive locations, listed National Register sites/districts, outstanding cultural resources to be nominated to the National Register, interpreted and/or public use sites, and experimental-use sites. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Allowable Use 5 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Surface occupancy or use from for oil and gas activities may be restricted due to historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Executive Order.13007, or other statutes and executive orders. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE- SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS Cultural Management Action 1 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Newly discovered sites of national or regional significance will be added through plan maintenance actions. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| Cultural Management Action 2 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify vulnerable sites and add to the annual monitoring schedule. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Management Action 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Maintain an efficient and flexible system of data collection and storage that allows for a rapid response and handle a large volume of data in order to adapt to changing conditions on the ground. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Management Action 4 | No similar action. | Retain identified potential and listed NRHP sites in BLM administration. | Retain lands with cultural resources of regional or national significance in Federal ownership. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Management Action 5 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Assign cultural resource values to all sites on BLM-administered land. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Cultural Management Action 6 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prioritize the active collection and management of site data. | Prioritize reactive cultural resource management over proactive site inventory, recording, and data recovery. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Cultural Management Action 7 | No similar action. | Informational potential of historical resources will be used for logical interpretation and scientific values and specific sites will be used for their interpretive values. Informational potential of archaeological resources will be developed to the maximum extent possible through appropriate study. Informational potential of historical and archaeological resources will be promoted through involvement with educational institutions. Active programs for interpretive scientific and recreational use of historic sites will be developed within integrated activity plans. | Prioritize the development of interpretive and educational programs. | Prioritize reactive cultural resource management over cultural resources interpretation and education. | No similar action. | Prioritize the development of interpretive and educational programs to enhance tourism. | Prioritize the development of interpretive and educational programs. | Develop interpretive and educational programs as appropriate. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prioritize active work with partners to work on data recovery projects. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify sites that warrant stewardship and develop a program in collaboration with appropriate local entities. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 10</i> | Management of 3,040 acres eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or designated as a National Historic Landmark will be according to regulations in 36 CFR 800, in the Historic Sites Act (Pub. L. 292, 74th Congress), and in the Archaeological Protection Act of 1979. Satisfaction of these regulations may include: preservation/avoidance, restoration/stabilization, limited excavation/recordation, interpretation, and protection/maintenance. | Manage and protect all historical and archaeological sites or districts in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and all other historic preservation laws. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 11</i> | The Colorado Historical Society or local historical societies recognize 8,770 acres as areas of “State/Local” significance for cultural resources, but not necessarily qualifying for the NRHP. Although these areas and sites should ideally retain their integrity and intrinsic values, adverse management actions are discretionary and will be done in consultation with State and local interests as appropriate. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 12</i> | Management of 990 acres of “Limited” local significance and concern may include similar requirements as for areas of “State/Local” significance | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | and would be in consultation with the appropriate interests. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 13</i> | Management of 20,030 acres exhibiting “High” potential for the discovery of cultural values based on Class I inventories and other sources of information will usually require a Class III inventory (100 percent), as defined in BLM Manual 8111 (BLM 2004c), before being disturbed. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 14</i> | Management of 4,260 acres exhibiting medium or “Low” potential for cultural values through Class I or limited inventories will require Class II inventories, as defined in BLM Manual 8111 (BLM 2004c). | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 15</i> | Areas without cultural values of consequence or of further apparent interest for the management of cultural resources will require occasional monitoring for subsurface data. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 16</i> | Known cultural sites will be protected consistent with their designated significance. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 17</i> | On public lands, unknown cultural sites would be identified and protected by clearance on all projects prior to development or during the land status specific review process. The clearances are made according to the identified potential. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 18</i> | If the surface owner consents to surface-disturbing activities on subsurface estate where there is reason to believe an NRHP listed site, or one | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | eligible for listing, is present, cultural resources clearances are necessary. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 19</i> | No similar action. | Require inventory, evaluation, and determination of eligibility for the NRHP for historical and archaeological sites or districts pursuant to 36 CFR 800. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Cultural Management Action 20</i> | No similar action. | Conservation of historical and archaeological resources will be enhanced through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designation of Browns Canyon, Arkansas Canyonlands, Grape Creek, Phantom Canyon, Garden Park, and Beaver Creek ACECs• Protection of potential NRHP sites or districts (Leadville Stage Road; Midland Railroad Railbed; DeReemer Forts; Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad railbed segments, bridges, abutments, tunnels; Garden Park historical dinosaur digging sites; and Denver and Rio Grande Railroad bed) being:• Leased for fluid minerals under standard leasing stipulations:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and closed to mineral materials development○ OHV use limited to designated roads and trails | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

5.1.11 Tribal Concerns

The following tribal issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the BLM ensure that ecological landscapes and culturally sensitive locations are protected and managed to allow access by present and future tribal generations?
2. How will the BLM ensure that tribal human remains that are discovered on BLM-administered surface lands are afforded proper care and respect?

5.1.11.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of tribal concerns within the planning area include:

- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 1996)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001)
- Executive Order 13007, Protection and Preservation of Native American Sacred Sites
- Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
- BLM Manual 8120, Tribal Consultation Under Cultural Resource Authorities
- BLM IM No. CO-2000-016, Disposition Policy on Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Repatriated Museum Collections
- BLM IM No. WO-2004-052, Assessing Tribal and Cultural Considerations as Required in IM-2003-233, Integration of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) Inventory Results into the Land Use Planning Process
- BLM IM No. WO-2005-003, Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation and Fluid Minerals Leasing
- BLM IM No. WO-2007-002, Disposition Policy on Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Repatriated Museum Collections

5.1.11.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

Further development of goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions will be forthcoming, pursuant to expected guidance from multiple state program leads regarding the implementation of a new tribal consultation manual (BLM Manual 1780).

The following resource goals are common to all action alternatives for tribal concerns:

- **Tribal Resource Goal 1:** Protect and allow access to known ecological landscapes and the culturally sensitive locations within them.
- **Tribal Resource Goal 2:** Under the auspices of the Section 110 program, actively seek out ecological landscapes and the culturally sensitive locations within them.in collaboration with tribes.

5.1.11.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 14 identifies management for tribal concerns across the alternatives.

Table 14. Comparison of Alternatives: Tribal Concerns

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.1.11.2 | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Tribal Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | In collaboration with tribes, develop an inventory program to annually seek out and record at least one ecological landscape and the culturally sensitive locations within it. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Tribal Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Annually monitor no fewer than two identified ecological landscapes and the culturally sensitive locations within them. Include photo-documentation in the resulting annual report. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Tribal Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy or use on lands within a 0.5mile buffer from the following culturally sensitive locations: the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site; Site 5LO101 (Peavey Rockshelter); Site 5PA1300; Site 5PA718 (the White Buffalo Site); and Site 5FN2387 (Reburial site). | Same as Alternative B. | Prohibit surface occupancy or use and close oil and gas leasing within a 0.5-mile buffer from the following culturally sensitive locations: the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and Site 5LO101 (Peavey Rockshelter). | Prohibit surface occupancy or use and close oil and gas leasing within a 0.5-mile buffer from Site 5FN2387 (Reburial site). | Prohibit surface occupancy or use and close oil and gas leasing within a 0.5-mile buffer from the following culturally sensitive locations: Site 5PA1300 and Site 5PA718 (the White Buffalo Site). | No similar action. |
| <i>Tribal Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy or use from oil and gas activities on lands within 328 feet of the boundary of locally significant eligible cultural resources, culturally sensitive locations, listed National Register sites/districts, outstanding cultural resources to be nominated to the National Register, interpreted and/or public use sites, and experimental-use sites. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Tribal Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Surface occupancy or use for oil and gas activities may be restricted due to historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Executive Order 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Tribal Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Exclude areas containing cultural resources of concern to tribes for ROWs. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Tribal Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Tribal Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Retain lands with culturally sensitive locations in Federal ownership. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Tribal Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Continue to collaborate with tribes to develop procedures that enhance existing laws, regulations, and policies, for the protection of and tribal access to culturally sensitive locations and ecological landscapes. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Tribal Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Ensure that human remains are afforded proper care and respect. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Tribal Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | In collaboration with tribes, develop interpretive and educational programs, as appropriate and desired by tribes. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Tribal Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Work closely with tribes to encourage data sharing and ensure accurate data interpretation. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

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5.1.12 Paleontological Resources

The following paleontological issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. Where will special limitations or stipulations be applied to developments or other resource uses to protect and preserve paleontological resources? Of the paleontological resources currently being actively managed, will site-specific use restrictions be identified? If so, will they need to be modified to meet current conditions? For example, the area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) activity plan for the Garden Park Fossil Area needs to be completed as proposed in the Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP (BLM 1996), and the Garden Park Fossil Area ACEC boundary needs to incorporate newly acquired BLM-administered surface lands that contain significant paleontological features.
2. Which special designations, such as ACEC and National Natural Landmark designations, will be identified to promote paleontological resource preservation?
3. What measures will be identified to ensure that significant paleontological resources on decision area lands are identified and managed?

5.1.12.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of paleontological resources within the planning area include:

- American Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431-433)
- Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976
- Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009
- Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 2009
- BLM Handbook H-8270-1, General Procedural Guidance for Paleontological Resource Management
- BLM Manual Section 8270, Paleontological Resource Management
- BLM IM 2008-009, Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) System for Paleontological Resources on Public Lands
- BLM IM 2009-011, Assessment and Mitigation of Potential Impacts to Paleontological Resources
- BLM IM 2012-140, Collecting Paleontological Resources Under the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009

- BLM IM 2012-141, Confidentiality of Paleontological Locality Information Under the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, Title VI, Subtitle D on Paleontological Resources Preservation
- BLM IM 2016-124, Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) System for Paleontological Resources on Public Lands

5.1.12.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goals are common to all action alternatives for paleontological resources:

- **Paleontology Resource Goal 1:** Preserve and protect significant paleontological resources (generally vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils) in compliance with the 2009 Paleontological Resources Preservation Act.
- **Paleontology Resource Goal 2:** Maintain and protect paleontological resources from natural or human-caused deterioration for their educational and scientific benefits and to mitigate adverse impacts.

5.1.12.3 Comparison of Alternatives

The alternatives discussion for paleontology largely considers how likely an area is to contain significant paleontological resources. The Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system provides baseline guidance for assessing paleontological resources. Occurrences of paleontological resources are known to be correlated with mapped geologic units (i.e., formations). The PFYC is created from available geologic maps and assigns a class value to each geological unit, representing the potential abundance and significance of paleontological resources that occur in that geological unit.

In the PFYC system, geologic units are assigned a class based on the relative abundance of significant paleontological resources and their sensitivity to adverse impacts. This classification is applied to the geologic formation, member, or other mapped unit. The classification is not intended to be applied to specific paleontological localities or small areas within units instead, the overall abundance of scientifically important localities is intended to be the major determinant for the assigned classification. PFYC 1 indicates a very low likelihood for the geologic unit to contain recognizable paleontological resources; PFYC 5 indicates the highest likelihood to contain significant paleontological resources.

Table 15 identifies management for paleontological resources across the alternatives.

Table 15. Comparison of Alternatives: Paleontological Resources

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.1.12.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Paleontology Resource Goal 3 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Promote scientific and educational use of fossils. | Ensure that paleontological resources are available for appropriate scientific and educational uses. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Paleontology Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Focus intensive management of paleontological resources on PFYC 3, 4 and 5 including cyclic inventory of up to 200 acres per year and documentation and protection of known localities. | Focus intensive management of paleontological resources on PFYC 4 and 5 including cyclic inventory of up to 200 acres per year and documentation and protection of known localities. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Paleontology Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | Provide conservation of PFYC 4 and 5 paleontological resources through ACEC designation. These will be managed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closed to timber harvesting and wood gathering• Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry• Closed to mineral materials disposal, unless disposal will enhance fossil values• Have limited livestock grazing• OHV use limited to designated roads and trails | Provide conservation of PFYC 4 and 5 paleontological resources through ACEC designation. These will be managed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closed to timber harvesting and wood gathering• Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry• Closed to mineral materials disposal, unless disposal will enhance fossil values or reduce cumulative impacts to the resource• OHV use limited to designated roads and trails• Closed to the collection of rocks, mineral specimens, gemstones, petrified wood and common invertebrate and plant fossils. Collection of vertebrate and other fossils and geologic specimens by permit only. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Paleontology Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | Conduct cyclic inventories of PFYC 4 and 5 paleontological resources, as needed. Update existing inventories as needed. Filtering of data and maps to render updated areas of paleontological sensitivity (PFYC 4 and 5) will be ongoing. | Conduct cyclic inventories and document highly sensitive paleontological sites. Inventories will focus on PFYC 3, 4 and 5 paleontological resources across the field office area. | Conduct cyclic inventories and document highly sensitive paleontological sites. Inventories will focus on PFYC 4 and 5 paleontological resources across the field office area. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Minimize the number of routes in proximity to known paleontological localities to reduce the potential for vandalism or collection. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | Conservation of PFYC 4 and 5 paleontological resources will be provided through ACEC designation. These will be managed as follows: Fluid minerals leasing with an NSO stipulation | Lease notice for oil and gas leasing: PFYC <i>Class 4 and 5 Paleontological Areas</i> . Areas containing Class 4 and 5 paleontological areas must be inventoried prior to surface-disturbing activities. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Conservation of PFYC 4 and 5 paleontological resources will be provided through ACEC designation. These will be managed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Retained in public ownership | Retain lands with paleontological resource values (PFYC 4 and 5) in Federal ownership. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| Paleontology Management Action 6 | No similar action. | Encourage conservation of PFYC 4 and 5 paleontological resources with ACEC designation and manage as follows in the Garden Park ACEC: close to timber harvesting and wood gathering; NSO; close to mineral entry; close to mineral material disposal unless disposal will enhance paleontological values; retain in public ownership; limit livestock grazing; limit OHV use to designated roads and trails. A "dinosaur discovery" center will be established for the Garden Park area in cooperation with the Garden park Paleontology Society. | Same as Alternative C. | Enhance, promote, and protect the paleontological resources of the Garden Park ACEC: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locate, evaluate, and protect significant paleontological resources.• Conduct annual inventories of paleo resources in Garden Park ACEC. Use partnerships to support this effort.• Provide for public visitation and education opportunities while simultaneously protecting and supporting the scientific and research value of paleontological resources in the Garden Park ACEC.• Foster public awareness and appreciation of the RGFO paleontological heritage.• Build partnerships in the local community to support scientific and educational activities in the local community and in the scientific community.• Maintain a local repository for Federal fossils particularly focusing on fossils from Garden Park Fossil Area.• All ground disturbing activity in the Garden Park ACEC will require pre field work survey and likely be followed by monitoring by an authorized/certified paleontologist when disturbance to bedrock is proposed. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative C. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 7</i> | If the surface owner consents to surface-disturbing activities on subsurface estate where there is reason to believe scientifically significant fossils are present, a paleontological evaluation is necessary. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 8</i> | Immediate detailed follow-up study is needed in “PFYC 4 and 5” areas, which are site-specific localities where scientifically significant fossils are exposed on the surface or are very likely to be discovered during detailed field work in the area. As such sites are discovered, the following management practices will be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preserve by avoidance or stabilization.• Collect and interpret through mitigation by qualified paleontologists. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative A Northeast RMP Landscape. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative A Northeast RMP Landscape. | Same as Alternative A Northeast RMP Landscape. | No similar action. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 9</i> | There are 800 acres identified as “PFYC 4” areas, which have high potential for scientifically significant fossils. In these areas, a paleontological evaluation will be done by the geologist, on a case-by-case basis, prior to any surface-disturbing activity. These evaluations will change this classification to PFYC 5, 3, or 2, as appropriate. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 10</i> | There are 7,570 acres identified as PFYC or unknown areas, which show evidence of fossils, but the presence of fossils of scientific value has not been established and is not | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | anticipated. Detailed study may be desirable in the future for the evaluation of all types of fossil collecting. This classification may identify recreational values in fossils. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 11</i> | There are 28,730 acres classified as PFYC 1 and 2 areas, which have with little likelihood of finding fossils of scientific value. No further consideration of fossils is necessary unless future discoveries require a change of classification. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 12</i> | Protection of paleontological resources on public lands will be ensured by project surveys prior to developments causing surface disturbance. The surveys will be completed as a part of the environmental assessment process on project proposals. | Complete full compliance and implementation of the laws, regulations, and BLM policy before beginning any actions resulting from approved RMP decisions. Manage paleontology in accordance with existing BLM manual and other guidance, requiring clearances (in PFYC 4 and 5 filtered areas) and necessary mitigation in PFYC 4 and 5 and other areas identified as having specific indications of scientifically significant fossils. Guidance also outlines procedures required for paleontological permitting. | Manage paleontology in accordance with existing BLM manual and other guidance, requiring pre work surveys and necessary mitigation in PFYC 4 and 5 and other areas identified as having specific indications of scientifically significant fossils. Guidance also outlines procedures required for paleontological permitting. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 13</i> | No similar action. | Develop educational programs using paleontological resources on a case-by-case basis. | Develop educational programs using paleontological resources on a case-by-case basis. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 14</i> | No similar action. | Utilization of fossil resources for educational, research, and other public uses, such as tourism, will be encouraged with special emphasis on the Garden Park Fossil Area. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Encourage utilization of fossil resources for educational, research, and other public uses, such as tourism, with special emphasis on the Garden Park Fossil Area. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 15</i> | No similar action. | The establishment of invertebrate collecting areas to provide fossil materials for public domain collections will be considered within integrated activity plans. | No similar action. | Consider the establishment of invertebrate collecting areas. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Paleontology Management Action 16</i> | No similar action. | Activity planning will be accomplished within integrated activity plans. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

5.1.13 Visual Resources

The following visual resource issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What management will be identified based on the new visual resource inventory?
2. What potential effects on the planning area's visual resources will occur from all other BLM-administered resource programs?
3. What measures will be identified to minimize impacts on visual resources, including dark skies, particularly in undeveloped lands and for travel corridors?
4. How will the BLM ensure that visual resource management class assessments are up to date and accurate for the decision area?
5. How will the RMP analyze impacts from visual resource management decisions on BLM-administered surface lands on adjacent lands, including national parks, special resource areas, and private property?

5.1.13.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of visual resources within the planning area include:

- BLM Handbook H-8410-1, Visual Resource Inventory
- BLM Handbook H-8431-1, Visual Resource Contrast Rating

5.1.13.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goal is common to all action alternatives for visual resources:

- **Visual Resource Goal 1:** On split estate lands, apply necessary stipulations to protect culturally or socially important landscapes.

5.1.13.3 Comparison of Alternatives

The designation of VRM classes is ultimately based on management decisions made during the RMP process, which must take into consideration the value of visual resources. During the process, inventory class boundaries can be adjusted as necessary to reflect these resource allocation decisions. The goal of VRM is to minimize the visual impacts of all surface-disturbing activities, regardless of the class to which an area is assigned.

Objectives for each of the four VRM classes are as follows:

Class I. The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

Class II. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class IV. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Table 16 identifies management for visual resources across the alternatives.

Table 16. Comparison of Alternatives: Visual Resources

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.1.13.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Visual Resource Goal 2 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Protect the open spaces, the natural aesthetics, and the scenic vistas that are considered a social, economic, and environmental benefit. | Prioritize flexibility for development projects over protection of visual resources. | Prioritize flexibility for development projects over protection of visual resources. | Protect the open spaces, the natural aesthetics, and the scenic vistas that are considered a social, economic, and environmental benefit. | Protect the open spaces, the natural aesthetics, and the scenic vistas that are considered a social, economic, and environmental benefit. | Allow flexibility for development projects in balance with the protection of visual resources. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES Visual Objective 1 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Maintain visual quality and integrity in accordance with VRM classes on BLM-administered surface. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES Visual Allowable Use 1 | No similar action. | VRM Class II areas will be protected by a CSU stipulation for fluid minerals leasing outside of ACECs. | (Visual CSU) Require special design, construction and implementation measures, including relocation of operations by more than 656 feet within Class II and III areas, to protect the quality of the scenic values as needed. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| Visual Allowable Use 2 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development in VRM Objective Class I areas to protect the quality of the scenic values. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development in VRM Objective Class I areas to protect the quality of the scenic values. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development in VRM Objective Class I areas where necessary to protect the quality of the scenic values. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Visual Allowable Use 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Exclude major ROWs in VRM Class I areas. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| Visual Allowable Use 4 | No similar action. | VRM Class II areas within ACECs will be protected by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry• Closed to mineral materials development (restrictions on commercial mineral materials disposal may be waived on a case-by-case basis if the restriction will result in a larger cumulative impact to the resource of concern than | Across all ACECs, protect the scenic qualities of the ACEC through management actions and allowable uses in individual ACECs. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | avoidance) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoided by major ROW• OHV use limited to designated roads and trails• Retained in public ownership | | | | | | |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Visual Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Visual Management Action 2</i> | Scenic quality is protected by identifying visual resource management (VRM) classes for all public lands and incorporating the class standards into design of management actions during environmental analysis. | Complete a brief narrative visual assessment for all projects that require an environmental assessment or EIS. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Visual Management Action 3</i> | No public lands were identified as VRM Class I. This class provides primarily for natural ecological change and any management activity should not attract attention. This class is mostly applied to wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and similar situations. Allocate 13,970 acres as VRM Class II. Any management activity in VRM Class II should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. Although the activity may be seen, it should not attract attention. | Manage designated wilderness areas as VRM Class I. VRM class criteria will be used as a guide for other resource management actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM II = 2,229,500• VRM III= 3,372,100• VRM IV = 345,400 | Manage visual resources on BLM lands according to the objectives for each class and designate VRM Class as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM I = Wilderness Study Areas (68,300 acres)• VRM II = 473,200 acres• VRM III = 72,900 acres• VRM IV = 43,800 acres | Manage visual resources on BLM lands according to the objectives for each class and designate VRM Class as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM I = Wilderness Study Areas (68,300 acres)• VRM II = 393,300 acres• VRM III = 135,900 acres• VRM IV = 60,600 acres | Manage visual resources on BLM lands according to the objectives for each class and designate VRM Class as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM I = 0 acres• VRM II = 200 acres• VRM III = 10,900 acres• VRM IV = 10,400 acres | Manage visual resources on BLM lands according to the objectives for each class and designate VRM Class as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM I = Wilderness Study Areas (68,300 acres)• VRM II = 300,700 acres• VRM III = 43,000 acres• VRM IV = 11,900 acres | Manage visual resources on BLM lands according to the objectives for each class and designate VRM Class as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM I = 0 acres• VRM II = 162,700 acres• VRM III = 18,400 acres• VRM IV = 11,100 acres | Manage visual resources on BLM lands according to the objectives for each class and designate VRM Class as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM I = 0 acres• VRM II = 5,200 acres• VRM III = 900 acres• VRM IV = 14,500 acres |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | Allocate 12,600 acres as VRM Class III. Management activity in VRM Class III may be visible and attract some attention, but should remain subordinate to the surrounding landscape. Allocate 10,520 acres as VRM Class IV. Management activity in VRM Class IV may be the dominant feature in the landscape in terms of scale but should repeat the basic characteristics of the landscape. No public lands were identified as VRM Class V. This class applies to areas where the natural character has been disturbed to a point where rehabilitation is needed to bring back the original or natural landscape. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Visual Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage all WSAs under VRM Class I objectives to support current policy and guidelines to retain a natural landscape. Exceptions: (1) case-by-case exceptions for valid existing rights and grandfathered uses; (2) if the WSA is released by Congress the area will be managed consistent with adjacent surrounding lands or additional designations. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Visual Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage lands managed for wilderness characteristics under VRM Class II objectives. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Visual Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage SRMAs under VRM Class II objectives to support recreation management objectives. Use Best Management Practices in siting facilities. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>Visual Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Ensure that visual impacts from fuels and vegetation treatments are minimized in the short term (5 years) and that VRM objectives in the project area are met in the long term (life of the project). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Visual Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | As a priority management consideration, prevent or reduce impacts to dark night skies by using BMPs that reduce skyward projection lighting, minimizing illumination and offsite projection of lighting, and by designing required lighting to be downward directing. | Together with other resource considerations, reduce impacts to dark night skies by reducing skyward projection lighting, minimizing illumination and offsite projection of lighting, and by designing required lighting to be downward directing. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Visual Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Collocate communication towers, facilities and associated structures to minimize overall visual impacts when possible. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Visual Management Action 10</i> | No similar action. | Require contrast rating forms for high impact projects or proposed projects in highly sensitive areas. | Required by policy, therefore no similar action. | Required by policy, therefore no similar action. | Required by policy, therefore no similar action. | Required by policy, therefore no similar action. | Required by policy, therefore no similar action. | Required by policy, therefore no similar action. |
| <i>Visual Management Action 11</i> | No similar action. | Visual ratings in ACECs will be reevaluated to ensure rating is appropriate to protect outstanding qualities. | No similar action. VRM classes for ACECs are established under previous Visual Management Actions. | No similar action. VRM classes for ACECs are established under previous Visual Management Actions. | No similar action. VRM classes for ACECs are established under previous Visual Management Actions. | No similar action. VRM classes for ACECs are established under previous Visual Management Actions. | No similar action. VRM classes for ACECs are established under previous Visual Management Actions. | No similar action. VRM classes for ACECs are established under previous Visual Management Actions. |
| <i>Visual Management Action 12</i> | No similar action. | All activity planning for visual resources will be accomplished within integrated activity plans. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

5.1.14 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The following issues pertaining to lands with wilderness characteristics issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What management of lands with wilderness characteristics will be identified, and will certain restrictions or allocations be identified to protect these characteristics or will emphasis be placed on other uses in these areas?
2. What management will be identified to protect areas with wilderness characteristics, including those areas identified in the Wild Connections study (Wild Connections 2015)?

5.1.14.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of lands with wilderness characteristics within the planning area include:

- BLM Manual 6310, Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands
- BLM Manual 6320, Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process

5.1.14.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.1.14.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 17 identifies management for lands with wilderness characteristics across the alternatives.

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Table 17. Comparison of Alternatives: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Wilderness Characteristics Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Prioritize the protection of lands managed for wilderness characteristics over commercial uses. | Prioritize flexibility in managing lands for commercial use and recreation over protection of wilderness characteristics. | No lands managed for wilderness characteristics. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No lands managed for wilderness characteristics. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Wilderness Characteristics Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Manage for primarily natural areas that are greater than 5,000 acres of contiguous lands or adjacent to areas managed for the protection of natural areas that have outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation. | No resource objective. | No lands managed for wilderness characteristics. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No lands managed for wilderness characteristics. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Limit motorized and mechanized over the snow travel to designated routes. Only primitive routes may be designated. Travel restrictions would not apply to authorized uses and emergency needs per BLM regulations. Supplemental rules would be developed to limit mechanized travel. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Only allow forest management, fuels, vegetation, and noxious weed treatments and maintenance of previous treatments in lands managed for wilderness characteristics if their primary purpose is ecological health/restoration and it can be demonstrated that the treatments would not impact wilderness character values over the long term (5-10 years). Put special stipulations for rehabilitation post treatment in place. Allow public cutting, to include Christmas trees, and of dead and down trees. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Designate lands managed for wilderness characteristics as ROW exclusion areas. Retain these for long term management. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 4 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to mineral material disposal. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow mineral material disposal on a limited basis for non-commercial operations only if it can be demonstrated that the action would not have a long term impact (5-10 years) to wilderness characteristics. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 5 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 6 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within lands managed for wilderness characteristics. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 7 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Refer to Fire Management Action 6. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Use minimum impact suppression tactics in response to wildfire to limit impacts on wilderness characteristics to the greatest extent possible. Allow surface-disturbing mechanical tactics at the discretion of the line officer. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated primitive routes. Allow administrative routes through the designation process provided they are primitive in nature and do not meet the wilderness characteristics road definition. Do not allow public access on these routes. Do not allow new routes for mechanized travel. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated primitive routes. Allow administrative routes through the designation process provided they are primitive in nature and do not meet the wilderness characteristics road definition. Do not allow public access on these routes. Only allow new routes for mechanized travel if they would not impact wilderness character to the extent that the unit would no longer possess wilderness characteristics. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 9 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Issue Special Recreation Permits only if it can be demonstrated that wilderness characteristics values would not be impacted. Competitive events would not be allowed. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Issue Special Recreation Permits only if it can be demonstrated that wilderness characteristic values would not be impacted. Competitive events would be considered if they do not diminish the long-term wilderness characteristics values. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 10 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to geophysical exploration. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that wilderness characteristics would not be impacted in the long term. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 11 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow for administrative motorized access to range improvements and for livestock management. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 12 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow for the placement of range improvements if they: (1) meet VRM Class objectives and (2) do not impact naturalness to the extent that the unit would no longer possess wilderness characteristics. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Allowable Use 13 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Do not allow developed recreation sites. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Only allow development of primitive trailheads to facilitate primitive and unconfined recreation and are located primarily on the edges of the unit and would not significantly impact wilderness characteristics. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS Wilderness Characteristics Management Action 1 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Identify, consider, and, as appropriate, require mitigation to address reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from public land uses (BLM-proposed and externally proposed [i.e., proposed by a party outside of the BLM]) consistent with the mitigation hierarchy as defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| Wilderness Characteristics Management Action 2 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage 174,300 acres to protect wilderness characteristics in the following areas (Appendix D, Map D-1): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Badger Creek South (6,700 acres)• Badito Cone North (900 acres)• Bear Mountain East (8,200 acres)• BH Subdivision (40 acres)• Bull Domingo West (200 acres)• Chess Subdivision (40 acres)• Cooper Mountain (21,700 acres)• Copper Gulch (700 acres)• Crampton Mountain (5,100 acres)• Crown Point (200 acres)• Cucharas (6,000 acres)• Dead Mule (1,800 acres)• Dry Creek Canyon (40 acres)• East Fork (1,300 acres)• East Fork A (80 acres)• East McCoy Gulch, Race Path (6,700 acres)• East of Steel Bridge (900 acres)• East Pierce Gulch (700 acres)• Echo Canyon (31,700 acres)• Eightmile Mountain (17,900 acres)• Hellgateway N (40 acres)• Horseshoe Mountain (100 acres)• Horseshoe Mountain 2 (100 acres)• Iron Mountain (30 acres)• Little Fountain Creek (200 acres) | No areas would be prioritized for the protection of wilderness values under this alternative. | No lands managed for wilderness characteristics. | Manage 23,900 acres to protect wilderness characteristics in the following areas (Appendix D, Map D-2): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copper Gulch (700 acres)• Crown Point (200 acres)• Dead Mule (1,800 acres)• East Pierce Gulch (700 acres)• Horseshoe Mountain (100 acres)• N Coaldale/Cotopaxi (7,500 acres)• North of Steel Bridge (500 acres)• North Badger Creek (11,300 acres)• North Hondo (200 acres)• NW corner of Beaver Creek WSA (60 acres)• Pierce Gulch (200 acres)• Sheep Basin (200 acres)• Turkey Creek (2,100 acres)• War Dance Mine (500 acres) | Manage 200 acres to protect wilderness characteristics in the following areas (Appendix D, Map D-2): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Hondo (200 acres) | No lands managed for wilderness characteristics. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marsh Gulch (500 acres)• North Bear Gulch (300 acres)• North Coaldale/Cotopaxi (,17,500 acres)• North of Steel Bridge (500 acres)• North Badger Creek (11,300 acres)• North East Phantom Canyon Road (1,200 acres)• North Hondo (500 acres)• NW corner of Beaver Creek WSA (60 acres)• Pierce Gulch (200 acres)• Railroad Gulch (1,900 acres)• Red Rock Subdivision (140 acres)• SE Phantom Canyon Road (600 acres)• Sheep Basin (200 acres)• Stanley Creek (5,500 acres)• Suzie’s Ridge(2,800 acres)• Texas Creek Gulch (2,400 acres)• Turkey Creek (,2,500 acres)• Upper Red Canyon (22,700 acres)• War Dance Mine (500 acres)• Waugh Mountain (5,600 acres)• Westfall Gulch (110 acres)• West of Beaver Creek WSA (200 acres) | | | | | |
| Wilderness Characteristics Management Action 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage as VRM Class II. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| Wilderness Characteristics Management Action 4 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Rehabilitate routes that have been closed to the public through TMPs and are not needed for administrative purposes. Perform road maintenance on administrative routes only when necessary and only to a level where they would not meet the road definition contained in Manual 6310. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Characteristics Management Action 5 | No similar action. | No similar action. | If a WSA is released by Congress, then areas identified for the protection of wilderness characteristics due to adjacency with the WSA would no longer be managed for the protection of wilderness characteristics. Management would follow those of surrounding lands. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

5.2 Resource Uses

5.2.1 Recreation

The following recreation issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the BLM resolve conflict between increasing and changing recreation demand and recreation uses, and other resource values?
2. What areas should receive special use restrictions for certain types of recreation, such as target shooting, overnight use, or campfires, to reduce conflicts between users' interests and with neighboring private lands?
3. What areas will be identified for focused recreation management, including the desired settings of these areas?
4. What management actions and special recreation areas will be identified to support opportunities for a variety of recreational activities while limiting the impact on other resources?
5. How will the RMP identify management and analyze impacts of recreation activities (e.g., target shooting, OHV travel, camping) and develop specific mitigation measures to minimize those impacts?
6. What level of developed facilities will the BLM provide?
7. Is access sufficient for dispersed recreation activities such as fishing and hunting?
8. What measures will be included in the RMP to protect areas for natural soundscape and quiet use?

5.2.1.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of recreation within the planning area include:

- BLM Manual MS-2930, Recreation Permits and Fees
- BLM Handbook H-2930-1, Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook
- BLM Manual 8330, Policy on Reasonable Accommodations For Persons With Disabilities
- BLM Manual 8353, Trail Management Areas- Secretarially Designated National Recreation, Water, and Connecting and Side Trails

- BLM Colorado Recreation Strategy: Connecting with Communities; Backyard to Backcountry 2014-2019
- BLM Colorado Recreation Strategy: Connecting with Communities
- BLM Manual 8320, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services
- BLM Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services
- BLM National Strategy and Implementation Plan to Support and Enhance Partnerships

5.2.1.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.2.1.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Tables 18 through 21 identify management for recreation across the alternatives. Table 22 identifies special recreation management areas (SRMAs) and their management, while tables 23 through 43 identify goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions specific to individual SRMAs and associated recreation management zones (RMZs). Table 44 identifies extensive recreation management areas (ERMAs) and their management.

SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance and/or distinctiveness, especially as compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA, the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office has identified supporting information, established objective decisions, described recreation setting characteristics, identified management actions and allowable use decisions and, as necessary, identified implementation decisions.

Land use plan level recreation and visitor services objective decisions define intended activities and specific recreation opportunities to be offered. Objectives describe the intended recreation activities, experiences, and benefits derived from those experiences. Some SRMAs are subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMAs are managed: (1) for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness, especially as compared to other areas used for recreation; (2) to protect and enhance a targeted set of activities, experiences, benefits, and desired recreation setting characteristics; (3) as the predominant land use plan focus; and (4) to protect specific recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics on a long-term basis.

Table 18. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Overall Recreation and Visitor Services

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE GOALS Recreation and Visitor Services Resource Goal 1 | <p>The general management of recreation opportunities within the resource area will be of the extensive (dispersed) type.</p> <p>Management techniques will maintain 360 acres of “Semiprimitive Nonmotorized” recreation areas, which are characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment of a size or location that provides a good to moderate opportunity for isolation from sights and sounds of man. The area is large enough to permit overnight foot travel within the area and presents opportunity for interaction with the natural environment with moderate challenge, risk, and use of a high degree of outdoor skills.</p> <p>Management techniques on 10,780 acres of “Semiprimitive Motorized” recreation areas include low-key onsite controls and regulations that effectively prevent resource damage by vehicle use. Some minimal facilities for user safety and protection of resource values are provided. Low to moderate intergroup contacts occur. Motorized use is permitted and provided by maintenance of primitive road or motorized trail systems. Some road/trail construction occurs to enhance recreation travel opportunity. Roads may be</p> | <p>Recreation will be managed to provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A variety of recreational opportunities and settings• Additional opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, OHV use, interpretation, and horseback riding <p>Recreation will be managed nonintensively in semiprimitive nonmotorized settings and throughout certain subregions.</p> <p>Provide visitor safety and resource protection as necessary.</p> <p>Facility development will be accomplished to reduce user conflicts and to improve visitor health and safety.</p> | <p>Provide a diversity of quality outdoor recreation opportunities that support outdoor-oriented lifestyles and add to participants’ quality of life, enhance the quality of local communities, and foster protection of natural and cultural resources.</p> | <p>Same as Alternative B.</p> | <p>Limit recreation management to address resource impacts and visitor safety.</p> | <p>Same as Alternative B.</p> | <p>Same as Alternative B.</p> | <p>Limit recreation management to address resource impacts and visitor safety.</p> |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | <p>closed seasonally for the benefit of other resources. This class provides/maintains areas characterized by predominantly unmodified natural environment in a location that provides good to moderate isolation from Change made. Attempted to align Northeast RMP/ROD sights and sounds of man except for facilities/travel routes sufficient to support motorized recreational travel opportunities, which present at least moderate challenge, risk, and a high degree of skill testing.</p> <p>Management techniques on 13,270 acres of “Roaded Natural” recreation areas provide onsite controls and regimentation for security. Rustic facilities are provided for user convenience, safety, and resource protection. Management actions may include enhancement, site hardening, and other activities. Developed sites provide for moderate density. Other resource activities harmonize with the overall sense of natural surroundings. These areas are characterized by a predominantly natural environment with evidence of moderate permanent alteration of resources and resource utilization. Evidence of the sights and sounds of man is moderate, but in harmony with the natural environment. Opportunities exist for both social interaction and moderate isolation for</p> | | | | | | | |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | sights and sounds of man. Management techniques on 11,520 acres of “Rural” recreation areas include extensive facilities, both public and private, designed for high density use. Facilities are keyed to specific activities and to intensive motorized use and parking. High density use provides opportunity for social interaction, not for isolation. Visitor activities may frequently be restricted to prevent environmental or facility damage. This class provides/maintains areas characterized by a substantially modified natural environment. Sights and sounds of man are evident. Renewable resource modification and utilization practices enhance specific recreation activities or provide soil and vegetative cover protection. Management techniques on 1,160 acres of “Urban” recreation areas allow for intensive use and user comfort and convenience. These areas are characterized by unnatural, highly modified, and highly modernized surroundings. Urban opportunities may occur as part of the support facilities for other intensive recreation development on BLM lands. However, development should be made by the private sector. | | | | | | | |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Recreation and Visitor Services Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | Enhance, to varying degrees, opportunities for interpretation of special plant and animal species and historical and archaeological resources. | Within the life of the plan increase awareness, understanding, and a sense of stewardship in recreational activity participants so their conduct safeguards cultural and natural resources. | Within the life of the plan increase awareness, understanding, and a sense of stewardship in recreational activity participants so their conduct safeguards cultural and natural resources. | No similar resource objective. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource objective. |
| <i>Recreation and Visitor Services Objective 2</i> | No similar resource. | Continue a proactive approach in the pursuit of volunteers and the development of partnerships in support of recreational opportunities. | Increase collaboration and cooperation with community partners and other service providers to help communities produce greater well-being and socioeconomic health and deliver outstanding recreation experiences to visitors while sustaining the distinctive character of public lands recreation settings. | No similar resource objective. | Continue working with partners to cooperatively manage isolated and fragmented recreation areas (e.g., reservoirs, byways). | Increase collaboration and cooperation with community partners and other service providers to help communities produce greater well-being and socioeconomic health and deliver outstanding recreation experiences to visitors while sustaining the distinctive character of public lands recreation settings. | Increase collaboration and cooperation with community partners and other service providers to help communities produce greater well-being and socioeconomic health and deliver outstanding recreation experiences to visitors while sustaining the distinctive character of public lands recreation settings. | Continue working with partners to cooperatively manage isolated and fragmented recreation areas (e.g., reservoirs, byways). |
| <i>Recreation and Visitor Services Objective 3</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Achieve a minimum level of conflict between recreation participants to (1) allow other resources/programs to achieve their RMP goals; (2) curb illegal trespass and property damage; and (3) address public safety concerns. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 19. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Developed Recreation Sites and Facilities

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Recreation Sites and Facilities Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | Developed recreation sites over 10 acres will be available for leasing for fluid minerals with NSO stipulations. Protect developed recreation sites less than 10 acres in size with standard stipulations. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within developed (and future) recreation sites and mapped (and future) national/regional trails, local trail system trails, and trailheads and interpretive sites with exceptional recreation values or significant public interest. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Recreation Sites and Facilities Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.33-mile buffer of the boundaries of county parks, state parks, state wildlife areas, Federal wildlife refuges, and/or National Park Service units. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within the boundaries of county parks, state parks, state wildlife areas, Federal wildlife refuges, and/or National Park Service units. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Recreation Sites and Facilities Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | To protect soundscapes within National Park Service units, prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 2.5-mile buffer of the boundaries of National Park Service units. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.33-mile buffer of the boundaries of National Park Service units. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Recreation Sites and Facilities Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Developed recreation sites over 10 acres will be available for leasing for fluid minerals with NSO stipulations; closed to livestock grazing if conflicts occur; excluded from major ROW/corridor development; and retained in public ownership. Developed recreation sites less than 10 acres will be managed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excluded from livestock grazing• Leased for fluid minerals with NSO stipulations• Recommend withdrawal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designate developed BLM recreation sites/facilities as ROW avoidance areas.• Retain developed recreational sites/facilities for long-term management unless recreation sites leaving public ownership would be guaranteed future recreation use by the public.• Recommend for withdrawal, where appropriate, all developed recreation sites/facilities for closure to the mining laws for locatable mineral | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | from mineral entry <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closed to mineral materials development• Avoided by major ROWs• OHV use limited to designated roads and trails | exploration or development. | | | | | |

Table 20. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Visitor Use and Safety

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Visitor Use and Safety Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Apply the existing statewide 14-day camping limit, unless modified by a cooperative management agreement, to camping and overnight use on BLM-administered lands within the RGFO. A limit of less than or more than 14 days may be applied in certain areas if applicable due to resource and social impacts. Areas could be established as day-use areas (trailheads, picnic areas, etc.) where camping/overnight use would not be allowed. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Visitor Use and Safety Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow undeveloped (dispersed) camping where not specifically restricted. Undeveloped camping may be seasonally restricted; sites may be designated or closed as impacts or environmental conditions warrant and implementation level plans are developed. Additional restrictions may be put in place (e.g., fire pans or portable toilet/waste management systems). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Visitor Use and Safety Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close BLM lands to camping if subsequent implementation level plans determine there is a public health and safety issue or resource concern. Current camping restrictions will remain in place. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Visitor Use and Safety Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit cross-country motorized/mechanized travel for big game retrieval. Allow hand-held nonmotorized/nonmechanized wheeled game retrieval carts except where otherwise prohibited. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Visitor Use and Safety Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | <p>Recreational target shooting would be allowed on BLM lands outside of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Penrose Commons (2,340 acres)• Phantom Canyon Road (0.25 mile from centerline) (4,150 acres)• Shelf Road Recreation Area (2,955 acres)• Guffey Gorge (80 acres)• Methodist Mountain (2,270 acres)• Turkey Rock (410 acres)• Temple Canyon Road (85 acres)• Garden Park (5,120 acres) | <p>Allow recreational target shooting on BLM lands outside of 17,445 acres in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Penrose Commons (2,340 acres)• Phantom Canyon Road (0.25 mile from centerline) (4,150 acres)• Shelf Road Recreation Area (2,955 acres)• Guffey Gorge (80 acres)• Methodist Mountain (2,270 acres)• Turkey Rock (410 acres)• Temple Canyon Road (85 acres)• Garden Park, close existing exception area (5,155 acres) <p>*all developed recreation sites are also closed to recreational target shooting per 43 CFR 8365.2-5 (a).</p> <p>Provided that the firearm is discharged toward a proper backstop sufficient to stop the projectile’s forward progress beyond the intended target.</p> <p>Targets shall be constructed of wood, cardboard, paper, or similar non-breakable materials. Statewide rules may modify the definition of allowed targets. All targets and shells are considered litter after use and must be removed and properly discarded.</p> | <p>Allow recreational target shooting on BLM lands outside of 17,410 acres in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Penrose Commons (2,340 acres)• Phantom Canyon Road (0.25 mile from centerline) (4,150 acres)• Shelf Road Recreation Area (2,955 acres)• Guffey Gorge (80 acres)• Methodist Mountain (2,270 acres)• Turkey Rock (410 acres)• Temple Canyon Road (85 acres)• Garden Park, (5,120 acres) <p>*all developed recreation sites are also closed to recreational target shooting per 43 CFR 8365.2-5 (a).</p> <p>Provided that the firearm is discharged toward a proper backstop sufficient to stop the projectile’s forward progress beyond the intended target.</p> <p>Targets shall be constructed of wood, cardboard, paper, or similar non-breakable materials. Statewide rules may modify the definition of allowed targets. All targets and shells are considered litter after use and must be removed and properly discarded.</p> | <p>Allow recreational Target shooting on all BLM lands provided that the firearm is discharged toward a proper backstop sufficient to stop the projectile’s forward progress beyond the intended target.</p> <p>Targets shall be constructed of wood, cardboard, paper, or similar non-breakable materials. Statewide rules may modify the definition of allowed targets. All targets and shells are considered litter after use and must be removed and properly discarded.</p> | <p>Allow recreational target shooting on BLM lands outside of 17,330 acres in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Penrose Commons (2,340 acres)• Phantom Canyon Road (0.25 mile from centerline) (4,150 acres)• Shelf Road Recreation Area (2,955 acres)• Methodist Mountain (2,270 acres)• Turkey Rock (410 acres)• Temple Canyon Road (85 acres)• Garden Park, (5,120 acres) <p>*all developed recreation sites are also closed to recreational target shooting per 43 CFR 8365.2-5 (a).</p> <p>Provided that the firearm is discharged toward a proper backstop sufficient to stop the projectile’s forward progress beyond the intended target.</p> <p>Targets shall be constructed of wood, cardboard, paper, or similar non-breakable materials. Statewide rules may modify the definition of allowed targets. All targets and shells are considered litter after use and must be removed and properly discarded.</p> | <p>Allow recreational target shooting on BLM lands outside of 80 acres in the following area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guffey Gorge (80 acres) <p>Provided that the firearm is discharged toward a proper backstop sufficient to stop the projectile’s forward progress beyond the intended target.</p> <p>Targets shall be constructed of wood, cardboard, paper, or similar non-breakable materials. Statewide rules may modify the definition of allowed targets. All targets and shells are considered litter after use and must be removed and properly discarded.</p> <p>*all developed recreation sites are also closed to recreational target shooting per 43 CFR 8365.2-5 (a).</p> | <p>Allow recreational target shooting on BLM lands outside of 2,300 acres in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All BLM-administered lands in Boulder County (2,300 acres) <p>Provided that the firearm is discharged toward a proper backstop sufficient to stop the projectile’s forward progress beyond the intended target.</p> <p>Targets shall be constructed of wood, cardboard, paper, or similar non-breakable materials. Statewide rules may modify the definition of allowed targets. All targets and shells are considered litter after use and must be removed and properly discarded.</p> |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Visitor Use and Safety Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Consider additional areas for closure to target shooting for safety purposes through an RMP amendment. Hunting is allowed on all BLM surface lands in accordance with CPW regulations. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</i> <i>Visitor Use and Safety Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Work to provide access to public land for hunting, fishing, and other dispersed recreation activities in balance with other resource considerations. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 21. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Special Recreation Permits

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Special Recreation Permits Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Issue SRPs as a discretionary action as a means to: help meet management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of the public lands, direct visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. SRPs that are compatible/ complimentary with ecosystem functions would be prioritized. | Consider SRPs on a demand-driven basis and issued as a discretionary action as a means to: help meet management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of the public lands, direct visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. | Issue SRPs as a discretionary action as a means to: help meet management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of the public lands, direct visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. Priority would be given to community-oriented activities. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Special Recreation Permits Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Coordinate commercial permits for big game hunting and fishing with CPW and issue them in a manner to reduce conflicts between permit holders (multiple permits of same activity in same area). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Special Recreation Permits Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Commercial permits for big game hunting and fishing on small isolated BLM tracts where there is no public access, are surrounded by private land, and permission is provided on the surrounding private lands will be coordinated with the Field Office and may not require a BLM permit. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 22. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Special Recreation Management Areas and Recreation Management Zones

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES SRMA/RMZ Objective 1 | No similar resource objective. | No similar resource objective. | Within SRMAs, participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realizations of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below by SRMA (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource objective. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource objective. |
| SRMA/RMZ Objective 2 | No similar resource objective. | No similar resource objective. | Perform monitoring and use traffic counter data to understand visitor use patterns and trends and minimize unauthorized impacts from casual use recreation (camping, off-trail use, damage to resources and facilities). | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource objective. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource objective. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SRMA/RMZ Management Action 1 | Intensive or special recreation management areas will be identified and managed according to a permit or site-specific plan. | Continue to intensively manage recreation (SRMAs) on the lands along the Arkansas River and the Gold Belt Tour Area. Manage SRMAs in accordance with BLM policy and Connecting with Communities National Recreation Strategy. | Designate and manage SRMAs to provide and protect a wide variety of recreation opportunities – 32,500 acres <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas River (22,400 acres)• Guffey Gorge (100 acres)• Phantom Canyon (6,800 acres)• Shelf Road (3,200 acres) See Appendix E for specific goals, objectives, and management for each SRMA. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Designate and manage the following SRMAs to provide and protect a wide variety of recreation opportunities – 95,800 acres <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas River (22,400 acres)• Cache Creek (1,300 acres)• Fourmile (7,500 acres)• Gold Belt (34,900 acres)• Penrose Commons (2,300 acres)• Phantom Canyon (6,800 acres)• Royal Gorge (6,000 acres)• Salida Trails (7,800 acres)• Texas Creek (6,800 acres) See Appendix E for specific goals, objectives, and management for each SRMA. | Designate and manage the following SRMAs to provide and protect a wide variety of recreation opportunities – 100 acres <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guffey Gorge (100 acres) *See Appendix E for specific goals, objectives, and management for each SRMA. | No similar action. |

Table 23. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Arkansas River SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Arkansas River SRMA Goal 1</i> | Continue to intensively manage recreation (SRMAs) on the lands along the Arkansas River and the Gold Belt Tour Area. Manage SRMAs in accordance with BLM policy and Connecting with Communities National Recreation Strategy. | Adopt the recommended outcomes and settings as outlined in the Arkansas River Recreation Area Management Plan. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Goal 2</i> | Manage river corridor recreation values as guided in any Congressional act to establish a National Recreation Area (NRA). It is assumed that whether or not management as an SRMA continues or management is under a congressional designation of NRA, recreational values in the river corridor will continue to be enhanced for public use. It is also assumed that a potential NRA designation will include the same approximate area and the same recreation values currently managed within the SRMA. | No similar goal. | No similar goal. | No similar goal. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Goal 3</i> | Recommend to Congress that the Arkansas River corridor from Leadville to Pueblo Reservoir be designated and managed as an NRA to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revocation of existing waterpower/reservoir withdrawals• Initiation of protective withdrawals on the corridor | No similar goal. | No similar goal. | No similar goal. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Goal 4</i> | Develop a community based NRA proposal for the river corridor to be sent forward to Congress. Include in the NRA proposal the Arkansas River and adjacent public lands in the Cañon City District, Royal Gorge Resource Area and comprises approximately 125,000 acres. | No similar goal. | No similar goal. | No similar goal. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Arkansas River SRMA Objective 1</i> | Continue to jointly manage river recreation values within the Arkansas River Corridor by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and BLM as detailed in the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan. This joint management will continue whether or not the river corridor is designated a national recreation area (NRA) by Congress. | Adopt the recommended outcomes and settings as outlined in the Arkansas River Recreation Area Management Plan. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Developed recreation sites on 533 acres will be managed as limited for off-highway vehicle use to designated roads and trails. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA and other resource objectives. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | Close to special forest product permits. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Developed recreation sites on 533 acres will be managed as avoided by major rights-of-way (ROW). | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Developed recreation sites on 533 acres will be managed as closed to mineral material disposal. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from mineral material disposal. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Developed recreation sites on 533 acres will be managed as leased for fluids with no surface occupancy stipulations. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid minerals within SRMAs. | Restrict surface use for fluid minerals within SRMAs. | Prohibit surface occupancy or restrict surface use for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | No similar action. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from geophysical exploration. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Developed recreation sites on 533 acres will be managed as excluded from livestock grazing. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Developed recreation sites on 533 acres will be managed as excluded from livestock grazing. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and visual resource management (VRM) Class objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Arkansas River SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Manage 109,063 acres as a special recreation management area and recommended as a national recreation area. | Arkansas River SRMA – 22,400 acres. | Arkansas River SRMA – 22,400 acres. The Arkansas River Management Plan establishes specific management actions for this SRMA. | Arkansas River SRMA – 22,400 acres. The Arkansas River Management Plan establishes specific management actions for this SRMA. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups. Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM-administered lands. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Address river corridor and upland recreation opportunities with emphasis on balance between resource protection and tourism within integrated activity plans. Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Management Action 4</i> | A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to semi-primitive nonmotorized) will be maintained. Additional opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, off-highway vehicle use, interpretation, and horseback riding, will be provided. Facility development will reduce user conflict. Development will be provided to enhance visitor health and sanitation. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Management Action 7</i> | Acquisitions/easements to enhance water-based recreation, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle use, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and natural resource interpretation opportunities will be considered and pursued. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Arkansas River SRMA Management Action 8</i> | Developed recreation sites on 533 acres will be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

Table 24. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Cache Creek SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Cache Creek SRMA Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide outstanding opportunities for recreational level gold prospecting allowing for connections with nature, sense of accomplishment of using ones wits to discover gold, and bonding with others based on a common interest. This would be accomplished in balance with the other important resources of the area including winter wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and a fishery along Cache Creek. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Cache Creek SRMA Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Provide outstanding opportunities for recreational level gold prospecting allowing for connections with nature, sense of accomplishment of using ones wits to discover gold, and bonding with others based on a common interest. This would be accomplished in balance with the other important resources of the area including winter wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and a fishery along Cache Creek. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Close to special forest product permits. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit or restrict surface occupancy for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Cache Creek SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Cache Creek SRMA – 1,300 acres. Designate as Special Area requiring an Individual Special Recreation Permit. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Management Action 4</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Management Action 5</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. |
| <i>Cache Creek SRMA Management Action 6</i> | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Cache Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. |

Table 25. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Fourmile SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Fourmile SRMA Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Continue to provide outstanding recreation opportunities at the Fourmile SRMA, through program management and stakeholder involvement, through a variety of activities contributing to area residents’ quality of life by contributing to the local economy and improvements to health and fitness, skill development, youth engagement, and enhanced stewardship of the area. Continue to provide important winter wildlife habitat in the area requiring collaboration with wildlife management partners to mitigate and offset impacts from recreation. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Fourmile SRMA Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Close to special forest product permits. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit or restrict surface occupancy for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Fourmile SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Fourmile SRMA – 7,500 acres. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Management Action 4</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Management Action 5</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. |
| <i>Fourmile SRMA Management Action 6</i> | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Fourmile SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. |

Table 26. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Fourmile SRMA: Carnage Canyon RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Fourmile SRMA: Carnage Canyon RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Carnage Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Carnage Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Carnage Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Continue to manage the Carnage Canyon RMZ to provide outstanding motorized recreation opportunities, primarily in the form of rock crawling, and serve as a regional asset for this unique user group. Targeted outcomes include family/group togetherness, skill development, and risk taking. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Fourmile SRMA: Carnage Canyon RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Carnage Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Carnage Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Carnage Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Fourmile SRMA: Carnage Canyon RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Carnage Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Carnage Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Carnage Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Carnage Canyon RMZ – 1,400 acres. |

Table 27. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Fourmile SRMA: Midland Hills RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Fourmile SRMA: Midland Hills RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Midland Hills RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Midland Hills RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Midland Hills RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Manage the Midland Hills RMZ as Buena Vista’s backyard trail system offering abundant opportunities for personal benefits such as improved health and fitness, mental relaxation, skill development and youth engagement while also playing an important role in the local economy attracting tourists and potential new residents for the improved quality of life the trail opportunities provide. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Fourmile SRMA: Midland Hills RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Midland Hills RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Midland Hills RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Midland Hills RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Fourmile SRMA: Midland Hills RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Midland Hills RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Midland Hills RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Midland Hills RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Midland Hills RMZ – 6,100 acres. |

Table 28. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Gold Belt SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Gold Belt SRMA Goal 1</i> | Continue to intensively manage recreation (SRMAs) on the lands along the Arkansas River and the Gold Belt Tour Area. Manage SRMAs in accordance with BLM policy and Connecting with Communities National Recreation Strategy. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Continue to provide outstanding recreation opportunities at the Gold Belt SRMA, through program management and stakeholder involvement, through a variety of activities contributing to area residents’ quality of life by contributing to the local and regional economy and improvements to health and fitness, skill development, youth engagement, enhanced stewardship of the area, and enhanced knowledge about the history and paleontological resources of the area. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Gold Belt SRMA Objective 1</i> | No similar objective. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Developed recreation sites on 81 acres will be managed as limited for off-highway vehicle use to designated roads and trails. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Close to special forest product permits. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Developed recreation sites on 81 acres will be managed as avoided for major ROWs. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Developed recreation sites on 81 acres will be managed as closed to mineral material disposal. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. The mineral material common areas in the Seep Springs RMZ would continue to be provided. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Developed recreation sites on 81 acres will be managed as leased for fluids with no surface occupancy stipulations. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit or restrict surface occupancy for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | No similar action. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Developed recreation sites on 81 acres will be managed as excluded from livestock grazing. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Developed recreation sites on 81 acres will be managed as excluded from livestock grazing. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Gold Belt SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Manage 132,402 acres as a special recreation management area. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Gold Belt SRMA – 34,900 acres. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Coordinate activities with various volunteer and user groups. Provide monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection, and visitor information regarding availability of recreational opportunities. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Address upland recreation with emphasis on the Gold Belt Tour National Back Country Byway management guidance with a balance between resource protection and tourism within in integrated activity plans. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Management Action 4</i> | A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided and settings (from rural to primitive) will be maintained. Emphasis on maintaining the scenic and historical integrity will be emphasized. Facility development will focus on historical and natural resource interpretation, public health, and other visitor needs and will reduce user conflict. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Management Action 7</i> | Acquisitions/easements to enhance mountain biking, rock climbing, interpretation, tourism promotion, hunting, watchable wildlife, and scenic byways will be considered and pursued. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | No similar action. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA Management Action 8</i> | Developed recreation sites on 81 acres will be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Gold Belt SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | No similar action. |

Table 29. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Gold Belt SRMA: Dinosaur Flats RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Dinosaur Flats RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Dinosaur Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Dinosaur Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Dinosaur Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide expanded trail based recreation opportunities at the Dinosaur Flats RMZ close to the community of Cañon City as well as opportunities for target shooting. Allow for nonmotorized trail opportunities at this RMZ to expand beyond Oil Well Flats to reduce conflicts between mountain biking and other trail users, increasing residents’ quality of life through easy access to natural areas and economic development. Allow for the expansion of the Seep Springs motorized trail system at this RMZ creating a regional attraction for visitors from the front range enhancing the local economy and encouraging frequent visitation by local visitors decreasing stress, developing skills and increase bonding for families and groups. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Dinosaur Flats RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Dinosaur Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Dinosaur Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Dinosaur Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Dinosaur Flats RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Dinosaur Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Dinosaur Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Dinosaur Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Dinosaur Flats RMZ – 3,800 acres. |

Table 30. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Gold Belt SRMA: Oil Well Flats RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Oil Well Flats RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Oil Well Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Oil Well Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Oil Well Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide nonmotorized trail based recreation opportunities at the Oil Well Flats RMZ focusing on close to town mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. Personal benefits of the trail system include improved health and fitness, mental relaxation/stress reduction, family/group bonding, skill development and youth engagement while also playing an important role in the local economy serving as a regional destination and attracting potential new residents for the improved quality of life the trail opportunities provide. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Oil Well Flats RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Oil Well Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Oil Well Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Oil Well Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Oil Well Flats RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Oil Well Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Oil Well Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Oil Well Flats RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Oil Well Flats RMZ – 3,000 acres. |

Table 31. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Gold Belt SRMA: Phantom Canyon RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Phantom Canyon RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide scenic driving and interpretive opportunities at the Phantom Canyon RMZ along the Gold Belt National Scenic Byway. History of the corridor as well as local heritage and agritourism would be the focus of the interpretive program. Promote an increased knowledge of the history and heritage of the area, discovery of new areas and appreciation of nature, and integration of these outcomes with local community efforts to enhance tourism spending. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Phantom Canyon RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Phantom Canyon RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Phantom Canyon RMZ – 4,150 acres. |

Table 32. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Gold Belt SRMA: Red Canyon RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Red Canyon RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Red Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Red Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Red Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide backcountry nonmotorized trail activities at the Red Canyon RMZ will providing exceptional opportunities for individuals to connect with nature, escape the stresses of day-to-day life and challenge themselves with long distance excursions into a remote and primitive area. The area also offers outstanding opportunities for backcountry hunting providing individual self-reliance and sense of accomplishment. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Red Canyon RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Red Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Red Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Red Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Red Canyon RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Red Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Red Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Red Canyon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Red Canyon RMZ – 23,200 acres. |

Table 33. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Gold Belt SRMA: Seep Springs RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Seep Springs RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Seep Springs RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Seep Springs RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Seep Springs RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide motorized trail based recreation opportunities at the Seep Springs RMZ focusing on close to town all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle riding as well as 4x4 touring. Personal benefits of the trail system include mental relaxation/escape from daily lives, skill development, connections with nature and family/group togetherness. Community benefits include economic development from outdoor recreation tourism and serving as an attraction for living/re-locating to the area. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Seep Springs RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Seep Springs RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Seep Springs RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Seep Springs RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Seep Springs RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Seep Springs RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Seep Springs RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Seep Springs RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Seep Springs RMZ – 1,800 acres. |

Table 34. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Gold Belt SRMA: Shelf Road RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Shelf Road RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Shelf Road RMZ. See applicable goals from the Shelf Road SRMA. | Do not designate the Shelf Road RMZ. See applicable goals from the Shelf Road SRMA. | Continue to manage the Shelf Road Climbing Area RMZ to serve as an internationally recognized sport climbing area providing an abundance of routes of varying difficulty serving as a destination location. Continue to manage trails in the area providing outstanding opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking along with a 4wd backcountry route. Personal outcomes include mental relaxation/escape from daily lives, skill development, risk taking, along with family/group togetherness. Community benefits include economic development from outdoor recreation tourism and improved quality of life for local residents serving as an attraction for living in the area. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Shelf Road RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Shelf Road RMZ. See applicable objectives from the Shelf Road SRMA. | Do not designate the Shelf Road RMZ. See applicable objectives from the Shelf Road SRMA. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Shelf Road RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Shelf Road RMZ. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road SRMA. | Do not designate the Shelf Road RMZ. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road SRMA. | Shelf Road RMZ – 3,200 acres. |
| <i>Gold Belt SRMA: Shelf Road RMZ Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Camping within 1,280 acres is limited to designated sites. |

Table 35. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Guffey Gorge SRMA

| | <i>Alternative A (No Action)</i> | <i>Alternative B (Natural Processes)</i> | <i>Alternative C (Human Demand)</i> | <i>Alternative D (Human Ecoregion)</i> |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, sun bathing and swimming in a natural setting with participants experiencing connections with nature, group/family bonding, and risk taking. Located in a rural area this recreation needs to be balanced with the quiet rural character of the surrounding landscape. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA and other resource objectives. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Close to special forest product permits. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from mineral material disposal. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid minerals within SRMAs. | Restrict surface use for fluid minerals within SRMAs. | Prohibit surface occupancy or restrict surface use for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from geophysical exploration. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | <i>Alternative A (No Action)</i> | <i>Alternative B (Natural Processes)</i> | <i>Alternative C (Human Demand)</i> | <i>Alternative D (Human Ecoregion)</i> |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Guffey Gorge SRMA – 100 acres. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close the area to target shooting.• Close the area to overnight use.• No glass is allowed.• No alcohol is allowed.• Dogs are required to be on a leash.• Payment of a fee is required. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Management Action 4</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Management Action 5</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Guffey Gorge SRMA Management Action 6</i> | Do not designate the Guffey Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 36. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Penrose Commons SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | The Penrose Commons SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation and the personal benefits this area provides including connections with nature, family/group togetherness, and satisfaction from challenging oneself. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Close to special forest product permits. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. The mineral material common areas in the Penrose Commons SRMA would continue to be provided. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit or restrict surface occupancy for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Penrose Commons SRMA – 2,300 acres. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Management Action 4</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Management Action 5</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. |
| <i>Penrose Commons SRMA Management Action 6</i> | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Penrose Commons SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. |

Table 37. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Phantom Canyon SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Continue to provide outstanding opportunities for auto touring at the Phantom Canyon SRMA, through program management and stakeholder involvement, as well as interpretation of the region’s history. Increase visitors’ knowledge of the local history and agritourism opportunities while contributing to the local economy through related tourism. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA and other resource objectives. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Close to special forest product permits. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from mineral material disposal. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid minerals within SRMAs. | Restrict surface use for fluid minerals within SRMAs. | Prohibit surface occupancy or restrict surface use for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from geophysical exploration. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS | | | | |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Phantom Canyon SRMA – 6,800 acres. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Management Action 4</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Management Action 5</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon SRMA Management Action 6</i> | Do not designate the Phantom Canyon SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 38. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Royal Gorge SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Continue to provide outstanding recreation opportunities through a variety of activities at the Royal Gorge SRMA, through program management and stakeholder involvement, contributing to area residents’ quality of life by contributing to the local and regional economy and improvements to health and fitness, skill development, youth engagement, enhanced stewardship of the area, and enhanced knowledge about the history and geology of the area. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Close to special forest product permits, except within the South Rim RMZ. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit or restrict surface occupancy for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Royal Gorge SRMA – 6,000 acres. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Management Action 4</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Management Action 5</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. |
| <i>Royal Gorge SRMA Management Action 6</i> | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Royal Gorge SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. |

Table 39. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Royal Gorge SRMA: South Cañon RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Royal Gorge SRMA: South Cañon RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the South Cañon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the South Cañon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the South Cañon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide outstanding opportunities for nonmotorized trail based recreation directly outside of Cañon City, Colorado improving residents’ quality of life through decreased stress, improved health and fitness, family/group bonding, and improved economic conditions through outdoor recreation based tourism. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Royal Gorge SRMA: South Cañon RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the South Cañon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the South Cañon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the South Cañon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Royal Gorge SRMA: South Cañon RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the South Cañon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the South Cañon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the South Cañon RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | South Cañon RMZ – 1,600 acres. |

Table 40. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Royal Gorge SRMA: South Rim RMZ

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RMZ GOAL <i>Royal Gorge SRMA: South Rim RMZ Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the South Rim RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the South Rim RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the South Rim RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide a variety of recreation opportunities in a backcountry setting including hunting and angling, nonmotorized trail recreation, and creek related recreation providing greater connections with nature, sense of accomplishment, decreased stress, and a feeling of exploration and adventure. The area would also contribute to improved economic conditions for the local community through outdoor recreation based tourism. |
| RMZ OBJECTIVE <i>Royal Gorge SRMA: South Rim RMZ Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the South Rim RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the South Rim RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the South Rim RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Royal Gorge SRMA: South Rim RMZ Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the South Rim RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the South Rim RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the South Rim RMZ. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | South Rim RMZ – 4,500 acres. |

Table 41. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Salida Trails SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Salida Trails SRMA Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Provide outstanding opportunities for nonmotorized trail based recreation at the Salida Trails SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, and continue to contribute to area residents’ quality of life by contributing to the local economy and improvements to health and fitness, skill development, youth engagement, and enhanced stewardship of the area. Continue to provide important winter wildlife habitat at this area, requiring collaboration with wildlife management partners to mitigate and offset impacts from recreation. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Salida Trails SRMA Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Close to special forest product permits. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit or restrict surface occupancy for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Salida Trails SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Salida Trails SRMA – 7,800 acres. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Management Action 4</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Management Action 5</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. |
| <i>Salida Trails SRMA Management Action 6</i> | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Salida Trails SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. |

Table 42. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Shelf Road SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Shelf Road SRMA Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Continue to manage the Shelf Road Climbing Area as an internationally recognized sport climbing area providing an abundance of routes of varying difficulty serving as a destination location. Provide outstanding opportunities at the trails in the area for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking along with a four-wheel-drive backcountry route. Personal outcomes include mental relaxation/escape from daily lives, skill development, risk taking, along with family/group togetherness. Community benefits include economic development from outdoor recreation tourism and improved quality of life for local residents serving as an attraction for living in the area. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable goals from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Shelf Road SRMA Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable objectives from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA and other resource objectives. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA objectives. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Close to special forest product permits. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. | No similar action. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from mineral material disposal. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid minerals within SRMAs. | Restrict surface use for fluid minerals within SRMAs. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from geophysical exploration. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Allowable Use 10</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Shelf Road SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate Shelf Road SRMA – 3,200 acres. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Camping within 1,280 acres is limited to designated sites. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | No similar action. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Management Action 4</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Management Action 5</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Management Action 6</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |
| <i>Shelf Road SRMA Management Action 7</i> | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. | Same as Alternative B. | Do not designate the Shelf Road SRMA. See applicable actions from the Shelf Road RMZ within the Gold Belt SRMA. |

Table 43. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Texas Creek SRMA

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| SRMA GOAL <i>Texas Creek SRMA Goal 1</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Continue to provide outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation at the Texas Creek SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, as well as the personal benefits this area provides including connections with nature, family/group togetherness, and satisfaction from challenging oneself. The area will also continue to serve as important wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for road/motorized trail based hunting opportunities. |
| SRMA OBJECTIVE <i>Texas Creek SRMA Objective 1</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable objectives. | The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Texas Creek SRMA Allowable Use 1</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized travel. Manage travel management to support SRMA and other resource objectives. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Allowable Use 2</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit over-snow cross country motorized travel within SRMAs. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Allowable Use 3</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments and forest management actions, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within SRMAs provided that recreation values on BLM land are not adversely impacted over the long term (5 years) and there are minimal short-term impacts. Target projects to improve habitat and offset recreation impacts. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Allowable Use 4</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Designate SRMAs as ROW avoidance areas. Retain SRMAs for long term management. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Allowable Use 5</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that targeted recreation values would not be impacted. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Allowable Use 6</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Prohibit or restrict surface occupancy for fluid minerals as deemed appropriate during leasing. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Allowable Use 7</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted in the long term. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Allowable Use 8</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Allowable Use 9</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the recreation objectives of the area and VRM Class objectives. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Texas Creek SRMA Management Action 1</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Texas Creek SRMA – 6,800 acres. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Management Action 2</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with managing partners and service providers to create informational materials that help visitors match their expectations with appropriate recreation areas and opportunities available throughout the adjoining BLM lands. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Management Action 3</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences, and outcomes and provide outreach programs to educate users about resource concerns. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Management Action 4</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Provide visitors with opportunities to participate in targeted activities within the prescribed setting (recreation opportunity spectrum) for each SRMA. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Management Action 5</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives. |
| <i>Texas Creek SRMA Management Action 6</i> | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable actions. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Do not designate the Texas Creek SRMA. Manage the area according to other applicable goals. | Consider recreation values in determining the appropriate response to wildfire. |

Table 44. Comparison of Alternatives: Recreation – Extensive Recreation Management Areas

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | All Landscapes | | | |
| RESOURCE GOAL <i>ERMA Goal 1</i> | The general management of recreation opportunities within the resource area will be of the extensive (dispersed) type. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>ERMA Objective 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | ERMA specific objectives and the management framework for each can be found in Appendix E – Recreation and Visitor Services Management Framework for Special and Extensive Recreation Management Areas. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>ERMA Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within ERMA. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>ERMA Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within ERMA. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>ERMA Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Limit travel to designated routes, including mechanized and over-snow travel. Where travel management planning has not been conducted, limit travel to existing routes. Limiting travel to existing routes limits all OHV use to the same manner and degree occurring at the time of the designation in the RMP. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>ERMA Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow personal use firewood collecting and individual Christmas Tree cutting permits. Allow forest management actions if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted over the long term. | Allow personal use firewood collecting and individual Christmas Tree cutting permits. Allow forest management actions if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be impacted over the long term. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | All Landscapes | | | |
| ERMA Allowable Use 5 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow fuels/vegetation treatments, and the maintenance of previous treatments, within ERMA's. Consider recreation values when planning and implementing projects. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| ERMA Allowable Use 6 | No similar action. | Exclude developed recreation sites over 10 acres from major ROW/corridor development and retained in public ownership. | Retain ERMA's for long-term management and manage as ROW avoidance areas. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| ERMA Allowable Use 7 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be substantially impacted. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| ERMA Allowable Use 8 | No similar action. | Developed recreation sites over 10 acres will be closed to livestock grazing if conflicts occur. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. Allow for the installation of new range improvements with an attempt to minimize impacts to recreation and visual resource values. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS ERMA Management Action 1 | No similar action. | Manage lands outside the SRMA's as an ERMA. Manage the ERMA to provide for a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities and experiences in semiprimitive motorized, nonmotorized and primitive settings. | Designate the following areas as ERMA's (28,800 acres): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cache Creek (1,300 acres)• Fourmile (7,500 acres)• Oil Well Flats (2,900 acres)• Penrose Commons (2,300 acres)• Salida Trails (4,600 acres)• Seep Springs (1,800 acres)• South Cañon (1,600 acres)• Texas Creek (6,800 acres) | Designate the following areas as ERMA's (4,600 acres): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salida Trails (4,600 acres) | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| ERMA Management Action 2 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from non-energy solid leasable minerals. | Minimize impacts to targeted recreation values from non-energy solid leasable minerals. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | All Landscapes | | | |
| ERMA Management Action 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Minimize impacts to recreation values from geophysical exploration. | Only allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that recreation values would not be substantially impacted in the long term. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| ERMA Management Action 4 | No similar action. | Manage facility development in the ERMA so that it will be less intensive than in SRMAs and provide for reduction of user conflicts and impacts to the natural resources and public health and sanitation. | Manage facility development in the ERMA so that it will be less intensive than in SRMAs and provide for reduction of user conflicts and impacts to the natural resources and public health and sanitation. | Manage facility development in the ERMA so that it will be less intensive than in SRMAs and provide for reduction of user conflicts and impacts to the natural resources and public health and sanitation. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| ERMA Management Action 5 | No similar action. | In the ERMA, continue to evaluate new initiatives or demands for benefits to the public and impacts to the natural resources. | In the ERMA, continue to evaluate new initiatives or demands for benefits to the public and impacts to the natural resources. | In the ERMA, continue to evaluate new initiatives or demands for benefits to the public and impacts to the natural resources. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| ERMA Management Action 6 | No similar action. | In the ERMA, accommodate new activities and provide opportunities for the public through appropriate management actions. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.2.2 Livestock Grazing

The following livestock grazing issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What guiding range management principles will be incorporated into individual permits/leases or management of allotments (e.g., utilization and administrative travel routes)?
2. How will the RMP address conflicts with other resources in the management of livestock grazing allotments?
3. What amount of forage for livestock (AUMs) will be available for future anticipated demands while maintaining a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple uses?
4. How will lands be managed toward meeting land health standards using the standards and guidelines for livestock grazing as a tool?
5. What management actions will be identified to support continued use of BLM-administered surface lands for livestock grazing while minimizing impacts on other resources?

5.2.2.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of livestock grazing within the planning area include:

- Taylor Grazing Act of 1934
- Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978
- Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (43 CFR 4180)
- *Colorado Public Land Health Standards* (BLM 1997)

5.2.2.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.2.2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 45 identifies management for livestock grazing across the alternatives.

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Table 45. Comparison of Alternatives: Livestock Grazing

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Livestock Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Provide adequate forage for wildlife while improving healthy rangelands and reducing conflicts with other resources. | Use the least intensive grazing management on allotments that are meeting the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). | Apply flexible and sustainable livestock grazing, in accordance with the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997), to contribute to local economies, ranching livelihoods, and the rural western character integral to many communities. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Livestock Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Seek appropriate opportunities to maintain or decrease grazing permitted use (AUMs) based on long term studies and land health conditions. | Increase forage potential on allotments and maintain permitted use (AUMs) where land health conditions allow. | Increase forage potential on allotments through vegetation treatments and livestock management. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Livestock Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain or improve resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Maintain resource conditions as measured by the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) or other identified metric. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Livestock Resource Goal 4</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Integrate resource management activities to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) to improve landscape resiliency and response to natural disturbance within high risk landscapes. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Livestock Resource Goal 5</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Prioritize treatments that have synergies for resources such as range (improved grazing conditions), wildlife (improved habitat for hunting for outfitters), and forestry products for increased economic activity. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative C. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Livestock Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Manage livestock grazing to achieve the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) on all livestock grazing allotments. Achieve the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> in 100% active Improve and Maintain category allotments by using Best Management Practices for Livestock Grazing Management. Where land health standards are not being met and it has been determined that current livestock grazing is a causal factor, adjust management to achieve meeting standards within 10 years (or longer due to unforeseen conditions such as drought). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Livestock Allowable Use 1</i> | “Closed” lands are not available for grazing. They are either unsuitable using the criteria listed under “Open,” have no potential, or have more value for other uses not compatible with grazing. Applications for grazing on these lands will not be accepted. | Grazing is excluded on developed recreation sites and potential NRHP sites if conflicts occur. Close Mosquito Pass ACEC (4,200 acres) and a portion of Beaver Creek ACEC (5,400 acres) to livestock grazing. Restrict grazing on the High Mesa Grasslands portion (700 acres) of the Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC. Grazing stocking rates and season of use will be adjusted on the Droney Gulch ACEC (700 acres) and Garden Park ACEC (2,700 acres). | Close the following allotments to livestock grazing (132,000 acres): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portions of South Pikes Peak ACEC (8,200 acres)• Top of the World ACEC (currently closed plus ACEC expansion 8,700 acres)• Blue Heron Recreation Site• Americus (urban development)• Copper Gulch Common (urban development and riparian conflicts)• East Box Canyon (urban development)• Elevenmile Canyon (riparian conflicts)• Five Points Gulch (unsuitable terrain)• Gardner (urban development)• Geology Camp (urban | Open all allotments to livestock grazing. Open the Mosquito Pass ACEC and Beaver Creek ACEC to grazing. Remove prior grazing restrictions from the High Mesa Grasslands RNA, Droney Gulch ACEC, and Garden Park ACEC. | Open all allotments to livestock grazing. | Close the following allotments to livestock grazing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top of the World ACEC (8,700 acres)• Portions of South Pikes Peak ACEC (currently closed, 5,400 acres)• Blue Heron recreation site (300 acres) | Open all allotments to livestock grazing. | Open all allotments to livestock grazing. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | development) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grape Creek (riparian conflicts)• Methodist Mountain (urban development)• Midland Hill (urban development)• Mineral Creek (unsuitable terrain)• Mitre Peak North (unsuitable terrain)• Nipple Mountain (relinquished due to unsuitable terrain)• North Beaver School (relinquished due to unsuitable terrain)• Oil Well Flats (urban development)• Park Ditch (urban development)• Pass Creek (riparian conflicts)• Soda Mountain (urban development)• Stanley Creek (recent acquisition with wildlife conflict potential)• Temple Canyon (urban development and riparian conflicts)• Trail Canyon (urban development)• Wellsville (urban development) | | | | | |
| <i>Livestock Allowable Use 2</i> | Currently, 5,385 acres are “Leased” for livestock grazing. Custodial level management provides for use up to the grazing capacity as determined by field examination with adjustments made if necessary after monitoring. Grazing on public land occurs in conjunction with the lessee’s normal | Authorize grazing on 486 allotments. Allotments are categorized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 98 Improve (372,000 acres)• 2 Maintain (600 acres)• 386 Custodial (198,100 acres) Determine the grazing capacity accuracy on | Continue to authorize grazing on 464 allotments (455,900 acres) and categorized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 84 Improve (282,800 acres)• 2 Maintain (600 acres)• 378 Custodial (172,400 acres) (Numbers may vary +/- 10%.) | Continue to authorize grazing on 486 active allotments (570,700 acres) (+/- 10%) and categorized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 98 Improve (372,000 acres)• 2 Maintain (600 acres)• 386 Custodial (198,100 acres) | Grazing would continue to be authorized on 45 allotments (10,100 acres) and categorized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 45 Custodial (10,100 acres) Total number of allotments and acres in Alternative D may exceed the total in Alternative A due to some allotments residing within | Continue to authorize grazing on 170 allotments (379,500 acres) and categorized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80 Improve (327,500 acres)• 1 Maintain (200 acres)• 89 Custodial (51,800 acres) Total number of allotments and acres in Alternative D | Continue to authorize grazing on 265 allotments (166,700 acres) and categorized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 28 Improve (44,500 acres)• 1 Maintain (500 acres)• 236 Custodial (121,700 acres) Total number of allotments and acres in Alternative D may exceed the total in | Grazing would continue to be authorized on 26 allotments (14,400 acres) and categorized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26 Custodial (14,400 acres) Total number of allotments and acres in Alternative D may exceed the total in Alternative A due to some allotments residing within |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | <p>operation. Improvements are generally operator initiated, developed, and maintained. Examples of improvements include, but are not limited to, fences and water developments such as stock water impoundments and spring developments. Monitoring of grazing use, range condition, and trend will provide indications of needed improvements or possible changes in grazing use.</p> <p>Suitability of leasing for areas “Open” to grazing is determined through the environmental assessment process after application by a qualified livestock operator. The following criteria used in this determination could preclude grazing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slopes greater than 50 percent• Further than 4 miles to water on the plains; 1 mile in the Front Range• Soil surface factor (erosion susceptibility) greater than 60• Forage production requiring more than 32 acres per AUM• Land ownership or control for a logical lease unit conflicts with other resources <p>Application of these criteria may result in a decision that the land is either unsuitable or suitable for grazing. If unsuitable, the application would be rejected and the area reclassified to “Closed.” If suitable, the</p> | <p>Custodial allotments.</p> | | | <p>more than one human ecoregion.</p> | <p>may exceed the total in Alternative A due to some allotments residing within more than one human ecoregion.</p> | <p>Alternative A due to some allotments residing within more than one human ecoregion.</p> | <p>more than one human ecoregion.</p> |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | lease would be granted and the area reclassified to “Leased.” | | | | | | | |
| <i>Livestock Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | Restrict available unallotted parcels (77,800 acres) for grazing based on suitability such as slope, available water, and incompatibility with other resource uses or values. | Restrict available unallotted parcels (70,200 acres) for grazing based on suitability such as slope, available water, and incompatibility with other resource uses or values. | Restrict available unallotted parcels (87,400 acres) for grazing based on suitability such as slope, available water, and incompatibility with other resource uses or values. | Restrict available unallotted parcels (11,400 acres) for grazing based on suitability such as slope, available water, and incompatibility with other resource uses or values. | Restrict available unallotted parcels (29,800 acres) for grazing based on suitability such as slope, available water, and incompatibility with other resource uses or values. | Restrict available unallotted parcels (25,600 acres) for grazing based on suitability such as slope, available water, and incompatibility with other resource uses or values. | Restrict available unallotted parcels (6,200 acres) for grazing based on suitability such as slope, available water, and incompatibility with other resource uses or values. |
| <i>Livestock Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Exclude grazing on newly acquired lands outside an existing allotment boundary. | No similar action. | Notwithstanding any grazing prohibitions within the acquisition language, acquired lands would be available for livestock grazing providing proposed grazing management is analyzed through NEPA prior to issuing a grazing permit/lease. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Exclude grazing on newly acquired lands outside an existing allotment boundary. |
| <i>Livestock Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Do not restrict allotments to specific kinds and classes of livestock, as long as there are no identified disease or wildlife related issues, and adequate infrastructure for control of livestock is currently in place or will be constructed. See Terrestrial Wildlife for restrictions on domestic sheep and goat grazing in or near bighorn sheep habitat. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Livestock Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Authorize motorized travel for maintaining range improvements and animal husbandry practices by the grazing permittee/lessee and their agent, consistent with other management actions, as long as resource damage does not occur and no new routes are created. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Livestock Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | Season of use and stocking rates will continue based on the <i>Royal Gorge Area Grazing Environmental Impact Statement</i> (BLM 1981) and vegetation | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Adjust grazing stocking rates and season of use on the Droney Gulch ACEC to protect Bureau sensitive species (705 acres). Restrict grazing on the High | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | monitoring. | | | | Mesa Grasslands portion (1,454 acres) of the Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC to protect the integrity. Adjust grazing stocking rates and season of use on the Garden Park ACEC (2,728 acres). | | |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS Livestock Management Action 1 | The Northeast RMP is amended to include the standards for public land health and guidelines for livestock grazing management contained in <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). | No similar action. | Manage livestock grazing in accordance with the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Livestock Management Action 2 | No similar action. | Base livestock grazing management on the <i>Royal Gorge Area Grazing Environmental Impact Statement</i> (BLM 1981). Continue to use allotment management plans on an interim basis until replaced with integrated activity plans. Authorize adjustments in the actual AUMs (temporary increase or decrease) and make these adjustments when warranted by weather or other conditions. Maximum allowable utilization on allotments with rotational grazing or dormant season grazing will be 80 percent annual production on grass species and 60 percent of annual production on shrub species. These percentages may have to be reduced on specific allotments because of conflicts with wildlife, watershed conditions, or riparian habitat. | Continue to identify appropriate utilization levels based on allotment or site specific management practices, such as season of use, grazing intensity and duration, and utilization patterns, as well as vegetative conditions, riparian conditions, presence or absence of range improvements, and resource issues or concerns. Use utilization levels and distribution of use as an indicator to evaluate if current grazing use is within the capacity of the land and appropriate to meet resource objectives for the area. Establish utilization levels in order to enhance ecosystem function. | Identify appropriate utilization levels based on allotment or site specific management practices, such as season of use, grazing intensity and duration, and utilization patterns, as well as vegetative conditions, riparian conditions, presence or absence of range improvements, and resource issues or concerns. Use utilization levels and distribution of use as an indicator to evaluate if current grazing use is within the capacity of the land and appropriate to meet resource objectives for the area. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | On single pasture allotments with season-long spring/summer grazing, utilization will be held to the 40 to 60 percent range on forage species in lieu of a rest standard. This requirement will be on high elevation allotments where deferment or dormant season use is impractical because of deep snow and fencing the allotment into smaller units is uneconomical. On these allotments, utilization estimates will be made on a key species to prevent over utilization of desirable species. | | | | | | |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | Allocation of additional forage resulting from improved management or vegetation manipulation will be to livestock or wildlife or a combination of both on a case-by-case basis after consulting with State and Federal agencies and private groups and the affected grazing permittee. | Prioritize vegetation treatments on allotments that maximize the allocation of forage potential for wildlife. | Prioritize vegetation treatments on allotments that maximize the allocation of forage potential for livestock. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | Continue with or establish appropriate monitoring studies depending on management category. Determine the specific type of monitoring studies by the integrated activity plans objectives. | Continue with or establish appropriate monitoring studies depending on management category. | Periodically evaluate current active preference (AUMs) and make adjustments based on monitoring and other pertinent information. | Continue with or establish appropriate monitoring studies in cooperation with permittees and other stakeholders depending on management category. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Prepare an environmental assessment before a term permit is issued for acquired lands outside the existing allotment boundary. Temporary livestock grazing could be allowed, pending an environmental assessment on completion of acquisition of these lands. | No similar action. | Prepare an environmental assessment before a term permit is issued for acquired lands outside the existing allotment boundary. Notwithstanding any grazing prohibitions within the acquisition language, acquired lands would be available for livestock | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative C. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | | grazing providing proposed grazing management is analyzed through NEPA prior to issuing a grazing permit/lease. | | | | |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | Adjustments in grazing use will be made by allotment on a case-by-case basis. Changes in number of livestock, season-of-use, duration-of-use, and class of livestock can be made based on monitoring studies and inventory data. | Adjust grazing use by allotment on a case-by-case basis to achieve resource objectives to improve ecosystem health and reduce conflict with other resources. Changes in number of livestock, season-of-use and duration-of-use can be made based on pertinent monitoring studies and inventory data. | Adjust grazing use by allotment on a case-by-case basis to achieve the greatest forage value for livestock. Changes in number of livestock, season-of-use, duration-of-use, and class of livestock can be made based on pertinent monitoring studies and inventory data. Allotments will not be restricted to specific kinds and classes of livestock, as long as there are no identified disease or wildlife related issues. | Adjust grazing use by allotment on a case-by-case basis to achieve resource objectives and reduce conflict with other resource uses. Changes in number of livestock, AUMs, season-of-use duration-of-use and class of livestock can be made based on pertinent monitoring studies and inventory data. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | The grazing treatment on Improve and Maintain category allotments will require a rest standard to allow a time period for forage species to recover from the last grazing period before the plants are regrazed. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Work cooperatively with stakeholders to develop grazing management strategies with a focus on increasing ecosystem function. | Work cooperatively with permittees, lessees and other landowners to develop grazing management strategies to maximize forage value. | Work cooperatively with permittees, lessees, and other landowners to develop grazing management strategies. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | Livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land will be eliminated through BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing. | Eliminate livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land through BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing. | Eliminate livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land through BLM fencing or cooperative projects. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 10</i> | No similar action. | Continue to construct range improvement projects on an as-needed basis. Complete NEPA documentation on each project as needed. | Continue to construct range improvement projects to achieve resource condition, ecosystem processes, and reduce conflicts with other resource uses. Use adaptive management criteria tools | Continue to construct range improvement projects to achieve resource condition objectives and the greatest forage value for livestock on an as-needed basis. Use best management practices | Continue to construct range improvement projects to achieve resource condition and community objectives and reduce conflicts with other resource uses. Use best management practices | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | in EAs to effectively conduct these projects with flexibility. | criteria tools in EAs to effectively conduct these projects with flexibility. | in EAs to effectively conduct these projects with flexibility. | | | |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 11</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Implement strategies that best protect ecosystem function during periods of drought (see Appendix C for Drought classification system). In times of drought, require adjustments in livestock use and management. | Implement strategies that best protect vegetative resources and community values during periods of drought (see Appendix C for Drought classification system). In times of drought, cooperate with stakeholders for adjustments in livestock use and management. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 12</i> | No similar action. | Conduct an ecological site inventory on allotments with conflicts, and adjust stocking rates and season of use accordingly. Reevaluate current poor condition allotments with ecological site inventory data and determine the appropriateness of management levels of use to meet current objectives. Based on monitoring studies and after an evaluation, corrective action will be taken if allotment management plan or integrated activity plan objectives are not being met. Changes in livestock use will be made through an environmental assessment or allotment management plan revision. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 13</i> | No similar action. | Grazing systems will be implemented by an integrated activity plan. Plans will be prepared in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the permittee and other affected parties to meet multiple use and land use plan objectives. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 14</i> | No similar action. | Continue with land treatments as a management practice. Complete NEPA documentation on each project as needed. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Livestock Management Action 15</i> | No similar action. | Livestock grazing will be prioritized based on integrated activity plan resolution of conflicts with riparian, critical wildlife habitat, and ACECs. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

5.2.3 Forestry

The following forestry issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the RMP identify management of forest health and diversity across the landscape?
2. What areas are unavailable for commercial or personal use of forest products?
3. What measures will be used to manage for healthy forests?

5.2.3.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of forestry within the planning area include:

- Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
- BLM Manual 5000-1, Forest Management

5.2.3.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.2.3.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 46 identifies management for forestry across the alternatives.

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Table 46. Comparison of Alternatives: Forestry

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Forestry Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Prioritize the active use of forest products to address and meet public demand. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Forestry Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Prioritize availability and access to unmanaged forest products resource areas to adequately respond to current market demand. | No similar goal. | Foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of a stable domestic forestry industry and the orderly and economic development of forest resources. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. |
| <i>Forestry Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Increase available lands for active forest and vegetation management by limiting restrictions and special designations to address community needs and values. | Maintain active forest and vegetation management within areas of special designation to address community needs and values. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. |
| <i>Forestry Resource Goal 4</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Prioritize vegetation treatments that utilize timber harvesting, biomass and/or forest products, such as fire wood, fencing materials, and timber. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative C. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Forestry Resource Goal 5</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Promote late seral development within stands identified as having the potential for old growth characteristics, through vegetation management treatments. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Forestry Resource Goal 6</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Allow the removal of forest products in order to meet community needs, uses, and commercial and private demand on low productivity woodlands. | Allow the removal of forest products in order to meet community needs, uses, and commercial and private demand on low productivity woodlands and productive forestland. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Forestry Resource Goal 7</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Prioritize treatments that have synergies for resources such as range (improved grazing conditions), wildlife (improved habitat for hunting for outfitters), and forestry products for increased economic activity. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative C. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Forestry Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Maintain productive forestland to meet the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997) and provide for sustained yield. Maintain, monitor, and manage low productivity woodlands to meet the Standards. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Forestry Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid surface disturbance, surface occupancy, and ROWs in any designated old growth stands. | Allow surface disturbance, limit surface occupancy, and limit ROWs in all designated old growth stands. | Minimize surface disturbance, surface occupancy, and ROWs in designated old growth stands. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Forestry Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | A portion of the forested lands will be available for intensive management. Productive forested lands will be managed for sustained yield. | Provide forest products as a secondary benefit to ecological function goals. Cutting practices will focus primarily on protection of long-term ecosystem function | Provide forest products, including but not limited to sawlogs, firewood, Christmas trees, posts and poles, transplants, biomass and other special forest products by implementing intensive management on productive forest and low productivity woodlands. Harvesting will be accomplished through timber sales to commercial loggers, commercial and personal use fuel wood harvesters. | Provide forest products, including but not limited to sawlogs, firewood, Christmas trees, posts and poles, transplants, specialty wood products, and biomass by intensively managing productive forest and low productivity woodland. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 2</i> | Actions and restrictions to prevent and protect the forest resource from loss in areas requiring pest control include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Silvicultural methods that manipulate species composition, density, and age to reduce chance of | No similar action. | Implement salvage or accelerated harvests following adverse events or natural disturbances (e.g., insect infestations and outbreaks, disease, blow down, wildfire) to accelerate stand regeneration, minimize risk | Implement salvage or accelerated harvests following adverse events or natural disturbances (e.g., insect infestations and outbreaks, disease, blow down, wildfire) to regenerate stands and to capture the economic value | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | <p>insect or disease infestation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prompt removal and salvage of diseased trees to prevent further infestations including selective cut, patch cuts, or clearcuts as directed by sound logging methods• Application of pesticides as a last resort based on current EPA restrictions on chemicals and in accordance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1972• Introduction of biological control when economically and ecologically feasible <p>The BLM will cooperate with private and public landowners on group projects in controlling noxious weeds on public lands.</p> | | <p>of erosion, and reduce coarse woody debris fuel loading.</p> | <p>of forest products before value is lost.</p> | | | | |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | Manage commercial forests and operable woodlands to enhance special status animal habitat. | Apply density management treatments to improve diversity, health, and resiliency of forested landscapes with the primary purpose of ecosystem function. | Utilize public demand for forest product use to improve hunting, grazing, fuels management, and wildlife habitat through treatments including but not limited to patch cuts, transplant harvesting to limit meadow encroachment, and large-scale density management. Prioritize treatments which promote landscape-scale horizontal diversity. | Improve forest ecosystem health and diversity through appropriate silvicultural practices including but not limited to density management treatments, pre-commercial and commercial thinning, variable retention harvesting, understory removal, and fuels reduction treatments. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Coordinate landscape-focused fuels treatments, pre-commercial thinning, and variable density management treatments with post-treatment prescribed burning to reduce the size, intensity, severity, and effects of future wildfires. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Establish bi-annual outreach efforts to all existing contractors to monitor effectiveness and ability of RGFO Forestry department to meet community needs, desires, and values. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Use adaptive management practices and preventative treatments such as density reduction, understory removal, and species specific restoration treatments to increase residual stand resiliency to future disturbance in order to address predicted effects of climate change, including but not limited to drought, increased wildfire risk, changes in species range. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Retain BLM lands with suitable productive forest land to improve landscape-scale management ability, as practical. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | Forest lands allocated for other resource values (not subject to planned timber harvests) are available for retention, maintenance, and/or re-establishment of old growth and mature forests. | Develop inventory to identify stands with old growth components or potential. Restore, maintain, or improve the late seral characteristics within stands containing old growth component or advanced successional potential. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| Forestry Management Action 9 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Based on the number of forest product permits issued and interested bids on timber sales advertised the previous year, adjust availability and access to unmanaged resource areas to adequately respond to the most current market demand, while still maintaining the sustainability of the resource. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Forestry Management Action 10 | No similar action. | New road construction will benefit management through reduction of transportation costs, which will reduce harvest costs. | No similar action. | Maintain or improve existing access routes and construct permanent or temporary routes for access to productive forestland to meet demands in a manner that complements travel management and other resource objectives. Pursue temporary or permanent access agreements or easements to provide public and administrative access to productive forest areas that are currently inaccessible. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Forestry Management Action 11 | There are 2,270 acres suitable as intensively managed commercial forest lands “Available” for timber harvesting. These include two forest inventory classes: non-problem and restricted. Non-problem areas will be easily managed for timber production, and restricted areas will require special consideration for management. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Forestry Management Action 12 | There are 15,570 acres suitable as less intensively managed commercial forest lands “Unavailable” for general timber harvesting. These include two forest inventory classes: withdrawn-fragile gradient and adverse location. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | Withdrawn-fragile gradient lands have shallow, droughty, steep, and easily erodible soils. Adverse location results from small size, steep slopes, and fragile soils. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 13</i> | There are 800 acres suitable as less intensively managed “Noncommercial” forest lands unavailable for general timber harvesting. These include the forest inventory class withdrawn-low site. These sites produce less than 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 14</i> | There are 18,450 acres of “Nonforest” land less than 10 percent stocked with commercial tree species. Generally, any management of trees will be for the purpose of improving or maintaining other resource values. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 15</i> | No similar action. | Implement forest and woodland management on an extended rotation, even-age basis. Uneven-age management is not precluded but will not occur on significant acreage. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Forestry Management Action 16</i> | No similar action. | Silvicultural and site preparation methods that result in natural regeneration will be the primary reforestation methods and will be the emphasis in sale design. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

5.2.4 Mineral Resources

5.2.4.1 All Minerals

5.2.4.1.1 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goals are common to all action alternatives for all minerals:

- **Mineral Resource Goal 1:** Energy and minerals will be developed concurrently or sequentially with other resource uses, providing that unnecessary or undue degradation to natural resources is prevented.
- **Mineral Resource Goal 2:** Foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of a stable domestic minerals industry and the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources, to include sand and gravel, geothermal, coal, oil and gas.
- **Mineral Resource Goal 3:** Provide opportunities to develop locatable minerals, mineral materials, non-energy leasable minerals, coal, and renewable energy consistent with other resource goals and uses to support local and national energy and mineral needs.
- **Mineral Resource Goal 4:** Facilitate environmentally sound prospecting, exploration, and development of mineral resources on available Federal mineral estate.

5.2.4.2 Fluid Minerals

5.2.4.2.1 Fluid Minerals Program Overview for RMP

The BLM, as an agent for the Secretary of the Interior, has responsibility for leasing and managing the oil and gas resources where the mineral estate is federally owned. The 1920 Mineral Leasing Act, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to lease oil and gas resources on all public domain and acquired lands. Lands excluded from such leasing (under the authority of the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act) by legislation or secretarial policy are listed in 43 CFR 3100.0-3. The excluded lands include units of the National Park System; Indian reservations; Naval Oil Shale Reserve; incorporated cities, towns, and villages; and lands recommended for wilderness designation, wilderness study area (WSA), and lands within the national Wilderness Preservation System. The Act of May 21, 1930 (30 Act) authorizes leasing of Federal fluid mineral estate under railroads and other ROWs. Leases issued under the 30 Act are not subject to all of the same exclusions as leases issued under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. Leases under the 30 Act are not subject to leasing reform (unlike the more typical leases issued under the authority of the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act), but are leased under a specific procedure set forth in 43 CFR 3109.1-1(-5) and therefore are not offered in the BLM's competitive quarterly lease sales.

The RMP will decide which lands (besides lands listed above subject to non-discretionary closure under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920) will be open to leasing, and under what terms and conditions (stipulations in addition to standard lease terms and conditions).

In order to protect the U.S. from loss of revenue resulting from the drainage of oil and gas under lands closed to leasing, the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to issue protective leases within areas otherwise unavailable for leasing.

The RMP will not make leasing decisions for lands not administered by BLM within the RGFO. Leasing decisions for Federal lands not administered by the BLM will be made by the appropriate agency in cooperation with the BLM. Lands administered by the USFS have had leasing decisions made in a Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan (forest plan or other EIS).

The BLM is responsible for the leasing and development of lands administered by the National Park Service that are eligible for that purpose. There are areas within the RGFO that have been withdrawn from mineral entry, making them off limits to fluid mineral leasing.

The BLM has an MOU with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) and a long standing, day-to-day working relationship between the COGCC staff and the BLM mineral resource staff. The working relationship consists of staff level communications related to technical requirements for drilling wells in Colorado, spacing of wells and draining oil and gas reservoirs, and analysis and mitigation of impacts to groundwater and other mineral resources (non-oil and gas). The relationship of the BLM and COGCC is based on the COGCC's authority over oil and gas operations in the State of Colorado.

The State of Colorado regulates disposal of exploration and production waste (including underground injection wells, surface discharge, pits, etc., for disposal of fluid waste, cuttings and contaminated soil disposal methods, etc.), spill remediation, stormwater, water (including water use for construction, drilling and completion, water quality of all waters of the State, and protection of ground and surface water), air quality, reclamation and weed control, well spacing, hydraulic fracturing, and other aspects of oil and gas development in Colorado. Operators must obtain all applicable COGCC permits before drilling any oil and gas well within the State of Colorado, which are subject to State regulations and possible COAs.

To lease Federal oil and gas (except Federal mineral estate underlying USFS surface estate), a decision must be reached by the BLM (within the RMP) as to which lands to lease, and whether stipulations beyond the standard terms and conditions which apply to every lease, are necessary for the protection of the environment and other resources. The standard terms and conditions include, but are not limited to modification to siting or design of facilities, timing of operations and specification of interim and final reclamation measures, so long as conditions are consistent with the lease rights granted, which allows the BLM to restrict new surface-disturbing operations up to 60 days in a lease year and require the operator to move a surface location up to 656 feet (200 meters) (so long as operators are not required to site surface location off of the leasehold).

If it is determined by the BLM that further protection of a specific resource is needed on a particular lease, specific stipulations are attached to the parcel before it is leased. Stipulations such as Controlled Surface Use (CSU) and Timing Limitations are considered moderate constraints, and No Surface Occupancy stipulations are considered major constraints. Because the operator is aware of any stipulations that may be attached to a lease before they agree to lease it, the stipulations can require restrictions beyond what is allowed in the standard terms. Lease Notices are attached to leases to transmit information at the time of lease issuance to assist the lessee in submitting acceptable plans of operation, or to assist in administration of leases. Lease Notices are attached to leases in the same manner as stipulations; however, lease notices do not involve new restrictions or requirements. Any requirements contained in a Lease Notice must be fully supported in a law, regulations, standard lease terms, or onshore oil and gas orders. Stipulations are evaluated for use on all Federal mineral estate regardless of surface ownership, with the exception of the Federal mineral estate underlying surface administered by the USFS. The USFS must give its consent to the BLM prior to the BLM leasing Federal minerals underlying USFS managed surface estate, and will attach appropriate stipulations developed by the USFS, per the USFS land and resource management plan.

The RMP does not repeal valid existing rights on public lands. Fluid mineral leases issued by the BLM are contractual agreements between the United States and the lessee. For example, a lease issued prior to this plan having no timing limitation stipulation would not be restricted by decisions in this plan unless the lessee agrees voluntarily or the restriction can be made compatible with the lease terms issued (for this example, any activities are not restricted in excess of 60 days in a calendar year).

For purpose of Federal environmental law, when private and Federal wells are to be drilled on the same pad, located outside the boundaries of the Federal lease, on non-Federal surface and mineral estate (Fee/Fee/Federal), drilling the Federal well and producing from the Federal well is a Federal action; however, construction, operation, and reclamation of the infrastructure on non-Federal land (COAs pertaining to the *drilling* of a Federal well may be attached), in this situation, is not a Federal action. The obligation for protecting the surface, environment, and the interests of the surface owner in these cases remains with the surface owner, the lessee/operator, and the State. Because of this, certain requirements, such as mitigation measures related to surface protection (certain lease stipulations, standard operating procedures, etc.) that apply to Federal wells where the surface location is on lease, do not apply to Fee/Fee/Federal wells. The BLM lacks authority under FLPMA and the Mineral Leasing Act to require mitigation of surface impacts on non-Federal land or to enforce agreements between the surface owner and the operator. In these cases, for example, there is no requirement for a Surface Use Plan of Operations (SUPO), an onsite predrill inspection or a bond to protect surface owner interests for operations on non-Federal surface/non-Federal mineral lands, as the surface owner is under no obligation to allow access to its surface for the production of Federal minerals. The BLM may require a pre-drilling onsite inspection and additional information similar to portions of a SUPO

in order to complete its responsibilities under NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the ESA.

After a parcel is leased, additional actions will be required before on the ground operations (construction or drilling) begin. These actions include the submission of an APD which includes a SUPO and a drilling plan, in addition to other required documentation. Prior to approval of an APD, proper NEPA and technical engineering reviews will be completed, to assess site-specific impacts within the range of significance identified in the plan, and compliance with regulations. These additional reviews would be used to identify mitigation measures (in the form of COAs to the permit) that may be necessary to meet regulation and ensure environmental protection.

Prior to approval of an APD, site-specific COAs will be attached to the approved APD after site specific reviews (environmental and engineering) of the project have taken place. COAs must be consistent with lease rights granted, and can be based on regulation, stipulations applied to the lease, Best Management Practices, Standard Operating Procedures and standard lease terms.

After an APD is approved, the project is subject to routine environmental/surface, drilling/casing, plugging and inspections to ensure compliance with Federal laws, regulations, onshore orders and operator committed measures and COAs of the APD. After a well has reached the end of its usable life, the BLM will not authorize release of the operator's bond until it has been properly plugged and the final reclamation meets the BLM standard for successful reclamation, unless the private surface owner has other wishes for the surface. Generally, Fee/Fee/Federal wells will not undergo environmental surface inspections by BLM inspectors, as the obligation for protecting the surface, environment, and the interests of the surface owner in these cases remains with the surface owner, the lessee/operator, and the State.

The procedures that dictate Federal fluid minerals development are set forth in Federal law regulation and policy, including The 1920 Mineral Leasing Act, as amended, 43 CFR 3100, Onshore Orders, Notice to Lessees, and various IMs and handbooks.

5.2.4.2.2 Geothermal

Geothermal resources are managed by the BLM as part of the Federal mineral estate. Geothermal resources are the heat from geothermal processes. Geothermal resources may be leased via direct lease or competitive lease processes that are similar to the oil and gas leasing process. Geothermal resources are often developed through construction of wells and boreholes. In Colorado, heat is typically transferred to the surface via ground water that is managed by the Colorado State Engineer. The BLM and the State of Colorado have entered into an MOU to clarify prospective roles and responsibilities in leasing, permitting, and administering geothermal resources in Colorado where Federal ownership or administrative interests are involved.

5.2.4.2.3 Issues Identified During Scoping

The following fluid mineral issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What areas are open to fluid mineral leasing?
2. What fluid mineral lease stipulations will be identified to protect natural and cultural resources and minimize user conflicts?
3. What areas are open to fluid mineral leasing that are subject to no surface occupancy to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources?
4. How will the RMP address management of geophysical operations to protect natural and cultural resources?
5. How will the RMP address air quality concerns, particularly in ozone nonattainment areas, as they pertain to fluid mineral development?
6. What management actions will be identified for energy development, including types of energy development, permitted level of restrictions on energy development, extent of exclusion from development, or limitation on surface use?
7. How will the reasonably foreseeable development scenario include information to reflect a realistic view of exploration and development potential in the planning area?
8. How will the RMP include information to represent the best available data in relation to impacts of oil and gas development, including hydraulic fracturing?
9. How will the RMP fully analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of mineral and energy development?
10. How will the BLM disclose and mitigate potential impacts on water from hydraulic fracturing?

5.2.4.2.4 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of fluid minerals within the planning area include:

- Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181): Authorizes and governs the leasing of public lands for oil and gas development
- Act of May 21st, 1930 (30 U.S.C. 301-306): Authorizes the leasing of oil and gas deposits in or under lands embraced in railroad or other rights of way acquired under any law of the United States
- Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 23): Authorizes the leasing of Federal geothermal resources

- FLPMA (Public Law 94-579): Transferred responsibility for Federal onshore oil and gas leasing and development to BLM from USGS
- Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 (30 U.S.C. 226)
- Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58)
- 43 CFR 3100: Implements oil and gas leasing and development
- 43 CFR 3200: Implements geothermal leasing and development
- Onshore Oil and Gas Orders #1-#7: Approval of operations, drilling operations, disposal of produced water, etc.
- Geothermal Resource Operational Orders #2, #3, and #4: Drilling, Completion, and Spacing of Geothermal Wells, Plugging and Abandonment of Wells, General Environmental Protection Requirements
- NTL 3A: Reporting of undesirable events (spills, venting related to equipment failure, etc.)
- NTL 4A: Royalty or compensation for oil and gas lost (requirements pertaining to venting and flaring)

5.2.4.2.5 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified beyond those listed for all minerals in Section 5.2.4.1.1.

5.2.4.2.6 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 47 identifies management for fluid minerals across the alternatives.

Table 47. Comparison of Alternatives: Fluid Minerals

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.2.4.1.1. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Fluid Mineral Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Facilitate environmentally sound exploration and development of fluid minerals. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 1</i> | Close 126,000 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate to oil and gas leasing and development. Note: Lands listed as closed in this plan are lands in which BLM does not have decision authority to lease such as military installations and national parks. | Fluid minerals within BLM WSAs will not be leased pending a final designation by Congress. Any congressionally designated wilderness lands will be withdrawn from leasing while lands not designated will be managed similar to adjacent lands. | Close 65,200 acres of BLM-administered surface land (112,500 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing. | Close 9,500 acres of BLM-administered surface land (9,500 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing. | Close 8,800 acres of BLM-administered surface land (8,800 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing. | Close 0 acres to fluid minerals leasing. | Close 0 acres to fluid minerals leasing. | Close 700 acres of BLM-administered surface land (700 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing. |
| Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 2 | Apply no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulations on oil and gas leases in the following areas, subject to the exception criteria in Appendix A of the Northeast Resource Area Plan Amendment (BLM 1991a): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within a 0.25 mile radius of grouse leks (includes sage-grouse, mountain sharp-tailed, lesser and greater prairie chickens)• Within a 0.125 mile radius of raptor nest sites (includes golden eagle and osprey; all accipiters; falcons except kestrel; buteos; and owls—raptors that are listed and protected by the Endangered Species Act are addressed separately)• Within a 0.25 mile radius of bald eagle roost or nest sites | Fluid minerals leasing may occur on certain lands with an NSO stipulation to protect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raptor nesting/fledging habitat• Mexican spotted owl confirmed nesting sites• Lesser prairie-chicken leks• Sensitive special status plant areas (High Mesa Grasslands portion of the Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC, Mosquito Pass, Droney Gulch ACEC, Garden Park)• Chaffee County and Park County landfills• Developed recreation sites• Reservoir ROWs | Open 496,000 acres of BLM-administered surface land (1,657,700 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with major constraints (NSO stipulations) outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 96,100 acres of BLM-administered surface land (94,000 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with major constraints (NSO stipulations) outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 13,500 acres BLM-administered surface land (274,600 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with major constraints (NSO stipulations). | Open 363,200 acres BLM-administered surface land (473,700 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with major constraints (NSO stipulations). | Open 98,500 acres BLM-administered surface land (619,800 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with major constraints (NSO stipulations) outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 5,600 acres BLM-administered surface land (127,300 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with major constraints (NSO stipulations). |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within a 0.25 mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff nesting complexes• Within a 0.25 mile radius of confirmed Mexican spotted owl roost or nest sites• Waterfowl and shorebird significant production areas (major areas are Waterfowl Habitat Management Areas and rookeries)• Habitat areas with special status plant species (includes federally listed and proposed species for listing and candidate species)• Certain reservoir and railroad ROWs to protect improvements• Certain tracts that contain important riparian and wildlife values• State, county, and city parks to protect recreational and scenic values• Portions of the I-70 corridor with scenic values in Clear Creek County | | | | | | | |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 3</i> | Apply Timing Limitation Stipulations on oil and gas leases in the following areas, subject to the exception criteria in Appendix A of the Northeast Resource Area Plan Amendment (BLM 1991a): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big game crucial winter habitat: 12/1-4/30• Big game birthing areas<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Elk calving: 4/16-6/30◦ Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep | Fluid minerals leasing may occur on certain lands with timing limitations to protect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elk calving/deer birthing habitat• Bighorn sheep lambing habitat• Big game critical winter habitat• Mexican spotted owl habitat• Wild turkey winter habitat• Bald eagle winter roosting | Open 424,300 acres BLM-administered surface land (1,145,500 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Timing Limitations) outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 407,900 acres BLM-administered surface land (1,116,900 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Timing Limitations) outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 10,200 acres BLM-administered surface land (184,500 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Timing Limitations). | Open 303,000 acres BLM-administered surface land (416,800 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Timing Limitations). | Open 95,700 acres BLM-administered surface land (449,000 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Timing Limitations) outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 3,600 acres BLM-administered surface land (79,400 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Timing Limitations). |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | lambing: 5/1-7/15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Desert bighorn sheep lambing: 3/16-5/30Sage-grouse crucial winter habitat: 12/16-3/15Greater sandhill crane nesting and staging habitat areas: 3/1-10/16White pelican nesting and feeding habitat areas: 3/16-9/30Raptor nesting and fledgling habitat (includes the golden eagle and all accipiters; falcons, except kestrels all buteos; and owls): 2/1-7/15Ferruginous hawk nesting and fledgling habitat: 2/1-7/15Osprey nesting and fledgling habitat: 4/1-7/31Mexican spotted owl nesting and fledgling habitat: 2/1-7/31Bald eagle nesting habitat: 12/15-6/15Bald eagle winter roost sites: 11/16-4/15Peregrine falcon cliff nesting complexes: 3/16-7/31North Sterling Reservoir on developed recreation lands: 5/15-9/15Cherokee Park State Wildlife Area (Middle, Lower, and Lone Pine units): 5/1-9/30 | habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none">Peregrine falcon nesting habitat | | | | | | |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 4</i> | Apply controlled surface use (CSU) stipulations on oil and gas leases in the following areas, subject to the exception criteria in Appendix A of the Northeast Resource Area | Fluid minerals leasing may occur on certain lands with a CSU stipulation to protect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">VRM Class II areasPerennial riparian areas | Open 492,000 acres BLM surface (552,200 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Controlled Surface Use) outside of the South Park Master Leasing | Open 234,500 acres BLM surface (545,800 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Controlled Surface Use) outside of the South Park Master Leasing | Open 9000 acres BLM surface (251,100 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Controlled Surface Use). | Open 359,200 acres BLM surface (408,500 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Controlled Surface Use). | Open 120,700 BLM surface (219,500 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Controlled Surface Use) outside of the South Park Master Leasing | Open 12,700 acres BLM surface (129,500 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Controlled Surface Use). |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | Plan Amendment (BLM 1991a): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within the area of an approved surface or underground coal mine• Slopes of, or greater than, 40 percent• Perennial water impoundments and streams or riparian/wetland vegetation zones | | Plan area. | Plan area. | | | Plan area. | |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 5</i> | Open 672,000 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate to oil and gas leasing and development, subject to the lease terms and (as applicable) lease stipulations noted in Appendix A of the Northeast Resource Area Plan Amendment (BLM 1991a). | BLM-administered mineral estate will be open to fluid minerals leasing, exploration, and production subject to the lease terms and applicable lease stipulations as shown in Appendix A of the Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP/ROD (BLM 1996). | Open 22,400 acres BLM surface (1,035,500 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing subject to constraints allowed by standard lease terms and conditions outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 105,500 acres BLM surface (1,745,700 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing subject to constraints allowed by standard lease terms and conditions outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 6,600 acres BLM surface (353,300 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing subject to constraints allowed by standard lease terms and conditions outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 18,800 acres BLM surface (15,000 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing subject to constraints allowed by standard lease terms and conditions outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 4,700 acres BLM surface (465,800 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing subject to constraints allowed by standard lease terms and conditions outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Open 5,100 acres BLM surface (133,800 total acres Federal minerals) to fluid minerals leasing subject to constraints allowed by standard lease terms and conditions outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. |
| <i>Fluid Minerals Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy on lands with Federal facilities, cemeteries, and dams. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | Geophysical exploration operations will be subject to the same management decisions and subsequent effects as identified for fluid minerals leasing and development. | Open 410,900 acres to geophysical exploration outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. Constraints (closures and stipulations) on fluid minerals leasing and development do not necessarily apply to geophysical exploration. | Open 596,800 acres to geophysical exploration outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. Constraints (closures and stipulations) on fluid minerals leasing and development do not necessarily apply to geophysical exploration. | Open 21,500 acres to geophysical exploration. Constraints (closures and stipulations) on fluid minerals leasing and development do not necessarily apply to geophysical exploration. | Open 423,700 acres to geophysical exploration. Constraints (closures and stipulations) on fluid minerals leasing and development do not necessarily apply to geophysical exploration. | Open 130,900 acres are open to geophysical exploration outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. Constraints (closures and stipulations) on fluid minerals leasing and development do not necessarily apply to geophysical exploration. | Open 20,700 acres to geophysical exploration. Constraints (closures and stipulations) on fluid minerals leasing and development do not necessarily apply to geophysical exploration. |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 8</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close 185,900 acres to geophysical exploration outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Close 0 acres to geophysical exploration outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Close 0 acres to geophysical exploration. | Close 0 acres to geophysical exploration. | Close 0 acres to geophysical exploration outside of the South Park Master Leasing Plan area. | Close 0 acres to geophysical exploration. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 9</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | When lands designated closed to leasing are being drained by surrounding non-Federal development, allow areas designated as closed to fluid minerals leasing to be leased with a no surface occupancy stipulation. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 10</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 500 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 500 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 500 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 500 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Allowable Use 11</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Surface occupancy may be restricted within 1,000 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. | Surface occupancy may be restricted within 1,000 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. | Surface occupancy may be restricted within 1,000 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. | Surface occupancy may be restricted within 1,000 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. |
| <i>RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</i> <i>Fluid Mineral Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrictions placed on fluid minerals leasing may be waived on a case-by-case basis if the restriction will result in a larger cumulative impact to the resource of concern than avoidance. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Management Action 2</i> | Apply COAs to operational approvals (Applications for Permit to Drill [APDs] and Sundry Notices) as determined necessary by the authorized officer to protect other resources and values within the terms, conditions and stipulations of the lease contract. | Fluid minerals leasing COAs will be applied to operational activities (geophysical Notices of Intent, APDs, and Sundry Notices) as determined necessary by the authorized officer to protect other resources and values within the terms, conditions, and stipulations of the lease. Activity planning will be accomplished within integrated activity plans. | When necessary, attach standard operating procedures and site-specific BMPs to APDs (<i>Note: The Draft RMP/EIS will list standard operating procedures and site-specific BMPs in an appendix</i>) and geophysical NOIs as COAs to protect other resources. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Management Action 3</i> | Use lease notices to alert oil and gas lessees to the following special requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surface-disturbing activities in PFYC Class 4 and 5, (and some Class 3 and UNKNOWN)• Paleontological Areas will have an inventory | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | performed by an accredited paleontologist approved by the authorized officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In order to protect nesting sage-grouse, surface-disturbing activities proposed during the period between March 1 and June 30 will be relocated, consistent with lease rights granted and section 6 of the standard lease terms, out of sage-grouse nesting habitat. Sage-grouse nesting habitat is described as sagebrush stands with sagebrush plants between 11 and 39 inches (30 and 100 centimeters) in height and a mean canopy cover between 15 percent and 40 percent.• Proposed operations located near Air Force underground cables will be moved so as to not interfere with cable performance. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | Encourage voluntary compliance by lessees and operators with the decisions of the RMP, if and when operations are conducted, even though existing fluid minerals leases will not be modified. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Retain most mineral rights on BLM-administered lands identified for disposal. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | Disposal of lands with low-value minerals could occur in some instances. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Fluid Mineral Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Monitoring by a geothermal lessee prior to and during all lease operations, including development and utilization of a geothermal | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | resources may be required as directed by the BLM in consultation with the Colorado State Engineer’s Office, and the burden of proof shall be on the lessee, to ensure compliance with Federal and State statutes, rules, and regulations. Material injury may be determined by the relevant Colorado Water Court, and such an order from the Water Court may result in limitations on the use of the resource to prevent potential material injury to senior water or geothermal rights under Colorado State law, and to ensure that existing geothermal features are protected. | | | | | |

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5.2.4.3 Solid Minerals

The following solid mineral issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What areas will be recommended for withdrawal based on substantial resource conflicts with locatable mineral entry and mineral exploration and/or development with consideration of special status species or other important natural resources? Which areas previously recommended for withdrawal but not implemented will be carried forward?
2. What areas are suitable for salable mineral entry and salable mineral exploration and/or development?
3. What measures will the RMP include to protect surface and ground water from impacts of locatable mineral development?

5.2.4.3.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of solid minerals within the planning area include:

- Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 601 et. seq.), as amended

This act forms the basis for the 43 CFR 3600 regulations, which govern BLM's authority to dispose of sand, gravel, and other mineral materials that are not subject to mineral leasing or location under the mining laws. It is BLM's policy:

- To make mineral materials available unless it is detrimental to the public interest to do so;
 - To sell mineral material resources at not less than fair market value;
 - To permit Federal, State, Territorial, and local government entities and non-profit organizations free use of these materials for qualified purposes;
 - To protect public land resources and the environment and minimize damage to public health and safety during the exploration for and the removal of such minerals;
 - To prevent unauthorized removal of mineral materials; and
 - To require purchasers and permittees to account for all removals of mineral materials.
- The Mining Law of 1872, as amended

This law forms the basis for the 43 CFR 3809 regulations, which govern BLM's authority to manage operations that involve locatable minerals, including metallic minerals; some

industrial minerals, such as gypsum; and a number of other non-metallic minerals that have a unique property which gives the deposit a distinct and special value.

BLM's objective is to facilitate the administration of exploration, mining, and milling activities on the public lands, or interests in such lands, in order to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of these lands.

- The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, 30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 is the primary Federal law that regulates the environmental effects of coal mining in the U.S. Under SMCRA the Secretary is responsible for:

- (1) Approval, disapproval or conditional approval of mining plans with respect to lands containing leased Federal coal and of modifications thereto, in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, 30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*;
- (2) Execution, modification or termination of State-Federal cooperative agreements in accordance with part 745 of this chapter;
- (3) Designation of areas of Federal lands as unsuitable for all or certain types of surface coal mining and reclamation operations, or termination of such designations, in accordance with part 769 of this chapter;
- (4) Decisions on requests to determine whether a person possesses valid existing rights to conduct surface coal mining operations on Federal lands within the areas specified in 761.11(a) and (b) of this chapter; and
- (5) Issuance of findings concerning whether there are significant recreational, timber, economic, or other values that may be incompatible with surface coal mining operations on Federal lands within a national forest, as specified in 761.11(b) of this chapter.

- Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181 et seq., as amended

The BLM's authority to manage coal leasing on Federal lands comes from the Mineral Leasing Act and other laws listed in 43 CFR 3400.0-3.

Other authorities include: Authority and responsibility of the BLM; 43 CFR Part 3400 – Coal Management: General and the legislative and statutory authorities cited therein; 43 CFR Part 3420 – Competitive Leasing; 43 CFR Subpart 3425 – Leasing on Application; 43 CFR Subpart 3432 – Lease Modifications; 43 CFR Part 3460 – Environment; 43 CFR Part 3480 – Coal Exploration and Mining Operations Rules; and 43 CFR Part 3500 – Leasing of Solid Minerals (other than coal and Oil Shale) Exploration and Mining Operations.

- Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947

Other critical legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of solid minerals within the planning area include:

- The Domestic Minerals Program Extension Act of 1953 states that each department and agency of the Federal Government charged with responsibilities concerning the discovery, development, production, and acquisition of strategic or critical minerals and metals shall undertake to decrease further, and to eliminate wherever possible, the dependency of the United States on foreign sources of supply of such material.
- The Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 declares that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of a stable domestic minerals industry and the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources.
- FLPMA reiterates that the 1970 Mining and Minerals Policy Act shall be implemented and directs that public lands be managed in a manner that recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other resources. It also mandates that "scarcity of values" be considered in land use planning.
- The National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 requires the Secretary of the Interior to improve the quality of minerals data in Federal land use decision-making.
- The Energy Policy Act of 2005 encourages energy efficiency and conservation, promotes alternative and renewable energy sources, reduces dependence on foreign sources of energy, increases domestic production, modernizes the electrical grid, and encourages the expansion of nuclear energy.
- The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to move the United States toward greater energy independence, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, and support modernization of the nation's electricity transmission and distribution system.

Key agencies and jurisdictions that also regulate the development of BLM managed solid minerals within the planning area include:

- The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Minerals Regulatory Program is responsible for issuing and enforcing mining and reclamation permits for all non-coal mines in Colorado on State, Federal, and private lands. The Minerals program operates under two Acts, the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act and the Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials.
- The Mine Safety and Health Administration carries out the provisions of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act) as amended by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006. The Agency develops and enforces safety and health rules for all U.S. mines regardless of size, number of employees, commodity mined, or method of extraction.

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
 - Water Quality Control Division – CDPHE, under the authority of Federal and Colorado statutes, administers state programs implementing two major Federal statutes: the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. For solid mineral operations, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting for surface water discharges, both process water and stormwater, is typically the main focus.
 - Air Pollution Control Division – CDPHE, under the authority of Federal and Colorado statutes, administers state programs implementing the Federal Clean Air Act. For solid mineral operations, fugitive dust and hazardous air pollutants associated with some aspects of the operations.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for investigating, developing and maintaining the nation's water and related environmental resources.

Other agencies and jurisdictions that may also be involved with the regulation and development of BLM managed solid minerals within the planning area include, but are not limited to:

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Oil and Public Safety
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Counties

5.2.4.3.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified beyond those listed for all minerals in Section 5.2.4.1.1.

5.2.4.3.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 48 identifies management for solid minerals across the alternatives.

Table 48. Comparison of Alternatives: Solid Minerals

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.2.4.1.1. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Solid Mineral Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Recognize areas of key mineral potential to ensure they remain open to mineral development. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Solid Mineral Allowable Use 1–Mineral Materials Only</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Open 389,200 acres to mineral material disposal. | Open 589,700 acres to mineral material disposal. | Open 21,500 acres to mineral material disposal. | Open 341,700 acres to mineral material disposal. | Open 192,300 acres to mineral material disposal. | Open 20,700 acres to mineral material disposal. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Allowable Use 2–Mineral Materials Only</i> | There are 103,240 acres of surface and subsurface classified as “Closed,” which have other identified resource values that would suffer unacceptable and irreparable damage should mineral material extraction take place. Applications for these areas will not be accepted. | Areas are recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry and mineral materials development to protect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WSAs• Potential NRHP sites• Big game birthing areas• Peregrine falcon nesting sites• Portions of ACECs• Fishery habitat• Perennial riparian areas• Developed recreation sites | Close 269,000 acres BLM-administered surface land (348,600 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to mineral material disposal. | Close 68,500 acres BLM-administered surface land (66,900 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to mineral material disposal. | Close 0 acres to mineral material disposal. | Close 82,000 acres BLM-administered surface land (80,200 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to mineral material disposal. | Close 0 acres to mineral material disposal. | Close 0 acres to mineral material disposal. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Allowable Use 3 – Locatable Minerals and Mineral Materials Only</i> | Mining claims may be located on 103,290 acres of surface and subsurface classified as “Available.” If discovery of a valuable mineral is made and other requirements in 43 CFR 3860 are met, the claim may be patented. Until patent is issued, mineral operations are regulated through surface management regulations in 43 CFR 3809. | All areas, unless specifically withdrawn from mineral entry or seasonally limited, are open. Areas will be open to mineral entry and available for mineral materials development: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administered under existing regulations• Limited by closure if necessary• Special mitigation will be developed to protect | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | values on a case-by-case basis Areas will be open to mineral entry and available for mineral materials development under standard mineral operating practices. | | | | | | |
| <i>Solid Mineral Allowable Use 4 – Locatable Minerals and Mineral Materials Only</i> | No similar action. | Areas will be open to mineral entry under timing limitations and available for mineral materials development under a seasonal limitation through claimant/operator notification to protect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big game critical winter habitat• Wild turkey winter habitat• Raptor nesting/fledging habitat• Mexican spotted owl habitat• Bald eagle winter roosting habitat• Peregrine falcon habitat• Ferruginous hawk nesting/fledging habitat | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Allowable Use 5 – Locatable Minerals Only</i> | No similar action. | Operations conducted under the 43 CFR 3809 regulations shall conform to specified seasonal limitations to avoid unnecessary and undue degradation. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close 253,500 acres BLM-administered surface (244,600 acres total Federal minerals) to solid minerals leasing. | Close 68,300 acres BLM-administered surface (66,800 acres total Federal minerals) to solid minerals leasing. | Close 0 acres BLM-administered surface (0 acres total Federal minerals) to solid minerals leasing. | Close 92,400 acres BLM-administered surface (90,700 acres total Federal minerals) to solid minerals leasing. | Close 200 acres BLM-administered surface (200 acres total Federal minerals) to solid minerals leasing. | Close 0 acres BLM-administered surface (0 acres total Federal minerals) to solid minerals leasing. |
| <i>RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</i> <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Minerals reserved to the U.S. when public lands are sold or exchanged under 43 U.S.C. 682(b) (Small Tracts Act), 43 U.S.C. 869 (Recreation and Public Purposes Act), 43 U.S.C. 1713 (sales) or 43 U.S.C. 1716 (exchanges), will be | Minerals reserved to the U.S. when public lands are sold or exchanged under 43 U.S.C. 682(b) (Small Tracts Act), 43 U.S.C. 869 (Recreation and Public Purposes Act), 43 U.S.C. 1713 (sales) or 43 U.S.C. 1716 (exchanges), will be | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | restored to mineral entry (0 acres). | restored to mineral entry (34,000 acres). | | | | |
| <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Conveyance of Mineral Interests – based on mineral potential, 1,541,400 acres of federally reserved minerals would not be considered for conveyance. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Opening orders for acquired lands not currently open under mining law could be issued based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mineral potential.• Authority for acquiring the land.• Any mineral development is compatible with objectives for acquiring the land. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 4 – Mineral Materials Only</i> | No similar action. | An analysis will be done to locate and establish community mineral materials pits within integrated activity plans. | Designate up to three common use areas in locations and sizes to meet the existing and reasonably foreseeable demand for the commodity(ies) available at each site. Criteria for selecting suitable common use areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The presence of decorative rock outcrops.• Proximity to communities.• Public access. | Designate community pits and common use areas in locations and sizes to meet the existing and reasonably foreseeable demand for the commodity(ies) available at each site. Criteria for selecting suitable common use areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The presence of decorative rock outcrops and other desirable landscape rock deposits.• Proximity to communities.• Public access. | Same as Alternative C, with an emphasis on meeting community demand. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 5 – Locatable Minerals Only</i> | There are 105,850 acres of surface and subsurface that are or should be “Closed” or restricted from the location of mining claims. In Appendix B of the Northeast RMP/ROD, “Closed” indicates lands that should be withdrawn from the location of mining claims for the protection of | Close the PFYC 4 and 5 paleontological area in Garden Park to mineral entry. Close the PFYC 4 and 5 paleontological area in Garden Park to the disposal of mineral materials. | 1,200 acres currently withdrawn through previous Royal Gorge Field Office decisions. 18,000 acres of BLM-administered surface (56,200 acres Federal mineral estates) recommended for withdrawal through | 1,200 acres currently withdrawn through previous Royal Gorge Field Office decisions. 0 acres recommended for withdrawal through ECRMP efforts. | 100 acres currently withdrawn through previous Royal Gorge Field Office decisions. 0 acres recommended for withdrawal through ECRMP efforts. | 1,100 acres currently withdrawn through previous Royal Gorge Field Office decisions. 0 acres recommended for withdrawal through ECRMP efforts. | 0 acres currently withdrawn through previous Royal Gorge Field Office decisions. 0 acres recommended for withdrawal through ECRMP efforts. | 0 acres currently withdrawn through previous Royal Gorge Field Office decisions. 0 acres recommended for withdrawal through ECRMP efforts. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | other resource values, which could be irreparably harmed by the development of locatable minerals (BLM 1986). | | ECRMP efforts. | | | | | |
| <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 6 – Locatable Minerals Only</i> | There are 141,140 acres of surface and subsurface classified as “Concern Areas,” which are open to location of mining claims, but other important resource values have been identified. Emphasis will be placed on preserving these values or mitigating damage to these resources through the 43 CFR 3809 surface management regulations described under “Available.” | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 7 – Mineral Materials Only</i> | Mineral materials may be sold on application and after approval of an operating plan and an environmental assessment on 108,324 acres of surface and subsurface classified as “Open.” | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 8</i> | There are 138,160 acres of surface and subsurface classified as “Concern Areas,” which are also “Open,” but other important resource values have been identified. Site-specific stipulations will be required to protect these resource values. If impacts to these values caused by mineral material extraction cannot be satisfactorily mitigated, the application will be rejected. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | Closures and limitations will be reviewed and necessary changes made within integrated activity plans. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Solid Mineral Management Action 10</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Issue mineral use authorizations as appropriate for prospecting permits, exploration licenses, preference right lease, competitive leases, lease modification, and use permits. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

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5.2.4.4 Coal

The following coal issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What areas are suitable for leasing or unsuitable for all or certain types of coal mining operations under Section 522(b) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977?
2. How will the RMP analyze and minimize potential impacts from coal development on planning area resources and public health and safety?

5.2.4.4.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of coal within the planning area include:

- The Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).
- The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of August 7, 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 351-359 et seq.).
- FLPMA, October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).
- The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, August 3, 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.).
- The Multiple Mineral Development Act of August 13, 1954 (30 U.S.C. 521-531 et seq.).
- The Department of Energy Organization Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).
- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).
- The Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, as amended (90 Stat. 1083-1092).
- The Act of October 30, 1978 (92 Stat. 2073-2075).

5.2.4.4.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goal is common to all action alternatives for coal:

- **Coal Resource Goal 1:** Manage opportunities for exploration and development of coal resources while minimizing impacts to other resource values.

5.2.4.4.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 49 identifies management for coal resources across the alternatives.

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Table 49. Comparison of Alternatives: Coal Resources

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.2.4.4.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Facilitate environmentally sound exploration and development of coal resources. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Coal Objective 1 | | | | | | | | |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES | | | | | | | | |
| Coal Allowable Use 1 | <p>There are 97,440 acres within known recoverable coal resource areas (KRCRAs) or other areas that as the result of an application were assessed as “Suitable” for coal leasing under the criteria found in 43 CFR 3461 (lands are suitable if none of the 20 unsuitability criteria apply).</p> <p>There are 176,090 surface and subsurface acres that are “Open” to application for coal leasing, but have not been assessed in the manner described for “Suitable” areas. These areas are not within a KRCRA, nor is there any interest, but there is some coal potential. The unsuitability criteria have not been applied. If an application is received, the 20 unsuitability criteria in 43 CFR 3461 will be applied by a planning analysis or amendment. Areas unsuitable with no potential for mitigation (exceptions and exemptions) will not be leased; otherwise a lease will be granted.</p> | <p>Use the coal screening process to determine areas to be further considered for leasing. Only areas with potential for development will be considered; areas that meet the 20 standard coal unsuitability criteria will be further considered; areas that pass the surf ace owner screen will then further be considered.</p> <p>Coal resources on 4,952 acres in Subregion 8 and 52,980 acres in Subregion 10 will be available for further consideration for underground or surface mining.</p> <p>Coal resources on 0 acres in Subregion 8 and 72,782 acres in Subregion 10 will be available for further consideration for surface mining.</p> | <p>Use the coal screening process to determine areas to be further considered for leasing. Only areas with potential for development will be considered; for surface mining, areas that meet the 20 standard coal unsuitability criteria will be further considered; surface screen will be applied at time of application.</p> <p>448,500 total acres with potential for development. 125,200 acres in Denver and South Park Basins were analyzed for unsuitability due to their potential availability surface mining methods.</p> <p>Not all criteria were applied at time of initial screening due to lack of data and therefore suitable areas may still be deemed unsuitable at time of application if exceptions are not identified.</p> <p>The following unleased coal lands identified as suitable for further consideration for coal leasing in accordance with 43 CFR 3420 would be carried forward: Denver Basin, Raton Basin (Walsenburg and Trinidad Coal Fields), South Park (low resource potential) – 99,000 acres.</p> | <p>Use the coal screening process to determine areas to be further considered for leasing. Only areas with potential for development will be considered; areas that meet the 20 standard coal unsuitability criteria will be further considered; areas that pass the surface owner screen will then further be considered.</p> <p>448,500 total acres with potential for development. 125,200 acres in Denver and South Park Basins were analyzed for unsuitability due to their potential availability for surface mining. Surface owner screen to be applied at time of application.</p> <p>Not all criteria were applied at time of initial screening due to lack of data and therefore suitable areas may still be deemed unsuitable at time of application if exceptions are not identified.</p> <p>The following unleased coal lands identified as suitable for further consideration for coal leasing in accordance with 43 CFR 3420 would be carried forward: Denver Basin, Raton Basin (Walsenburg and Trinidad Coal Fields), South Park (low resource potential) – 100,200 acres suitable for surface mining.</p> | <p>Use the coal screening process to determine areas to be further considered for leasing. Only areas with potential for development will be considered; areas that meet the 20 standard coal unsuitability criteria will be further considered; surface screen will be applied at time of application.</p> <p>448,500 total acres with potential for development. 125,200 acres in Denver and South Park Basins were analyzed for unsuitability due to their potential availability for surface mining. Surface owner screen to be applied at time of application.</p> <p>Not all criteria were applied at time of initial screening due to lack of data and therefore suitable areas may still be deemed unsuitable at time of application if exceptions are not identified.</p> <p>The following unleased coal lands identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing would be carried forward: Denver Basin – 75,900 acres suitable for surface mining.</p> <p>The fourth coal screen will be applied at the time of application.</p> | <p>No unleased Federal coal lands are present within the Upper Arkansas River Valley – 0 acres.</p> | <p>Use the coal screening process to determine areas to be further considered for leasing. Only areas with potential for development will be considered; areas that meet the 20 standard coal unsuitability criteria will be further considered; surface screen will be applied at time of application.</p> <p>448,526 total acres with potential for development. 125,200 acres in Denver and South Park Basins were analyzed for unsuitability due to their potential availability for surface mining. Surface owner screen to be applied at time of application.</p> <p>Not all criteria were applied at time of initial screening due to lack of data and therefore suitable areas may still be deemed unsuitable at time of application if exceptions are not identified.</p> <p>The following unleased coal lands identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing would be carried forward: Raton Basin (Walsenburg, Trinidad Coal Fields) and South Park (low resource potential) – 0 acres.</p> | <p>Use the coal screening process to determine areas to be further considered for leasing. Only areas with potential for development will be considered; areas that meet the 20 standard coal unsuitability criteria will be further considered; surface screen will be applied at time of application.</p> <p>448,526 total acres with potential for development. 125,200 acres in Denver and South Park Basins were analyzed for unsuitability due to their potential availability for surface mining. Surface owner screen to be applied at time of application.</p> <p>Not all criteria were applied at time of initial screening due to lack of data and therefore suitable areas may still be deemed unsuitable at time of application if exceptions are not identified.</p> <p>Unleased coal lands identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing would be carried forward – 19,600 acres suitable for surface mining.</p> |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Coal Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Open with restrictions to oil and gas leasing and development within existing coal leases with approved mining plans. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Coal Allowable Use 3</i> | There are 11,600 acres of subsurface determined to be “Unsuitable” for coal leasing under the 20 unsuitability criteria in 43 CFR 3461. Applications may be filed but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply. | No similar action. | There are 25,000 acres of Federal mineral estate determined to be unsuitable for coal leasing under the 20 unsuitability criteria in 43 CFR 3461.5. Applications may be filed but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply. | There are 25,000 acres of Federal mineral estate determined to be unsuitable for coal leasing under the 20 unsuitability criteria in 43 CFR 3461. Applications may be filed but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply. | There are 17,300 acres of Federal mineral estate determined to be unsuitable for coal leasing under the 20 unsuitability criteria in 43 CFR 3461. Applications may be filed but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply. | No Federal coal resources are present in the Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | There are 1,400 acres of Federal mineral estate determined to be unsuitable for coal leasing under the 20 unsuitability criteria in 43 CFR 3461. Applications may be filed but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply. | There are 6,300 acres of Federal mineral estate determined to be unsuitable for coal leasing under the 20 unsuitability criteria in 43 CFR 3461. Applications may be filed but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply. |
| <i>Coal Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | 323,300 acres of Federal mineral estate would be available for coal development using underground mining methods. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Coal Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | There are 1,200 additional acres of Federal mineral estate determined to be unsuitable for coal leasing under Screen 3 in 43 CFR 3420.1. Applications may be filed, but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wetlands and riparian areas• Lands within 0.25 mile of perennial streams.• Big game winter range (elk, mule deer, white tailed deer, pronghorn, and moose)• Recreation sites | No similar action. | There are 0 additional acres of Federal mineral estate determined to be unsuitable for coal leasing under Screen 3 in 43 CFR 3420.1. Applications may be filed, but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation sites | No Federal coal resources are present in the Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | There are 4,700 additional acres of Federal mineral estate determined to be unsuitable for coal leasing under Screen 3 in 43 CFR 3420.1. Applications may be filed, but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Park National Heritage Area.• Recreation sites | There are 0 additional acres of Federal mineral estate determined to be unsuitable for coal leasing under Screen 3 in 43 CFR 3420.1. Applications may be filed, but will be rejected unless exceptions to the criteria apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation sites |
| <i>Coal Allowable Use 6</i> | There are 314,330 acres of surface that do not contain coal beds of the Denver and/or Laramie Formations and are closed to application. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Coal Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Prioritize for timely scheduling and completion of data collection areas acceptable for coal leasing. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.2.5 Renewable Energy

The following renewable energy issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What measures will be included to incentivize renewable energy development?
2. What mitigation measures will be included in the RMP to limit impacts of energy development on other resources?

5.2.5.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of renewable energy within the planning area include:

- Energy Policy Act of 2005
- Geothermal Steam Act of 1970
- Implementation of a Wind Energy Development Program and Associated Land Use Plan Amendments (BLM 2005)
- BLM IM 2009-043, Wind Energy Development Policy
- BLM IM 2007-097, Solar Energy Development Policy
- Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States (BLM 2012a)

5.2.5.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goal is common to all action alternatives for renewable energy:

- **Renewable Energy Resource Goal 1:** Provide opportunities to develop locatable minerals, mineral materials, non-energy leasable minerals, and renewable energy consistent with other resource goals and uses to support local and national energy and mineral needs.

5.2.5.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 50 identifies management for renewable energy across the alternatives.

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Table 50. Comparison of Alternatives: Renewable Energy

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.2.5.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Renewable Energy Resource Goal 2 | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Focus renewable energy development in identified priority areas. Priority areas will be identified in the Draft RMP/EIS. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES Renewable Energy Resource Objective 1 | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Provide public lands for the development of renewable energy projects of less than 20 Mw while protecting natural resources. | Provide public lands for the development of renewable energy projects of any size while protecting natural resources. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES Renewable Energy Allowable Use 1 | The BLM manages renewable energy resources within the Northeast Resource Area in accordance with programmatic amendments related to the development of wind energy (BLM 2005), solar energy (BLM 2012), energy corridors (BLM 2009b), and geothermal energy (BLM 2008b). (No specific management actions.) | The BLM manages renewable energy resources within the Royal Gorge Resource Area in accordance with programmatic amendments related to the development of wind energy (BLM 2005), solar energy (BLM 2012), energy corridors (BLM 2009b), and geothermal energy (BLM 2008b). (No specific management actions.) | Do not allow utility scale renewable energy development (currently defined as greater than 20 MW). | Lands would be available for utility scale renewable energy development (278,200 acres), except in the following exclusion areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed recreation sites• RMAs• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Threatened and endangered species habitat• Lynx linkages• Slopes over 30%• Fragile soils of high concern Segments suitable for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System• Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring sites, range enclosures• Floodplains• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails | Lands would be available for utility scale renewable energy development (10,700 acres), except in the following exclusion areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed recreation sites• RMAs• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Threatened and endangered species habitat• Lynx linkages• Slopes over 30%• Fragile soils of high concern Segments suitable for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System• Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring sites, range enclosures• Floodplains• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails• Scenic byways | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenic byways• Streams/springs possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics• Wetlands• Wildlife habitat treatment areas• Old growth forests and woodlands• BCAs• Big game migration corridors• Lands managed as a Conservation Management Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Streams/springs possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics• Wetlands• Wildlife habitat treatment areas• Old growth forests and woodlands• BCAs• Big game migration corridors• Lands managed as a Conservation Management Area | | | |
| <i>Renewable Energy Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict renewable energy development to projects of less than 20 MW for solar and 10 MW for wind where it does not interfere with ecosystem processes or conflict with restrictions for terrestrial wildlife and sensitive species, except in the following exclusion areas (586,400 acres): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACECs• Developed recreation sites• RMAs• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Threatened and endangered species habitat• Lynx linkages• Slopes over 30%• Fragile soils of high concern Segments suitable for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System• Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring sites, range exclosures | Renewable energy development would be available for projects of less than 20 MW for solar and 10 MW for wind on a case-by-case basis in the following avoidance areas (658,200 acres): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACECs• Developed recreation sites• RMAs• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Threatened and endangered species habitat• Lynx linkages• Slopes over 30%• Fragile soils of high concern Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring sites, range exclosures• Floodplains• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails• Scenic byways• Streams/springs | Renewable energy development would be available for projects of less than 20 MW for solar and 10 MW for wind on a case-by-case basis outside of the following exclusion areas (12,500 acres): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed recreation sites• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Threatened and endangered species habitat• Slopes over 30%• Fragile soils of high concern Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring sites, range exclosures• Floodplains• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails• Scenic byways• Streams/springs possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics• Wetlands | Restrict renewable energy development to projects of less than 20 MW for solar and 10 MW for wind outside of the following exclusion areas (330,300 acres): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACECs• Developed recreation sites• RMAs• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Threatened and endangered species habitat• Lynx linkages• Slopes over 30%• Fragile soils of high concern Segments suitable for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System• Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring sites, range exclosures• Floodplains• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape (101,200 acres). | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape (11,900 acres). |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Floodplains• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails• Scenic byways• Streams/springs possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics• Wetlands• Wildlife habitat treatment areas• Old growth forests and woodlands• BCAs• Big game migration corridors• Mule deer severe winter range• White-tailed deer winter range• Elk winter concentration areas• Elk severe winter range• Moose winter range• Bighorn sheep winter range• Bighorn sheep severe winter range• Bighorn sheep winter concentration areas• Pronghorn winter concentration areas• Elk production areas• Bighorn sheep production areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics• Wetlands• Wildlife habitat treatment areas• Old growth forests and woodlands• Big game migration corridors | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildlife habitat treatment areas• Old growth forests and woodlands• Big game migration corridors | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenic byways• Streams/springs possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics• Wetlands• Wildlife habitat treatment areas• Old growth forests and woodlands• BCAs• Big game migration corridors | | |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Renewable Energy Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Evaluate visual impacts of proposed solar energy projects on BLM land with consideration for how public demand for a given project may affect the sensitivity of nearby communities to the associated visual impacts. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Renewable Energy Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Emphasize previously disturbed lands as preference areas for renewable energy development. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Renewable Energy Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | When commercial or other renewable energy development on adjacent non-Federal land encroaches on BLM land, the development will be considered on a case-by-case basis if it will not have adverse impacts on ecosystem processes. | No similar action. | No similar action. | When utility-scale or other renewable energy development on adjacent non-Federal encroaches on BLM land, the development will be considered on a case-by-case basis when it would not interfere with community-scale exceptions. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. |

5.2.6 Travel and Transportation Management

The following travel and transportation management issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the BLM manage the travel network to reduce conflicts among resources and resource uses and to provide access where needed?
2. What travel management decisions will be identified to support public access and motorized use while limiting the impacts on other resources and resource uses, including quiet recreational settings?
3. How will the RMP address travel management issues and support consistency with adjacent land management?
4. What information does the BLM have or will the BLM collect to support travel management decisions?

5.2.6.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of travel and transportation management within the planning area include:

- BLM Manual Section 9113, Road Designs and Standards
- BLM Handbook H-8342, Travel and Transportation Handbook
- BLM Manual 1626, Travel and Transportation and Management
- Executive Order 11644, Use of Off-Road Vehicles on the Public Lands

5.2.6.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goal is common to all action alternatives for travel and transportation:

- **Travel and Transportation Resource Goal 1:** Provide for the full range of public resource management, and administrative access needs through comprehensive travel management planning.

5.2.6.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 51 identifies management for travel and transportation management across the alternatives.

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Table 51. Comparison of Alternatives: Travel and Transportation Management

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.2.6.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Travel and Transportation Resource Goal 2 | No resource goal. | The BLM will maintain those transportation system roads and trails needed for agency resource management and public use. | Provide for the full range of public resource management and administrative access needs through comprehensive travel management planning. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES Travel and Transportation Objective 1 | No resource objective. | Provide access to BLM-administered lands primarily by county roads. Investigate and document other means of obtaining public access within the transportation plan. | Establish a logical, well-managed route network that provides for public access needs in balance with impacts to other resources. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES Travel and Transportation Allowable Use 1 | The entire resource area is open to OHV use except for 132 acres just south of Ward. Other areas may be limited to OHV use on a site-by-site basis when limitations are identified and the need arises. | An OHV limited designation will be placed on designated roads and trails or seasonally to protect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial riparian areas • Fishery habitat • Big game birthing habitat • Big game critical winter habitat • Raptor nesting/fledging habitat • Special status species plant and animal habitat • Potential NRHP sites or district • Paleontological PFYC 4 and 5 areas • All ACECs • Developed recreation sites OHV closed areas are designated to protect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSAs • Deer Haven Ranch • 31 Mile Ranch | Designate motorized travel (except over-snow) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open: 0 acres • Closed: 68,300 acres • Limited to Designated: Acreage with TMP – 319,400 acres • Limited (Interim): 270,600 acres • Motorized travel could be limited to designated routes as travel management issues arise. Seasonal area limitations on motorized travel could include big game critical areas*Limited designation means limits all OHV use to the same manner and degree occurring at the time of the designation in the RMP. | Designate motorized travel (except over-snow) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open: 0 acres • Closed: 68,300 acres • Limited to Designated: Acreage with TMP – 319,400 acres • Limited (Interim): 270,600 acres • On small, isolated tracts of BLM lands with no public access, motorized travel could be limited as travel management issues arise. *Limited designation means limits all OHV use to the same manner and degree occurring at the time of the designation in the RMP. | Designate motorized travel (except over-snow) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open: 0 acres • Closed: 0 acres • Limited (Interim): 21,500 acres • Motorized travel could be limited as travel management issues arise. *Limited designation means limits all OHV use to the same manner and degree occurring at the time of the designation in the RMP. | Designate motorized travel (except over-snow) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open: 0 acres • Closed: 68,300 acres • Limited to Designated: Acreage with TMP – 291,200 acres • Limited (Interim): 64,400 acres *Limited designation means limits all OHV use to the same manner and degree occurring at the time of the designation in the RMP. | Designate motorized travel (except over snow) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open: 0 acres • Closed: 0 acres • Limited to Designated: Acreage with TMP – 28,100 acres • Limited (Interim): 164,200 acres | Designate motorized travel (except over-snow) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open: 0 acres • Closed: 0 acres • Limited to Designated: Acreage with TMP – 100 acres • Limited(Interim): 20,500 acres • Motorized travel could be limited as travel management issues arise. *Limited designation means limits all OHV use to the same manner and degree occurring at the time of the designation in the RMP. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Designate over-snow motorized travel as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open: 0 acres• Closed: 77,400 acres• Limited to designated routes: 319,400 acres• Limited to Existing (Interim): in locations where TMP has not occurred: 261,600 acres• In areas with limited BLM surface acres, over-snow motorized travel could be limited to designated areas and/or routes as travel management issues arise. Emphasis would be given to ecosystem processes.• Areas open to over-snow motorized travel must have a minimum average of 12 inches of snow in order to be considered open for public use. The 12-inch rule may be waived for administrative or BLM-authorized uses, after consideration on a case-by-case basis. | Designate over-snow motorized travel as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open: 589,900 acres• Closed: 68,300 acres• Limited to designated routes: 0 acres• Areas open to over-snow motorized travel must have a minimum average of 12 inches of snow in order to be considered open for public use. The 12-inch rule may be waived for administrative or BLM-authorized uses, after consideration on a case-by-case basis. | Designate over-snow motorized travel as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open: 0 acres• Closed: 0 acres• Limited to existing (interim) routes: 21,500 acres• Over-snow motorized travel could be limited as travel management issues arise.• Areas open to over-snow motorized travel must have a minimum average of 12 inches of snow in order to be considered open for public use. The 12-inch rule may be waived for administrative or BLM-authorized uses, after consideration on a case-by-case basis. | Designate over-snow motorized travel as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open: 600 acres• Closed: 68,300 acres• Limited to designated routes: 291,100 acres• Limited to existing (interim) routes: 63,800 acres• Areas open to over-snow motorized travel must have a minimum average of 12 inches of snow in order to be considered open for public use. The 12-inch rule may be waived for administrative or BLM-authorized uses, after consideration on a case-by-case basis. | Designate over-snow motorized travel as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open: 0 acres• Closed: 0 acres• Limited to designated routes: 28,100 acres• Limited to existing (interim) routes: 164,200 acres• Over-snow motorized travel could be limited as travel management issues arise.• Areas open to over-snow motorized travel must have a minimum average of 12 inches of snow in order to be considered open for public use. The 12-inch rule may be waived for administrative or BLM-authorized uses, after consideration on a case-by-case basis. | Designate over-snow motorized travel as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open: 0 acres• Closed: 0 acres• Limited to designated routes: 100 acres• Limited to existing (interim) routes: 20,500 acres• Over-snow motorized travel could be limited as travel management issues arise.• Areas open to over-snow motorized travel must have a minimum average of 12 inches of snow in order to be considered open for public use. The 12-inch rule may be waived for administrative or BLM-authorized uses, after consideration on a case-by-case basis. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | For the purpose of route designation and allowed uses snowmobiles would be defined as a motorized vehicle designed specifically for over-snow travel. Over-snow vehicle does not include machinery used strictly for the grooming of nonmotorized trails. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Areas open to over-snow travel are limited to designated routes. Where TMPs are not complete, over-snow travel is limited to existing routes. *Limited to existing means | Same as Alternative D. | Areas open to over-snow travel are limited to designated routes. Where TMPs are not complete, over-snow travel is limited to existing routes. Play areas outside these routes are only permitted as | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | that all OHV use is limited to the same manner and degree occurring at the time of the designation in the RMP. | | delineated on the map. *Limited to existing means that all OHV use is limited to the same manner and degree occurring at the time of the designation in the RMP. | | | |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | Authorize direct travel to a suitable parking site within 300 feet of an existing or designated road or trail if damage to the land or streams will not occur. | Within limited areas, motorized vehicles (including over-snow travel) may travel up to 100 feet off a designated route for the purposes of camping and parking so long as they do not cause impacts to resources. Other distances could be specified on a case-by-case basis if resource or other issues are identified. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit cross-country motorized/mechanized travel for big game retrieval. Allow hand-held nonmotorized/non mechanized wheeled game retrieval carts (except where otherwise prohibited). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | For the purpose of route designation and allowed uses, a motorized vehicle 50 inches or less in width would be allowed on ‘ATV’ trails. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Allowable Use 8</i> | No similar action. | Motorized events requiring a special recreation permit could be allowed in areas with open or limited designations at the discretion of the authorized officer and completion of required NEPA documentation. | Motorized events requiring a special recreation permit could be allowed in areas with open or limited designations at the discretion of the authorized officer and completion of required NEPA documentation. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | All activity planning for OHV use will be accomplished within integrated activity plans. Limit vehicle use seasonally, as needed, by public notice. Areas shown as limited to OHV use will be limited to existing roads and trails until road designations are determined within integrated activity plans. | In areas with a scattered land pattern and lack public access, travel management issues would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis as issues arise. The nature of limitations placed on travel may vary depending upon the issues identified. Existing TMPs would remain in place to direct comprehensive travel. In areas where travel management planning has not yet occurred, travel would be limited to existing routes until a designated route network is established. Past planning efforts could be re-visited if issues arise. | Same as Alternative B. | Due to the scattered land pattern and lack of public access, travel management issues would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis as issues arise. The nature of limitations placed on travel may vary depending upon the issues identified. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | Priority for new access by easement acquisition or new construction will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two miles of Arkansas River sites, opening up 4,000 acres• Any sites for additional access resulting from the NRA designation• One mile of calcite area, opening up about 1,800 acres• Additional access resulting from recreation needs• Four miles of Garden Park sites, opening up additional access• 13.5 miles of Beaver Creek, opening up 15,000 acres• Four miles of Barnard Creek/Booger Red Hill, opening up 9,000 acres• 3.5 miles of Twin Mountain opening up | Prioritize travel management decisions in areas where impacts to resources have been identified. Secondary prioritization would be given where issues such as user conflicts and public demand for access have been identified. TMP development would be prioritized in areas where impacts to resources have been identified. Secondary prioritization would be given where issues such as user conflicts and public demand for access have been identified. | Prioritize TMP development in areas that have been identified for retention where issues such as user conflicts, impacts to resources, and public demand for access have been identified. | Prioritize travel management decisions in areas where local governments have identified a need and issues such as user conflicts, impacts to resources, and public demand for access have been identified. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | 8,000 acres <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four miles on 31-Mile Mountain, opening up 5,000 acres• Six miles on Grape Creek, opening up 19,000 acres• Five miles of Mt. Mestas, opening up 3,800 acres• Three miles of Sheep and Little Sheep Mountains, opening up 5,100 acres | | | | | | |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | Maintain a comprehensive transportation plan. The transportation system map will be updated through integrated activity plans. Determine on a case-by-case basis special restrictions to be imposed on OHV related activity causing significant damage to wildlife, cultural, historical, paleontological, or other natural resources. OHV opportunities will be enhanced; use will be managed through limitations or closures to protect values; responsible use will be encouraged where use is allowed. Limit OHV use to designated roads and trails when seasonal stipulations are not in effect. | Non-motorized travel would be directed by current travel management planning efforts where they exist. Future TMPs would address nonmotorized travel. Seasonal area limitations on nonmotorized travel could include big game critical areas. | Non-motorized travel would be directed by current travel management planning efforts where they exist. Future TMPs would address nonmotorized travel. | Future TMPs would address nonmotorized travel. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Address travel management related to backcountry recreational airstrips on a case-by-case basis as issues arise. Current travel plans did not address backcountry recreational airstrips. These plans could be re-visited if issues are identified. Future TMPs could address permanent/developed backcountry recreational airstrips. | Current travel plans did not address backcountry recreational airstrips. These plans could be re-visited if issues are identified. Future TMPs could address permanent/developed backcountry recreational airstrips. | Travel management related to permanent/developed backcountry recreational airstrips could be addressed on a case-by-case basis as issues arise. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Priority for new access by easement acquisition or new construction will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two miles of Arkansas River sites, opening up 4,000 acres• Any sites for additional access resulting from the NRA designation• One mile of calcite area, opening up about 1,800 acres• Additional access resulting from recreation needs• Four miles of Garden Park sites, opening up additional access• 13.5 miles of Beaver Creek, opening up 15,000 acres• Four miles of Barnard Creek/Booger Red Hill, opening up 9,000 acres• 3.5 miles of Twin Mountain opening up 8,000 acres• Four miles on 31-Mile Mountain, opening up 5,000 acres• Six miles on Grape Creek, opening up 19,000 acres | Prioritize ecosystems and natural process when developing future TMPs and route designations. The following criteria would also be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public demand for access and/or recreation including motorized and nonmotorized travel• Legal public access• Exclusive access from adjacent private land-owners• Impacts to wildlife including critical periods and habitat• Impacts to soils and water quality• Redundant routes (routes that provide similar access and/or recreation opportunities)• Access for all forms of authorized and administrative uses. This includes but is not limited to grazing, utilities, vegetation, forestry, and fire management.• Public safety• Required easements to provide access (public and administrative) where | Consider the following criteria when developing future TMPs and route designation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public demand for access and/or recreation including motorized and nonmotorized travel• Legal public access• Exclusive access from adjacent private land-owners• Impacts to wildlife including critical periods, habitat, and habitat fragmentation• Impacts to soils and water quality• Redundant routes (routes that provide similar access and/or recreation opportunities)• Access for all forms of authorized and administrative uses. This includes but is not limited to grazing, utilities, vegetation, forestry, and fire management.• Public safety• Required easements to provide access (public and administrative) where access is limited and | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five miles of Mt. Mestas, opening up 3,800 acres• Three miles of Sheep and Little Sheep Mountains, opening up 5,100 acres Roads will avoid historical or archaeological sites if possible; if not, sites will be recorded and mitigated. | <p>access is limited and desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impacts to lands managed for wilderness characteristics• ACEC unique ecological values• VRM objectives• Relic vegetation communities and sensitive plant species• Noxious weed species• Road best management practices such as grade, alignment, and surfacing• Potential effects to historic properties and sites of concern to Tribes• Special status species• Productive forest lands | <p>desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impacts to lands managed for wilderness characteristics• ACEC unique ecological values• VRM objectives• Relic vegetation communities and sensitive plant species• Noxious weed species• Road best management practices such as grade, alignment, and surfacing• Potential effects to historic properties and sites of concern to Tribes• Special status species• Productive forest lands | | | | |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | There are no designated landing strips within the RGFO. Require all motorized aircraft, including but not limited to airplanes, helicopters, and lightweight aircraft, to have a use authorization for take-off and landing locations on BLM-administered lands or waterways. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage new modes of travel in a manner that is consistent with resource protection and resource use goals, objectives, and restrictions until appropriate use areas and designations are determined. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 8</i> | No road nor trail construction or maintenance is anticipated. If a special case is identified, all BLM roads and trails will be engineered for durability, safety, and expected use. They will be designed to provide adequate drainage | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | and minimize soil erosion. Surfacing will be done as conditions warrant to meet the above engineering and design objectives. Counties will be consulted on road construction and maintenance and their standards will be met or exceeded for permanent transportation system roads. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 9</i> | Areas with legal public access will be signed according to the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lands with public recreational opportunities not in conflict with other resource uses will be signed along all boundaries.• Those lands not meeting objectives above will be marked at the road or trail entrance and exit of the public land. | Implement an active signing or barricading program on road closures and problem areas. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 10</i> | No similar action. | Roads and trails on BLM-administered lands will be maintained by the appropriate holder of rights. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 11</i> | No similar action. | Impose emergency limitations or closures to protect all resource values. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 12</i> | No similar action. | Enforce Colorado laws regarding motorized vehicle use on all BLM-administered lands. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 13</i> | No similar action. | Determine desired plant community in all areas disturbed by OHV activities, and take necessary actions to mitigate the impacts. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 14</i> | No similar action. | The transportation system will be improved and maintained to facilitate public access and | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | administrative monitoring through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing access to all retention lands• Exclusive easements to provide public access• Non-exclusive easements for nonpublic access• Unnecessary and unmaintained roads being closed and rehabilitated• Federal, State, county, and other roads with valid ROW remaining open• Continued signing, fencing, and marking boundaries of only BLM-administered lands to be retained• The degree of public access needed is guided by the recreation opportunity spectrum class | | | | | | |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 15</i> | No similar action. | A maintenance schedule will be established for the BLM road system. Roads not maintained in good condition under the schedule will either have limited use or will be closed and reclaimed. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 16</i> | No similar action. | Information materials for motorized OHV recreation opportunities will be developed, including incorporating public awareness of national programs (i.e., Tread Lightly) into integrated activity plans. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 17</i> | No similar action. | Media, informational materials, and physical barriers will be used to encourage users to stay on roads and trails. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 18</i> | No similar action. | Partnerships will be developed with local or regional OHV clubs/groups to assist in coordinating and enhancing OHV recreational opportunities. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Travel and Transportation Management Action 19</i> | No similar action. | Trails and trailhead facilities for OHV use will be established to meet public demand. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

5.2.7 Lands and Realty

The following land and realty issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What lands are identified for retention, disposal, or acquisition in order to meet resource goals/objectives and improve efficiencies of management?
2. What will the land tenure status be for new and existing Recreation and Public Purposes Act leases?
3. What is the need for land use authorizations (including ROWs, communication site leases, commercial film permits, and easements) in relation to resource protection/use to improve management efficiencies?
4. What actions will the BLM consider to identify and manage development corridors?
5. What criteria will the BLM use to identify lands for disposal, retention, and acquisition?
6. What measures will the BLM consider in the management of ROWs for renewable energy development?
7. What areas will be identified for potential mineral entry withdrawal?

5.2.7.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of lands and realty within the planning area include:

- Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, as amended
- Title III and V of FLPMA
- Title 23 of the Federal Highways Act

5.2.7.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goals are common to all action alternatives for lands and realty:

- **Lands and Realty Resource Goal 1:** Provide for the development and operation of transportation systems, pipelines, transmission lines, communication sites, renewable energy resources, and other land use authorizations in a timely manner, to meet resource and community needs.
- **Lands and Realty Resource Goal 2:** Meet resource and community needs by acquiring or disposing of lands or interests in lands and minerals through sales, exchanges, purchases, easements, or donations.

5.2.7.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 52 identifies management for lands and realty across the alternatives.

Table 52. Comparison of Alternatives: Lands and Realty

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.2.7.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Provide for land use authorizations and apply stipulations to ensure development and operation occur in an environmentally responsible manner. | Provide for land use authorizations with the minimum amount of stipulations necessary to meet demand. | Provide for the development and operation of actions authorized under permits, leases, and contracts to meet resource and community needs. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Resource Goal 4</i> | No resource goal. | Use land ownership adjustment to improve BLM-administered land patterns for management efficiency to enhance public values and to reduce potential for land use conflicts. | Prioritize land tenure adjustments to enhance ecosystem conditions. | No similar resource goal. | Facilitate land tenure adjustments to address resource issues and local needs for more efficient and effective management of public lands. | Facilitate land tenure adjustments to address resource issues, local needs, and the demand for additional access. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Resource Goal 5</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Manage corridors for public utilities and other facilities, and establish new corridors as necessary to meet resource use and future demands. | No similar resource goal. | Manage corridors for public utilities and other facilities, and establish new corridors as necessary to meet resource and community needs and address future demands. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Ensure compliance with ROW grant terms, conditions, and stipulations. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Ensure compliance with permit and lease terms, conditions, and stipulations. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Ensure compliance with land use authorization terms, conditions, and stipulations. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Objective 3</i> | No similar action. | Areas will be excluded from ROWs to protect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WSAs• Raptor nesting/fledging areas• Special status plants• Special status animals (only nesting/fledging areas) | ROW Exclusion Areas: Manage 253,300 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW exclusion areas that are not available for the location of ROWs or other land use authorizations under any conditions, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WSAs | ROW Exclusion Areas: Manage 68,300 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW exclusion areas that are not available for the location of ROWs or other land use authorizations under any conditions, to include the following: | ROW Exclusion Areas: Manage 0 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW exclusion areas that are not available for the location of ROWs or other land use authorizations under any conditions. | ROW Exclusion Areas: Manage 232,100 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW exclusion areas that are not available for the location of ROWs or other land use authorizations under any conditions, to include the following: | ROW Exclusion Areas: Manage 20,700 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW exclusion areas that are not available for the location of ROWs or other land use authorizations under any conditions, to include the following: | ROW Exclusion Areas: Manage 0 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW exclusion areas that are not available for the location of ROWs or other land use authorizations under any conditions. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential NRHP sites and district | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lands managed for wilderness characteristics• Cultural resources of regional or national significance• Cultural resources of concern to tribes.• Lesser prairie chicken leks• VRM Class I | <p>WSAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research natural areas• Cultural resources of regional or national significance• Cultural resources of concern to tribes | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WSAs• Lands managed for wilderness characteristics• Research natural areas• Cultural resources of regional or national significance• Cultural resources of concern to tribes• VRM Class I | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lands managed for wilderness characteristics• Cultural resources of regional or national significance• Cultural resources of concern to tribes | |
| <i>Lands and Realty Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | <p>Areas will be avoided for ROWs to protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big game birthing habitat• Big game critical winter habitat• VRM Class II• Areas within ACECs• Developed recreation sites | <p>ROW Avoidance Areas: Manage 605,100 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW avoidance areas that may be available for the location of ROWs or other land use authorizations with special stipulations/mitigation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Threatened and endangered species habitat• Big game migration corridors• Big game winter habitats• Big game production areas• Grouse leks• Raptor nest sites• Waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries• Segments suitable for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails• Scenic byways• Streams/springs possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics• Wetlands• Lands managed under a | <p>ROW Avoidance Areas: Manage 118,600 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW avoidance areas that may be available for the location of ROWs or other land use authorizations with special stipulations/mitigation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring sites, range exclosures• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails• Scenic byways | <p>ROW Avoidance Areas: Manage 11,900 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW avoidance areas that may be available for the location of ROWs with special stipulations/mitigation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Grouse leks• Waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries• Lands managed under a Cooperative Management Agreement• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails | <p>ROW Avoidance Areas: Manage 385,800 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW avoidance areas that may be available for the location of ROWs with special stipulations/mitigation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Big game migration corridors• Big game winter habitats• Big game production areas• Waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries• Segments suitable for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails• Scenic byways• Streams/springs possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics• Wetlands• Lands managed under a Cooperative Management Agreement• Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring | <p>ROW Avoidance Areas: Manage 169,800 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW avoidance areas that may be available for the location of ROWs with special stipulations/mitigation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Big game migration corridors• Big game winter habitats• Big game production areas• Waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries• Segments suitable for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails• Scenic byways• Streams/springs possessing lentic/lotic riparian characteristics• Wetlands• Lands managed under a Cooperative Management Agreement• Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring | <p>ROW Avoidance Areas: Manage 12,600 acres of BLM-administered surface land as ROW avoidance areas that may be available for the location of ROWs with special stipulations/mitigation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Big game migration corridors• National historic, scenic, and recreation trails• Lands managed under a Cooperative Management Agreement |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | Cooperative Management Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative sites – study sites, monitoring sites, range exclosures | | | sites, range exclosures | sites, range exclosures | |
| <i>Lands and Realty Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | All areas outside of exclusion and avoidance areas are nonexcluded for ROWs. | Manage the remaining public land not identified as ROW exclusion or avoidance areas as suitable for consideration for ROWs and other land use authorizations. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit ROWs for on-channel reservoirs. | Allow ROWs for new on-channel reservoirs | Allow ROWs for new on-channel reservoirs. | Allow ROWs for new on-channel reservoirs that would affect natural stream flow regimes, but require project proponents to mitigate associated impacts to downstream hydrologic function. | Allow ROWs for new on-channel reservoirs that would affect natural stream flow regimes, but require project proponents to mitigate associated impacts to downstream hydrologic function. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit ROWs for Class II injection facilities and wells. | Allow ROWs for Class II injection facilities and wells. | Allow ROWs for Class II injection facilities and wells | Prohibit ROWs for Class II injection facilities and wells. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | Allow local purpose powerlines, pipelines, communication lines and sites, and other types of ROWs only when a clear need is demonstrated, and the beneficial environmental effects outweigh the costs. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | Authorize minor ROWs on a case-by-case basis utilizing criteria for ROW objectives in each specific eco-subregion. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Allowable Use 8</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Surface occupancy or use by fluid minerals development could be restricted on lands identified for disposal in the Eastern Colorado RMP/EIS. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action Allowable Use 9</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | STIPULATION DISPOSAL CSU CO. Surface use for fluid minerals may be restricted due to lands identified for disposal in the Eastern Colorado RMP/EIS. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Communication Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none">Require collocation of communication towers, facilities, and associated structures with existing communication sites to minimize overall visual impacts. | Communication Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none">Require communication site plans for new communication site locations.New communication sites may be considered if the new use cannot be accommodated on an existing site or on non-BLM land. | Communication Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none">Collocate communication towers, facilities, and associated structures with existing communication sites to minimize overall visual impacts.Require communication site plans for new communication site locations.New communication sites may be considered if the new use cannot be accommodated on an existing site or on non-BLM land. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Leases, permits, and easements authorized pursuant to Title III of the FLPMA may be subject to additional protective measures in areas identified as ROW avoidance areas and restrict activities in areas identified as ROW exclusion areas, except for low impact temporary permits, such as filming by foot, horseback, or from existing roads. | Leases, permits, and easements authorized pursuant to Title III of the FLPMA would be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be subject to additional protective measures in areas identified as ROW avoidance areas and restrict activities in areas identified as ROW exclusion areas, except for low impact temporary permits, such as filming by foot and horseback. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Limit applications for filming permits and still photography involving motorized, mechanized, or other intensive uses to existing highways and pullouts; designated routes, roads, and trails; and previously disturbed or | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | <p>cleared areas.</p> <p>Issue permits without requiring additional NEPA analysis for filming and still photography involving motorized, mechanized, or other intensive uses only if project is limited to existing highways and pullouts; designated routes, roads, and trails; and previously disturbed or cleared areas.</p> <p>Issue permits without requiring additional NEPA analysis only if the following criteria of minimal impacts are met. Filming projects that do not meet these criteria will be subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, or use of programmatic NEPA documents, including EAs that may be developed on a local, State, or BLM-wide basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project will not impact sensitive habitat or species.• Project will not impact cultural resources or traditional cultural properties and natural resources of importance to Tribes.• Project will not involve use of pyrotechnics.• Project will not involve more than minimum impacts to land, air, or water (Minimum is defined as temporary impact only and does not include permanent impacts or surface disturbance that cannot be raked out or rehabilitated so that there is no sign of activity at the end of the filming). | | | | | |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project will not involve use of explosives.• Project will not involve use of exotic plant or animal species that could cause danger of introduction into the area.• Project will not involve WSAs or lands managed for wilderness characteristics.• Project will not involve adverse impacts to sensitive surface resource values including paleontological sites; sensitive soils; relict environments; wetlands or riparian areas; or ACECs.• Project will not involve substantial restriction of public access.• Project will not involve substantial use of domestic livestock.• Project will not involve 10 or more production vehicles within sensitive areas.• Project will not involve 60 or more people within sensitive areas.• Filming activity within sensitive areas will not continue in excess of 10 days.• Refueling will not occur within sensitive areas.• Aircraft use in areas with wildlife concerns is not proposed during crucial wildlife periods.• Aircraft use in areas with no wildlife concerns is proposed for no more than two days and does not exceed frequency of three projects per 30-day period. | | | | | |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of aircraft is not proposed within 0.5-mile of a designated campground located within a sensitive area, and the number of low-elevation passes will not exceed four passes per day.• Filming activities are not proposed in developed recreation sites on weekends or during times of anticipated high use. | | | | | |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 4 | No similar action. | The Western Utility Group's study for corridor designation will be adopted for major ROW with addition of the existing transportation corridors (Western Utility Group 1993). Corridors are the preferred location for future major ROWs. | Corridors designated as a West-Wide Energy Corridor (Section 368) shall follow procedures listed in the Record of Decision (January 2009) of the West-Wide Energy Corridor PEIS, Appendix B: Interagency Operating Procedures. | Same as Alternative B. | Due to the scattered land pattern of public lands mixed with private and State lands, whenever possible, construct major transportation and energy ROWs within or next to compatible existing ROWs, such as roads, pipelines, transmission lines, communication sites, and railroads. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 5 | No similar action. | Corridors are the preferred location for future major ROWs. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 6 | No similar action. | Corridors outside exclusion and avoidance areas will be 3 miles wide. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 7 | No similar action. | Existing corridors along major facilities through avoidance areas recommended for designation by Western Utility Group will be 0.5 mile in total width, in accordance with the Western Regional Corridor Study (Western Utility Group 1992). | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | Divert new corridors proposed through avoidance areas around the area if possible. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | Grant major ROWs and areal sites in avoidance areas only when a feasibly designated corridor is unavailable. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 10</i> | No similar action. | Do not grant major ROWs or areal sites in exclusion areas unless mandated by law. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 11</i> | Elimination of unauthorized use will follow the trespass action plan for detection, confirmation, and elimination of trespass: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First priority is to abate existing occupancy and use trespasses• Second priority is to dissuade reckless acts of trespass through public education | No similar action. | Monitor for trespass actions and manage as appropriate through authorizations, resolution, or trespass procedures for removal and site restoration. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 12</i> | There are 17,104 acres of land classified for “Disposal.” It is in the national interest to dispose of these lands to a non-Federal entity. Appendix B of the Northeast RMP/ROD identifies public or private values for which provision must be made in the disposal transaction (BLM 1986). In some instances, significant conflicting public and private values must be resolved with the affected parties as a part of the disposal transaction. Consultation with State and local governments and private interests helped determine where these public and private values exist. Designation for disposal | Determine suitability for disposal by specific authority on a case-by-case basis through NEPA compliance. Land ownership adjustments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 90,857 acres for disposal• 57,686 acres for disposal through exchange, lease, or transfer | Disposals. Identify 37,900 acres (6%) for disposal, which are available through all disposal methods, including but not limited to sale, exchange, state selections, boundary adjustments, Recreation and Public Purpose Act patents, and sales authorized by other Congressional Acts and special legislation. Lands within mining districts that are classified as disposal may have special encumbrances (CERCLA 120[h], active mining operations, etc.) that prevent the disposal action. Disposal lands must meet one or more of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lands of limited | Disposals. Identify 60,000 acres (9%) for disposal, which are available through all disposal methods, including but not limited to sale, exchange, state selections, boundary adjustments, Recreation and Public Purpose Act patents, and sales authorized by other Congressional Acts and special legislation. Lands within mining districts that are classified as disposal may have special encumbrances (CERCLA 120[h], active mining operations, etc.) that prevent the disposal action. Disposal lands must meet one or more of the | Disposals. Identify 7,600 acres (35%) for disposal, which are available through all disposal methods, including but not limited to sale, exchange, state selections, boundary adjustments, Recreation and Public Purpose Act patents, and sales authorized by other Congressional Acts and special legislation. Disposal lands must meet one or more of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disposal of the land is deemed to be in the public interest;• Lands of limited public value;• lands that are difficult or uneconomical to manage or no longer needed for | Disposals. Identify 1,200 acres (<1%) for disposal, which are available through all disposal methods, including but not limited to sale, exchange, state selections, boundary adjustments, Recreation and Public Purpose Act patents, and sales authorized by other Congressional Acts and special legislation. Lands within mining districts that are classified as disposal may have special encumbrances (CERCLA 120[h], active mining operations, etc.) that prevent the disposal action. Disposal lands criteria are the same as for Eastern Plains Landscape. | Disposals. Identify 17,700 acres (9%) for disposal, which are available through all disposal methods, including but not limited to sale, exchange, state selections, boundary adjustments, Recreation and Public Purpose Act patents, and sales authorized by other Congressional Acts and special legislation. Lands within mining districts that are classified as disposal may have special encumbrances (CERCLA 120[h], active mining operations, etc.) that prevent the disposal action. Disposal criteria are the same as for Eastern Plains Landscape. | Disposals. Identify 15,200 acres (73%) for disposal, which are available through all disposal methods, including but not limited to sale, exchange, state selections, boundary adjustments, Recreation and Public Purpose Act patents, and sales authorized by other Congressional Acts and special legislation. Lands within mining districts that are classified as disposal may have special encumbrances (CERCLA 120[h], active mining operations, etc.) that prevent the disposal action. Disposal criteria are the same as for Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | <p>has been divided into the three following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Disposal (public values predominant) – 26 units (7,561 acres)• Private Disposal (private values predominant) – 38 units (4,465 acres)• Public and/or Private Disposal (both public and private values exist) – 11 units (5,078 acres) <p>Changes within these categories may occur as a result of intensive site-specific analysis that shows a greater public benefit resulting from the action. Such changes would be made with appropriate public review and environmental analysis.</p> | | <p>ecosystem value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lands that are difficult or uneconomical to manage or no longer needed for Federal purposes.• Lands acquired for a specific Federal purpose that are no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose.• Lands where disposal would aid in aggregating or repositioning other public lands, or public land resource values, to facilitate national, State, and local objectives.• Lands with long term unauthorized use problems that are not required for specific public purposes.• Lands with high public values proper for management by other Federal agencies or State or local governments or non-profits.• Lands around expanding communities and lands available for community expansion.• Lands designated for agricultural, commercial, or industrial development as the highest value or most appropriate long-term use.• Lands where disposal would increase the range of economic opportunities provided to the general public.• Lands that would not adversely impact public access to remaining BLM-administered lands through disposal.• Disposal of the land is deemed to be in the public | <p>following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disposal of the land is deemed to be in the public interest.• Lands designated for agricultural, commercial, or industrial development as the highest value or most appropriate long-term use.• Lands where disposal would increase the range of economic opportunities provided to the general public.• Lands around expanding communities and lands available for community expansion.• Lands with high public values proper for management by other Federal agencies or State or local governments.• Lands that are difficult or uneconomical to manage or no longer needed for Federal purposes.• Lands acquired for a specific Federal purpose that are no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose.• Lands where disposal would aid in aggregating or repositioning other public lands, or public land resource values, to facilitate national, State, and local objectives.• Lands with long term unauthorized use problems and that are required for specific public purposes.• Lands that would not adversely impact public access to remaining BLM-administered lands | <p>Federal purposes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lands acquired for a specific Federal purpose that are no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose.• Lands where disposal would aid in aggregating or repositioning other public lands, or public land resource values, to facilitate national, State, and local objectives.• Lands with long term unauthorized use problems and lands not required for specific public purposes.• Lands with high public values proper for management by other Federal agencies or State or local governments.• Lands around expanding communities and lands available for community expansion.• Lands designated for agricultural, commercial, or industrial development as the highest value or most appropriate long-term use.• Lands where disposal would increase the range of economic opportunities provided to the general public.• Lands that would not adversely impact public access to remaining BLM-administered lands through disposal.• Lands of low or no mineral potential.• Lands involved in BLM and USFS jurisdictional transfers, state indemnity selections, or ongoing | | | |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lands involved in BLM and USFS jurisdictional transfers, state indemnity selections, or ongoing exchanges will continue as initiated.• Lands of low or no mineral potential. | through disposal. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lands involved in BLM and USFS jurisdictional transfers, state indemnity selections, or ongoing exchanges will continue as initiated.• Lands of low or no mineral potential. | exchanges will continue as initiated. | | | |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 13</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | BLM lands are not suitable for entry under Indian Allotment or Desert Land Entry and would not be disposed of through those authorities. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 14</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Reserve public access in patents where it will benefit the public or administrative use. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 15</i> | There are on 4,510 acres of land classified for “Retention.” Retention and management in Federal ownership are recommended for these lands, which appear to have significant public values (i.e., national interest). Consultation with Federal agencies helped determine compatibility with their programs and acceptability of such a proposal. The USFS was determined to be the logical manager for 4,390 acres and the NPS for 120 acres. During the preparation of this plan, 120 acres were congressionally transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park and 2,860 acres were administratively transferred to the USFS. | Retain high potential mineral resources even if the estate is split. Retain BLM developed recreation sites in public ownership. Do not dispose of WSAs, NRHP-eligible cultural and historic sites, and special status species plant and animal habitat. Land ownership adjustments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 408,818 acres for retention or exchange | Subject to the land tenure exception criteria, retain lands that include any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wilderness and wilderness study areas (WSAs)• Lands managed for wilderness characteristics• Lands acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act appropriations• Segments suitable for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System• National and historic trails• Big game migration corridors• Mule deer severe winter range• White-tailed deer winter range• Elk winter concentration areas• Elk severe winter range• Moose winter range• Bighorn sheep winter range | Subject to the land tenure exception criteria, retain lands that include any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wilderness and wilderness study areas (WSAs)• Lands acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act appropriations• Wild and scenic rivers,• National and historic trails• Recreation management areas• Lands with paleontological resource values (PFYC 4 and 5 to be retained)• Cultural resources of regional or national significance• Cultural resources of concern to tribes• Developed recreation sites and facilities• ACECs | Subject to the land tenure exception criteria, retain lands that include any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National and historic trails• Lands with paleontological resource values (PFYC 4 and 5 to be retained)• Cultural resources of regional or national significance• Cultural resources of concern to tribes• 1,000 acres or greater of contiguous public land• Lands that have high/medium mineral potential and where disposal of the surface would interfere with pending mineral extraction <i>Exception Criteria for Retention Areas:</i> Retain the areas above for long-term management unless any of the following exceptions | Subject to the land tenure exception criteria, retain lands that include any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wilderness and wilderness study areas (WSAs)• Lands managed for wilderness characteristics• Lands acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act appropriations• Segments suitable for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System• Big game migration corridors• Mule deer severe winter range• White-tailed deer winter range• Elk winter concentration areas• Moose winter range• Bighorn sheep winter range• Bighorn sheep severe | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bighorn sheep severe winter range• Bighorn sheep winter concentration areas• Pronghorn winter concentration areas• Elk production areas• Bighorn sheep production areas• Special status species habitat (proposed, candidate, federally listed and Bureau sensitive species)• Cultural resources of regional or national significance• Cultural resources of concern to tribes.• Lands with paleontological resource values (PFYC 4 and 5 to be retained)• Recreation management areas• BCAs• Developed recreation sites and facilities• ACECs• Lands that have high/medium mineral potential and where disposal of the surface would interfere with pending mineral extraction• 1,000 acres or greater of contiguous public land (including public lands managed by other Federal agencies) <p><i>Exception Criteria for Retention Areas:</i> Retain the areas above for long-term management unless any of the following exceptions apply:</p> <p>1. Resource values and</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat for proposed, candidate and federally-listed species and Bureau sensitive species <p><i>Exception Criteria for Retention Areas:</i> Retain the areas above for long-term management unless any of the following exceptions apply:</p> <p>1. Resource values and public objectives that were the basis for designation as a retention area, and related management opportunities, would be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p>2. The lands leaving public ownership would be guaranteed a level of protection under other ownership (e.g., included in a perpetual conservation easement or public access easement) sufficient to ensure maintenance or enhancement of the resource values and public objectives associated with the retention area.</p> <p>3. Equal or better public access would be acquired through the exchange.</p> <p>4. Where disposal to resolve trespass issues would be in the best interest of the public.</p> <p>5. The lands would be leased under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.</p> | apply: <p>1. Resource values and public objectives that were the basis for designation as a retention area, and related management opportunities, would be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p>2. The lands leaving public ownership would be guaranteed a level of protection under other ownership (e.g., included in a perpetual conservation easement or public access easement) sufficient to ensure maintenance or enhancement of the resource values and public objectives associated with the retention area.</p> <p>3. Equal or better public access would be acquired through the exchange.</p> <p>4. To facilitate public water projects.</p> <p>5. Where disposal to resolve trespass issues would be in the best interest of the public.</p> <p>6. The lands would be leased under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.</p> | <p>winter range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bighorn sheep winter concentration areas• Pronghorn winter concentration areas• Elk production areas• Bighorn sheep production areas• Lands with Paleontological Resource values (PFYC 4 and 5 to be retained)• Cultural resources of regional or national significance• Cultural resources of concern to Tribes• BCAs• Developed recreation sites and facilities• ACECs• Habitat for proposed, candidate and federally listed species and Bureau sensitive species• 1,000 acres or greater of contiguous public land• Lands that have high/medium mineral potential and where disposal of the surface would interfere with pending mineral extraction <p><i>Exception Criteria for Retention Areas:</i> Retain the areas above for long-term management unless any of the following exceptions apply:</p> <p>1. Resource values and public objectives that were the basis for designation as a retention area, and related management opportunities, would be maintained or enhanced.</p> | | |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | public objectives that were the basis for designation as a retention area, and related management opportunities, would be maintained or enhanced. 2. The lands leaving public ownership would be guaranteed a level of protection under other ownership (e.g., included in a perpetual conservation easement or public access easement) sufficient to ensure maintenance or enhancement of the resource values and public objectives associated with the retention area. 3. Equal or better public access would be acquired through the exchange. 4. Where disposal to resolve trespass issues would be in the best interest of the public. | | | 2. The lands leaving public ownership would be guaranteed a level of protection under other ownership (e.g., included in a perpetual conservation easement or public access easement) sufficient to ensure maintenance or enhancement of the resource values and public objectives associated with the retention area. 3. Equal or better public access would be acquired through the exchange. 4. To facilitate public water projects. 5. Where disposal to resolve trespass issues would be in the best interest of the public. 6. The lands would be leased under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act or be used by public entities for projects related to water infrastructure. | | |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 16 | No similar action. | Acquire land from willing sellers to meet priority needs for resource management. Sales of BLM-administered lands must be consistent with the criteria established in Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. | <i>Acquisitions:</i> Acquire lands, interests in lands or mineral estate, from willing parties, by purchase, exchange, revocation of another agency’s withdrawal, administrative transfer from another agency, cooperative agreement, donation, or other transactions where they complemented existing resource values and meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within or adjacent to WSAs.• Within or adjacent to ACECs. | <i>Acquisitions:</i> Acquire lands, or interests in lands, from willing parties, by purchase, exchange, revocation of another agency’s withdrawal, administrative transfer from another agency, cooperative agreement, donation, or other transactions where they complemented existing resource values and uses, and meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow more diverse or more intensive use or a change in uses to better fulfill the BLM’s | <i>Acquisitions:</i> Acquire lands, or interests in lands, from willing parties, by purchase, exchange, revocation of another agency’s withdrawal, administrative transfer from another agency, cooperative agreement, donation, or other transactions where they complemented existing resource values and meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within or adjacent to WSAs.• Within or adjacent to ACECs.• Within or adjacent to | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. | Same as Eastern Plains Landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
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| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within or adjacent to SRMAs.• Within or adjacent to NLCS units.• Within or adjacent to BCAs.• Within or adjacent to lands managed for wilderness characteristics.• Secure for the public significant water-related land interest, which would include lakeshore, riverfront, stream, or pond sites.• Secure important riparian or wetland areas.• Priority, special status, or sensitive species habitats (including federally listed species, Federal candidate species, and state-listed species of special concern).• National cultural, historic, or scenic trails and byways.• Areas for cultural, paleontological, or natural history designation.• Provide for public or administrative access.• Consolidate BLM ownership and improve management efficiency.• Meet the intent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund or other Congressional Acts and special legislation.• For other administrative purposes.• To meet national policy objectives or needs. | <p>mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contribute to a wide spectrum of uses or a large number of public land users.• Enhance the opportunity for new or emerging public land uses or values.• Facilitate management practices, uses, scale of operations or degrees of management intensity that are viable under economic program efficiency standards.• Stabilize or enhance local economics or values.• Lands that provide public or administrative access.• Lands that consolidate BLM ownership and improve management efficiency.• Lands that meet the intent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund or other Congressional Acts and special legislation• Other lands for other administrative purposes.• To meet national policy objectives or needs. | <p>SRMAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within or adjacent to lands managed for wilderness characteristics.• Secure for the public significant water-related land interest, which would include lakeshore, riverfront, stream, or pond sites.• Secure important riparian or wetland areas.• Priority, special status, or sensitive species habitats (including federally listed species, Federal candidate species, and state-listed species of special concern).• National cultural, historic, or scenic trails and byways.• Areas for cultural, paleontological, or natural history designation.• Provide public or administrative access.• Consolidate BLM ownership and improve management efficiency.• Meet the intent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund or other Congressional Acts and special legislation.• For other administrative purposes.• To meet national policy objectives or needs. | | | |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 17 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage newly acquired lands according to the goals and objectives for the acquisition. Manage lands | Manage newly acquired lands according to the goals and objectives for the acquisition and in the same | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
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| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | acquired within administratively designated special designation areas, such as ACECs and SRMAs, the same as the special designation area. Other lands acquired without special values or management goals would be managed in the same manner as the comparable surrounding public lands. Manage newly acquired lands within areas designated by Congress or the President in accordance with the establishing Act or Proclamation. | manner as the comparable surrounding public lands. Manage newly acquired lands within areas designated by Congress or the President in accordance with the establishing Act or Proclamation. | | | | |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 18</i> | Lands with public value (retention or public disposal categories) may be exchanged for lands with public values of national interest. Changes may be made from the public (or retention) category to private disposal when an environmental assessment review of the resource values and public involvement determine that private values actually are predominant. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 19</i> | There are 18,236 acres of land classified for “Specific Review.” These lands cannot be designated for retention or disposal without further study, analysis, and public input. Review could be initiated for different reasons by public request, other agency interest, or by BLM. The criteria for such review will be the same as for lands classified for “Disposal,” with continued public involvement and consideration of unique | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
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| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | local conditions. All subsurface estate is in this category because a mineral appraisal is required prior to determination. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 20</i> | <p>The priority of land status actions would be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actions requiring minimal analysis and review• Present applications• Exchange opportunities• Public/private value situations involving coordination• Specific review areas• Actions requiring extensive analysis and review <p>These priorities are not mutually exclusive and several will be pursued simultaneously. Specific parcels may be conveyed ahead of the priority schedule if significant interest is shown. The actual specific review process agreements will be initiated following issuance of the plan ROD.</p> | <p>Land ownership adjustments will be made with the following guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parcels considered difficult and uneconomical to manage with no significant resource values will be identified for sale• Exchange could be used when the result is clearly in the best interest of the public and management will be improved• Identified parcels for acquisition or retention will provide values for public use and have access• All uses will be equally considered in analyzing proposals | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 21</i> | <p>Acquiring easements will be pursued if it becomes necessary to obtain access for a land status change or for some specific interim management need. Two types of easement are possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exclusive – BLM controls use and furnishes maintenance. Public access would be regulated by BLM.• Nonexclusive – BLM does not control the use of the road and may provide | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | partial maintenance. Public use may or may not be permitted. | | | | | | | |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 22 | No similar action. | Receive fair market value for lands sold, and receive in exchange lands or interests of equal value. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 23 | No similar action. | Complete all identified land adjustments during the life of the plan. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 24 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage parcels of BLM- administered land discovered through land status updates and corrections in the same manner as public land parcels adjacent to, or in the same vicinity as, the discovered parcel. Retention and disposal considerations will be made on a case-by-case basis. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 25 | No similar action. | New withdrawals will be initiated for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perennial riparian areas• Big game birthing habitat• Fishery habitat• Special status plant habitat• Special status animal habitat• Potential NRHP sites and district• Portions of ACECs• VRM Class II within ACECs• Developed recreation sites• Arkansas River corridor | New withdrawal proposals would be considered on a case-by-case basis where resource values or agency investments are considered to be best protected by withdrawal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Lands and Realty Management Action 26 | No similar action. | All waterpower/reservoir withdrawals will be revoked. All other existing withdrawals will be continued. | Review existing withdrawals on a case-by- case basis before the end of the withdrawal period, or as otherwise required, to determine whether the withdrawals should be extended, revoked, or modified. Approximately | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | 114,900 acres of land in the RGFO planning area are currently withdrawn under existing withdrawals involving BLM interests; of these lands, 1,300 acres have are associated with Field Office level decisions that are recommended for continued withdrawal. | | | | | |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 27</i> | No similar action. | Manage BLM-administered lands relinquished from withdrawals according to applicable management prescriptions described in this plan. | Manage lands on which withdrawals were revoked in the same manner as the comparable surrounding public lands; this would include consideration for retention and disposal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 28</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Consider other agency requests for new withdrawals, relinquishments, extensions, or modifications on a case-by-case basis. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 29</i> | No similar action. | Preclude settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws, for withdrawals to protect special values such as recreation and wildlife. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 30</i> | No similar action. | Preclude settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws, for withdrawals to protect waterpower/storage values. Allow mineral entry under the provisions of 43 CFR Part 3730. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 31</i> | No similar action. | Prevent any activities that disturb or destroy Federal interest in waters on BLM-administered for withdrawals for Public Water Reserves. These withdrawals are not open to nonmetalliferous mineral entry. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 32</i> | No similar action. | Allow classifications for Recreation and Public Purposes transfers (patents) only on Category I lands as prescribed in the Land Tenure section. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 33</i> | No similar action. | Allow classifications for Recreation and Public Purposes leases on Category I, II, and III lands as prescribed in the Land Tenure section. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 34</i> | No similar action. | Withdrawals and classifications will and continue to be reviewed and initiated to protect values when needed. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 35</i> | No similar action. | Avoid splitting surface and mineral estate and reunite split estate through acquisition or disposal when opportunities arise and appropriate regulatory requirements are met. | In split estate situations, previously reserved minerals in areas with high and moderate potentials would not be available for conveyance. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 36</i> | Management of 16,280 acres classified as “Important” will provide the open space values of aesthetics and natural beauty. This is done in areas surrounded or encroached by residential structures or urban growth. Management is to retain the natural appearance and provide a park-like area in an otherwise developed area. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 37</i> | Special open space protection is not needed on 20,810 acres classified as “General.” Projects will be acceptable that consider the surrounding land uses, State and local plans, and public preferences. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 38</i> | All BLM-administered surface estate is in the “General” category for use | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | applications. Applications for various authorized uses in this area will be process on an individual basis; each will be analyzed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistency with RMP• Adjoining land uses• Legal access• Conflicting resource values• Public need• Highest and best use of the land• Coordination with State and county agencies (e.g., land use plans, zoning authority) | | | | | | | |
| <i>Lands and Realty Management Action 39</i> | Use applications will be handled in a timely manner with targeted response time as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ROW – 30 to 60 days• Leases – 130 to 150 days• Permits – 15 to 45 days | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.2.8 South Park Master Leasing Plan

The following South Park Master Leasing Plan (MLP) issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the RMP identify management of fluid mineral development within the boundaries of the South Park MLP?
2. Which measures, management actions, and stipulations in the South Park MLP will be included to limit the impacts on resources?

5.2.8.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the South Park MLP include:

- BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2010-117: Oil and Gas Leasing Reform – Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Reviews (May 17, 2010)
- BLM Handbook H-1624-1: Planning for Fluid Mineral Resources

5.2.8.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.2.8.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 53 identifies management for the South Park MLP across the alternatives.

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Table 53. Comparison of Alternatives: South Park Master Leasing Plan

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | All Landscapes | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>South Park MLP Resource Goal 1</i> | No similar resource goal. | Allow for oil and gas development while protecting surface and ground water quality, wetlands, air quality, fish and wildlife resources, cultural and historic resources, recreational, visual/scenic values and quality of life in the South Park MLP area. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>South Park MLP Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | Air Quality: Ensure that BLM authorized actions do not adversely impact Federal- or State-mandated Class I areas or Federal Land Manager-specified sensitive Class II areas. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Park MLP Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | Soils: Where oil and gas operations take place, ensure all areas undergoing reclamation achieve ground cover consistent with the desired future condition within five growing seasons, where BLM has jurisdiction. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Park MLP Objective 3</i> | No resource objective. | Water: Monitor groundwater quality on BLM-administered surface land through a program mirroring COGCC rules for groundwater baseline sampling and monitoring for fluid mineral activities. Off BLM-administered surface land, groundwater monitoring is under the authority of COGCC and will follow State regulations. Protect ground and surface water quality to meet State of Colorado water quality guidelines through regulation, allowable uses, management action driven mitigations, and design features. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Park MLP Objective 4</i> | No resource objective. | Wildlife: Reduce impacts to wildlife through regulation, allowable uses, management action driven mitigations, and design features. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Park MLP Objective 5</i> | No resource objective. | Riparian, Wetlands and Aquatic Wildlife: Protect riparian and wetlands, and reduce impacts to aquatic wildlife through regulation, allowable uses, management action driven mitigations, and design features. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Park MLP Objective 6</i> | No resource objective. | Cultural: Protect cultural resources through law, regulation, management action driven mitigations, allowable uses, and design features including surveys and avoidance. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Park MLP Objective 7</i> | No resource objective. | Visuals and Recreation: Maintain visual and recreational quality in accordance with VRM classes; protect visual quality near Gold Medal Waters (as designated by CPW). Protect CPW State Wildlife Areas, State Parks, and developed recreational sites through regulation allowable uses, management action driven mitigations, and design features. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | <i>All Landscapes</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 1</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy or use within 328 feet of the high water elevation of playas. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 2</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 0.25 mile, measured from the ordinary high water mark (or bank full stage) or within the 100-year floodplain, whichever distance is greater, of a water body containing native cutthroat trout, or water body designated for introduction of native cutthroat trout. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 3</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | On BLM-administered surface, do not allow surface discharge of produced water from oil and gas development activities. | On BLM-administered surface, allow surface discharge of produced water from oil and gas development activities, when permitted by the State of Colorado. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 4</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Require closed loop drilling systems where oil and synthetic based drilling fluids are used. | Ensure that drilling fluids systems comply with BLM regulations. | Require closed loop drilling and completion systems, utilizing enclosed tanks for drilling, completions and produced fluids handling. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 5</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Allow fluid pits used to contain fresh water or fresh water based drilling fluids, or in emergency situations. | Allow fluid pits in accordance with regulations and policy. | Allow fluid pits only in emergency situations. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 6</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | <p>Tiered buffer for classified water supply stream segments, expanded to waters 5 miles upstream of public water supply diversions, reservoirs, intakes and public infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal Buffer: Prohibit surface occupancy at a minimum distance of 300 feet from the ordinary high water mark on classified surface water supply segments/reservoir and critical drinking water infrastructure.• Intermediate Buffer: Require that oil and gas operators will adhere to the following requirements for facilities located from 301 to 500 feet:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pitless drilling systems.2. Flowback and stimulation fluids contained within tanks that are placed on a well pad or in an area with downgradient perimeter berming.3. Construct berms or other containment devices around crude oil, condensate, and produced water storage tanks and enclose an area sufficient to contain and provide secondary containment for 150 percent of the largest single tank. Berms or other secondary containment devices shall be sufficiently impervious to contain any spilled or released material.• External Buffer: Require that oil and gas operators will adhere to the following requirements for facilities located from 501 feet to 0.5 mile, 5 miles upstream of the ordinary high water mark on classified surface water supply segments/reservoir | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 1,000 feet for a distance of 5 miles upstream of a public water supply intake designated “Water Supply” by the State of Colorado to protect drinking water sources. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | All Landscapes | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape |
| | | and critical drinking water infrastructure (note: external buffers do not apply to closed water supply pipelines): 1. Require closed loop drilling systems. | | |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 7 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | See above action. | No similar action. | Controlled Surface Use on lands located between 1,000 feet and 2,640 feet for a distance of 5 miles upstream of a public water supply intake designated “Water Supply” by the State of Colorado protect drinking water sources. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 8 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy and use for oil and gas activities within 1,312 feet of the ordinary high water mark or within 328 feet of the 100-year floodplain of the following major waterways: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Platte River | Allow surface occupancy or use for oil and gas activities within 100-year floodplains. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 2,640 feet of the ordinary high water mark of Gold Medal (as defined by CPW) streams, rivers and full reservoirs. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 9 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities within 2,640 feet of public groundwater supply wells. | Allow surface occupancy or use for oil and gas activities within 2,641 feet of public groundwater supply wells. | Same as Alternative B. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 10 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 500 feet of domestic water wells. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 11 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas activities within 328 feet from perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams; riparian areas, fens, and wetlands; and water impoundments. | Allow surface occupancy or use for oil and gas activities within 328 feet of waterways. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 500 feet of streams (perennial and intermittent), lakes, reservoirs, springs, wetlands (including fens) or other riparian areas, measured from the ordinary high water mark (bank full stage) or within the 100-year floodplain, whichever distance is greater. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 12 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy within 328 feet from ephemeral streams. | Apply standard lease terms and conditions within 100 feet of ephemeral drainages. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 100 feet of ephemeral drainages. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 13 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy by fluid mineral activity on slopes greater than 30 percent. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy on slopes greater than 25 percent. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 14 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | As part of interim and final reclamation, on BLM-administered surface land, allow organic soil amendments and seeding of areas affected by surface-disturbing activities or areas not meeting resource objectives using BLM-approved seed mixtures of native species. | As part of interim and final reclamation, on BLM-administered surface land, allow soil amendments and seeding using approved nonnative and native species. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 15 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Close 2,500 acres of BLM-administered surface land (6,600 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State owned and/or managed SWA, habitat areas, natural areas, parks and conservation easements• Tarryall Rural Historic Landscape District and Threemile Gulch Archaeological district Cultural resources and ecological landscapes and the culturally sensitive locations within them | Close 0 acres to fluid minerals development. | Close 4,400 acres of BLM-administered surface land (4,400 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural resources and ecological landscapes and the culturally sensitive locations within them• Wildlife (Reinecker Ridge – elk winter concentration) |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| | <i>All Landscapes</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 16</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Open 31,300 acres of BLM-administered surface land (116,800 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with major constraints (no surface occupancy [NSO] stipulations) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backcountry conservation area (BCA) (James Mark Jones, Red Hill)• Cultural/Tribal Resources• Riparian/Wetlands/Aquatic• Hydrology/Water• Soils• Wildlife• Special Status Species | Open 0 acres of BLM-administered surface land (0 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with major constraints (NSO stipulations). | Open 25,000 acres of BLM-administered surface land (91,500 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with major constraints (NSO stipulations) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BCA• Riparian/Wetlands/Aquatic• Hydrology/Water• Soils• Recreation• Wildlife• Special Status Species• Tarryall Rural Historic Landscape District and• Threemile Gulch Archaeological District• Visual resource management (VRM) (0.5-mile NSO along Gold Medal waters [as defined by CPW] for protection of visual resources)• Occupied dwellings |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 17</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Open 50,400 acres of BLM-administered surface land (198,400 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Timing Limitations) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildlife• Special Status Species | Open 50,400 acres of BLM-administered surface land (198,400 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Timing Limitations) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildlife• Special Status Species | Open 0 acres of BLM-administered surface land (0 total acres of Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Timing Limitations) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildlife• Special Status Species |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 18</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Open 2,500 acres of BLM-administered surface land (7,200 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Controlled Surface Use) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riparian/Wetlands/Aquatic• Hydrology/Water• Soils• Recreation• Scenic Byways• Occupied dwellings• Noise | Open 3,200 acres of BLM-administered surface land (10,800 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Controlled Surface Use) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riparian/Wetlands/Aquatic• Recreation• Scenic Byways | Open 0 acres of BLM-administered surface land (0 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing with minor constraints (Controlled Surface Use) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riparian/Wetlands/Aquatic• Hydrology/Water• Soils• Noise |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 19</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Open 5,500 acres of BLM-administered surface land (46,100 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing subject to constraints allowed by standard lease terms and conditions, with no additional stipulations. | Open 10,800 acres of BLM-administered surface land (199,000 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing subject to constraints allowed by standard lease terms and conditions, with no additional stipulations. | Open 33,300 acres of BLM-administered surface land (186,500 total acres Federal mineral estate) to fluid minerals leasing subject to constraints allowed by standard lease terms and conditions, with no additional stipulations. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 20</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Open 61,400 acres to geophysical exploration. Areas closed to fluid mineral development are not closed to geophysical exploration. | Open 61,400 acres to geophysical exploration. Areas closed to fluid mineral development are not closed to geophysical exploration. | Open 61,400 acres to geophysical exploration. Areas closed to fluid mineral development are not closed to geophysical exploration. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 21</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Oil and gas production operations must not exceed 70 decibels (dB) measured 350 feet from the noise source, measurement taken at 4 feet above ground | No similar action. | Oil and gas production operations must not exceed 55 dB measured 350 feet from the noise source, measurement taken at 4 feet above ground level. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | All Landscapes | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape |
| | | level. Noise levels up to 80 dB are allowed for a period not to exceed 15 minutes in any 1-hour period. 80 dB may not be exceeded for construction, drilling, completion or maintenance operations. | | Noise levels up to 65 dB are allowed for a period not to exceed 15 minutes in any 1-hour period. 80 dB may not be exceeded for construction, drilling, completion or maintenance operations. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 22 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Phased development: A maximum of 40 acres, or of 5 percent of total acreage of a lease, whichever is greater, is all that may be disturbed, at one time. Once interim reclamation activities have been initiated by operator (recontouring and reseeding), further development on the lease may proceed. | No similar action. | Phased development: A maximum of 80 acres, or of 10 percent of total acreage of a lease, whichever is greater, is all that may be disturbed, at one time. Once interim reclamation activities have been initiated by operator (recontouring and reseeding), further development on the lease may proceed. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 23 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Regulate venting in accordance with BLM venting and flaring regulations. | Regulate venting in accordance with BLM venting and flaring regulations. | Allow venting of gas only in emergency situations or under circumstances when capture is not technically feasible. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 24 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Surface occupancy may be restricted within 500 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 500 feet of occupied dwellings/structures. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 25 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit Class II injection wells on BLM-administered surface land. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 26 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mule deer severe winter range; white-tailed deer winter range, elk winter concentration areas and severe winter range; and moose winter range – December 1 to April 15• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15• Pronghorn winter concentration areas – January 1 to March 31 | Same as Alternative B. | Close 4,400 acres (Reinecker Ridge area) to fluid minerals leasing to protect elk winter concentration area. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 27 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elk production (calving) – May 15 through June 15• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 28 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within moose priority habitat and concentration areas to protect moose habitat. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 29 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within migration and movement corridors for mule deer, white-tailed deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and elk. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 30 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within sand hill crane production or migration habitat from March 1 to October 16. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | <i>All Landscapes</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 31</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within turkey winter habitat as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife from December 1 to April 1. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 32</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Avoid actions that disturb live or dead/dying vegetation in previously undisturbed settings from April 15 to July 15 or as site-specific analyses dictate when nesting migratory birds are present. | In breeding habitat for Birds of Conservation Concern (USFWS 2008), avoid actions that disturb live or dead/dying vegetation in previously undisturbed settings from May 15 to July 15 or as site-specific analyses dictate when nesting Birds of Conservation Concern are present. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 33</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development to protect waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries within significant production areas as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development to protect waterfowl and shorebird habitat and rookeries within significant production areas as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 34</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development from April 15 to July 15 in a 0.25-mile radius of habitat identified as production areas for water birds (i.e., waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds) by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 35</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within an area centered on a raptor nest site to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. Buffer radii for non-special status raptors are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.25 mile – osprey, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper’s hawk, Swainson’s hawk, non-special status owls; and• 0.33 mile – red-tailed hawk; and• 0.5 mile – prairie falcon.• All other non-special status raptors (accipiters, falcons [except kestrel], buteos, and owls): 0.125 mile. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development to activities within an area centered on a nest site to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. Buffer radii for non-special status raptors are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.25 mile – osprey, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper’s hawk, Swainson’s hawk, non-special status owls; and• 0.33 mile – red-tailed hawk; and• 0.5 mile – prairie falcon.• All other non-special status raptors (accipiters, falcons [except kestrel], buteos, and owls): 0.125 mile. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 36</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development (beyond what historically occurred prior to nest establishment) to protect raptor nesting and fledgling habitat during use. Apply the timing limitation within a 0.25-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-special status owls – February 15 to July 15• Swainson’s hawk – April 1 to July 15• Osprey – April 1 to August 31• Cooper’s hawk, sharp-shinned hawk – April 15 to July 15. Apply the timing limitation within a 0.33-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red-tailed hawk – February 15 to July 15 Apply the timing limitation within a 0.5-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows: | Same as Alternative B. | Prohibit surface use within a 0.25-mile radius of active raptor nests from February 1 through August 15, or until fledging and dispersal of young. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| | All Landscapes | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prairie falcon – March 15 to July 15. Apply the timing limitation within a 0.125-mile radius of the nest on species-specific dates as follows:All other non-special status raptors (accipiters, falcons [except kestrel], buteos, and owls): November 15 to April 15. | | |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 37 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Close to leasing for minerals, State-owned and/or managed wildlife areas, habitat areas, natural areas, parks, and conservation easements. Prohibit oil and gas leasing of Federal mineral estate underlying these areas. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 38 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit t surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.25 mile of State-owned and/or managed wildlife areas, habitat areas, natural areas, parks, and conservation easements. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 39 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within boundaries of the following State parks, State wildlife areas, Federal wildlife refuges, National Park units, and county parks. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development to activities within boundaries of State parks, State wildlife areas, Federal wildlife refuges, National Park units, and county parks. | Same as Alternative B. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 40 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of the entrance of known maternity roosts or hibernacula of Bureau sensitive bat species except when the decision is in conflict with public safety. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.25 mile of special status bat maternity, hibernation, and fall swarming sites. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 41 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of the entrance of maternity roosts from April 15 to August 31 and hibernacula from November 15 to April 15 to protect Bureau sensitive bat species. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 42 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development activities within 328 feet of active prairie dog colonies. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 328 feet of active prairie dog colonies. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 43 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 328 feet of active prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 328 feet of active prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 44 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 45 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development from March 16 to September 30 to protect white pelican nesting and feeding habitat during usage. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| | <i>All Landscapes</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 46</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of bald eagle winter roost or occupied nest site (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of bald eagle winter roost or occupied nest site (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 47</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius around bald eagle nest sites from November 15 to July 31 and around winter roost sites from November 15 to March 15 to: (a) protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest; and (b) prevent disruption of wintering bald eagles at winter roost sites. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 48</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest site (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 49</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 50</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of an occupied northern goshawk nest site or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of an occupied northern goshawk nest site or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 51</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development from March 1 to September 15 within a 0.5-mile radius of a northern goshawk nest site to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 52</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of an occupied ferruginous hawk nest site or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of an occupied ferruginous hawk nest site or associated alternate nests to protect nesting and fledgling habitat during use and avoid nest abandonment. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 53</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development from February 1 to July 15 within a 0.5-mile radius of a ferruginous hawk nest site to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <i>All Landscapes</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 54</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of a peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complex to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | Apply standard lease terms and conditions for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of a peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complex to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 55</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile buffer around peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes from March 15 to July 31 to protect reproductive activity at nest sites and avoid nest abandonment. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 56</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest site to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest site to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 57</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within federally designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within federally designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 58</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within suitable Mexican spotted owl breeding habitat from March 1 to August 31. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 59</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within known breeding sites of long-billed curlew. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within known breeding sites of long-billed curlew. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 60</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within known breeding sites of white-faced ibis. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within known breeding sites of white-faced ibis. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 61</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within suitable mountain plover nesting habitat (as mapped by CPW or BLM) from April 10 to July 31. | Same as Alternative B. | No surface use (construction or drilling) is allowed within a 300-foot radius of active mountain plover nests from April 10 through July 10 or until fledging and dispersal of young. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 62</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark of CPW defined nesting areas for least tern, piping plover, and western snowy plover. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark of defined CPW nesting areas for least tern, piping plover, and western snowy plover. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 63</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within defined CPW defined nesting areas for least tern, piping plover, and western snowy plover from April 1 to July 31. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 64</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.5 mile of identified breeding sites of Bureau sensitive amphibians. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.5 mile of identified breeding sites of Bureau sensitive amphibians. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 65</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.25 mile of identified Bureau sensitive snake hibernacula. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development on lands identified as Bureau sensitive snake hibernacula. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | <i>All Landscapes</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 66</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within known occupied sites of Pawnee montane skipper and the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within known occupied sites of Pawnee montane skipper and the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 67</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy or use for fluid minerals due to paleontological resources. | Same as Alternative B. | Restrict surface use or use for fluid minerals due to paleontological resources. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 68</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Apply lease notice for oil and gas leasing: PFYC Class 4 and 5 Paleontological Areas. Areas containing Class 4 and 5 paleontological areas must be inventoried prior to surface-disturbing activities. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 69</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Open oil and gas leasing and development with restrictions (stipulations) within existing coal leases with approved mining plans. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 70</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Close for leasing Federal minerals that underlie historic properties of national or regional significance. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 71</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy within local, State, or nationally designated historic districts including but not limited to the Tarryall Rural Historic Landscape District and Threemile Gulch Archaeological district. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 72</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy or use for oil and gas activities on lands within a 0.5-mile buffer from the following nationally/regionally significant cultural resource and sacred sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site 5PA1300 and Site 5PA718 (the White Buffalo Site). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 73</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy or use for oil and gas activities on lands within 328 feet from the boundary of locally significant eligible cultural resources, traditional cultural properties, listed National Register sites/districts, outstanding cultural resources to be nominated to the National Register, interpreted and/or public use sites, and experimental-use sites. | Same as Alternative B. | Prohibit surface occupancy within 328 feet of individual cultural properties eligible for or listed on the local, State, or national historic registers. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 74</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Surface occupancy or use for oil and gas activities may be restricted due to historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Executive Order 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Allowable Use 75</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Restrict surface use, occupancy, and surface-disturbing activities associated with fluid mineral leasing to minimize conflicts with developed (and future) recreation sites and to mapped (and future) national/regional trails, local trail system trails, and trailheads and interpretive sites with exceptional recreation values or significant public interest. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| | All Landscapes | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 76 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prohibit surface occupancy may be applied to specific special scenic areas certain areas to protect the quality of the scenic values. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 77 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Apply a No Surface Occupancy stipulation to fluid mineral leasing for James Mark Jones, Red Hill, and Rye Slough BCAs. Where oil and gas leases are already in place the Backcountry Conservation Area would not be managed for the protection of back country conservation values. If the lease expires then an NSO would be applied in the future. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Allowable Use 78 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Only allow geophysical exploration in James Mark Jones BCA if it can be demonstrated that backcountry characteristics would not be impacted in the long term. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS South Park MLP Management Action 1 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | When lands designated closed to leasing are being drained by surrounding development, allow areas designated as closed to fluid minerals leasing to be leased with a no surface occupancy stipulation. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| South Park MLP Management Action 2 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Require secondary containment around all crude oil, condensate and produced water (in excess of 3,500 milligram/liter [mg/l]) tanks with adequate volume to contain at least 150 percent volume of largest vessel within containment. | Require secondary containment around all crude oil, condensate and produced water (in excess of 3,500 mg/l) tanks with adequate volume to contain at least 150 percent volume of largest vessel within containment. | Require secondary containment around all crude oil, condensate and produced water (in excess of 3,500 mg/l) tanks with adequate volume to contain at least 150 percent volume of largest vessel within containment. |
| South Park MLP Management Action 3 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Require master development plans for field development applications for permits to drill. | No similar action. | Require master development plans for field development applications for permits to drill. |
| South Park MLP Management Action 4 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Develop Best Management Practices and Standard Operating Procedures as part of the Draft RMP/EIS. | Apply standard operating procedures. | Require the following best management practices as standard operating procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Require green completions where technically and economically feasible, in accordance with Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission regulations.• Use effective dust control methods which include compaction, surfacing, watering or application of other dust suppressant products, or a combination thereof.• Use multiple well pads and centralized production facilities where feasible.• Collocate roads, powerlines and pipelines where possible to minimize surface disturbance and habitat fragmentation.• Use primitive, two track roads where appropriate (where terrain and environmental conditions allow for exploratory wells and wells that will not have production facilities installed, depending on anticipated traffic type and volume). Upgrade roads if necessary for environmental and safety reasons. Construct and maintain upgraded roads using BLM Gold Book Standards.• Submit site-specific interim and final reclamation |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | All Landscapes | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape |
| | | | | <p>plans as part of Master Development Plan. Ongoing monitoring success of reclamation, and remedy reclamation if not successful. Do not release bonds until reclamation meets BLM standards. Use native species for revegetation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow applicable BLM Gold Book standards and guidelines for construction and reclamation related to oil and gas development, unless more effective practices are proposed.• Use an emission control device capable of achieving 95% control efficiency of volatile organic compounds on all crude oil, condensate, and produced water tanks with uncontrolled actual emissions of volatile organic compounds of 5 tons per year or greater.• Use Vapor Recovery Units on crude oil condensate and produced water tanks.• Install flash tank separators and optimize the circulation rate on glycol dehydrators.• Use gas compressors equipped with dry seals.• Require secondary containment for all liquid chemicals in excess of 50 gallons used in permanent equipment on oil and gas locations such as methanol, lube oil, fuel, etc.• Use rig mats where feasible in situations where it would likely enhance reclamation efforts.• Use location berming, liners (where appropriate), and secondary containment around liquid tanks on drilling pads for spill containment.• Use remote well monitoring and control (supervisory control and data acquisition [SCADA] or similar technology) to reduce wellsite visits, for quicker detection of potential problems, and the ability to quickly shut-in wells in the event of problem or natural disaster to prevent/minimize potential spills.• Apply feasible Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) enhanced best management practices for Elk in winter concentration areas, 5,090 acres located to the east and of Park Co Rd 53 in the southern most portion of the proposed MLP boundary. <p>Apply feasible CPW enhanced best management practices for Deer severe winter range and winter concentration areas, 52,156 acres located south of Spinney and Elevenmile reservoirs extending to the east and west of Highway 9 south of Hartsel.</p> |
| South Park MLP Management Action 5 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | No similar action. | Perform baseline monitoring of air quality in South Park, and continue work with partners to develop a long term monitoring program if there is significant Federal oil and gas development in MLP area. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| | All Landscapes | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape |
| South Park MLP Management Action 6 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Manage flaring in accordance with BLM venting and flaring regulations. | Manage flaring in accordance with BLM venting and flaring regulations. | Minimize flaring as much as is technically and economically feasible. Authorize flaring on a case by case basis. The BLM engineer will review requests and attach conditions of approval to any authorization. Operators must record volumes and amount of time flaring takes place, and submit the information to the BLM. Require enclosed incinerators in lieu of flare stacks for long term gas disposal where suitable to reduce visual and environmental impacts. |
| South Park MLP Management Action 7 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Include plans for reclamation for surface-disturbing activities. Site-specific reclamation plans should reflect the complexity of the project, environmental concerns, the reclamation potential of the site, and the ecological function of the area. | Require reclamation plans as needed or by law and design the plans to minimize resource degradation and stabilize the site. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Management Action 8 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | In disturbed areas, reestablish resilient, healthy native plant communities based on Natural Resources Conservation Service ecological site descriptions or current accepted standard on BLM-administered surface. | In disturbed areas, reestablish plant communities to facilitate resource objectives for commodity production. Reestablished plant communities may include nonnative species and their composition may differ from Natural Resources Conservation Service ecological site descriptions or current accepted standard on BLM-administered surface. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Management Action 9 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Protect soils from excessive compaction or rutting by implementing seasonal use restrictions where necessary. | Allow multiple uses to occur year round, while mitigating adverse effects from soil compaction or rutting. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Management Action 10 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Avoid land use authorizations and other permits within known threatened and endangered species habitat. Allow authorizations and permits only when they are shown to have no effect or have beneficial effects on threatened and endangered species or their habitat. | Avoid land use authorizations and other permits within known threatened and endangered species habitat. Allow authorizations and permits only when they are shown to not jeopardize threatened and endangered species or their habitat. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Management Action 11 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Attach the following Lease Notice: The lease area may now or here after contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. The BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further species conservation and management objectives. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| South Park MLP Management Action 12 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Require a biological inventory prior to approval of fluid mineral leasing operations in areas of known or suspected habitat of special status species, or habitat of other species of interest such as but not limited to raptor nests and migratory bird nests. The operator, in coordination with the BLM, shall use the inventory to prepare mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of affected species and/or their habitats. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| | <i>All Landscapes</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> | <i>South Park MLP Landscape</i> |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 13</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | For operators likely to deplete water from the South Platte Basin, the BLM recommends enrollment in the South Platte Water Related Activities Program to protect federally listed species that are likely to be adversely affected by water depletions in the South Platte Basin. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 14</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Implement best management practices for weed management for oil and gas operations. | Implement measures required by law and policy for weed management for oil and gas operations. | Require effective control of Colorado list A and B noxious weeds through reseeding, monitoring, and treatment. |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 15</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | No similar action. | If paleontological resources are discovered during construction on BLM surface, notify the BLM authorized officer. |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 16</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Attach lease notices, stipulations, and other requirements to permitted activities to prevent damage to paleontological resources. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 17</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | No similar action. | No similar action. | Require operators to inform employees, contractors and subcontractors about all relevant Federal, State and local regulations intended to protect archaeological and cultural resources. |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 18</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Manage visual resources on BLM lands in the MLP area according to the objectives for each class and designate VRM Class as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM I = 0 acres• VRM II = 53,400 acres• VRM III = 7,600 acres• VRM IV = 400 acres | Manage visual resources on BLM lands in the MLP area according to the objectives for each class and designate VRM Class as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM I = 0 acres• VRM II = 50,800 acres• VRM III = 9,600 acres• VRM IV = 1,000 acres | Manage visual resources on BLM lands in the MLP area according to the objectives for each class and designate VRM Class as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VRM I = 0 acres• VRM II = 53400 acres• VRM III = 7,600 acres• VRM IV = 400 acres |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 19</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Special design, construction and implementation measures including relocation of operations by more than 200 meters may be required within Class II and III areas to protect the quality of the scenic values. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 20</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Manage special recreation management areas under VRM Class II objectives to support recreation management objectives. Allow for recreation site development while taking into consideration impacts to visual resources including careful location of permanent facilities, necessary cuts and fills, appropriate colors, etc. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 21</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Prevent or reduce impacts to dark night skies by using best management practices that reduce skyward projection lighting, minimizing illumination and offsite projection of lighting, and by designing required lighting to be downward directing. | As feasible, reduce impacts to dark night skies by reducing skyward projection lighting, minimizing illumination and offsite projection of lighting, and by designing required lighting to be downward directing. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 22</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | When possible, collocate facilities and associated infrastructure to minimize overall visual impacts. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Park MLP Management Action 23</i> | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | Manage byway viewshed corridors on BLM-administered surface lands as VRM Class II. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| | All Landscapes | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape | South Park MLP Landscape |
| South Park MLP Management Action 24 | There is no existing MLP, but actions in the fluid minerals section would apply (see Table 47). | In areas where no existing water wells are located on BLM-administered surface, the installation of monitoring wells may be required for fluid minerals development. | No similar action. | In areas where no existing water wells are located on BLM-administered surface, the installation of monitoring wells may be required for fluid minerals development. |

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5.3 Special Designations

Special designations addressed in the ECRMP are ACECs, national and State scenic byways, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness areas and wilderness study areas (WSAs). The maps in Appendix M show proposed special designation areas under each alternative.

5.3.1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

The following ACEC issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the BLM manage new and existing areas that meet the relevance and importance criteria for ACEC designations?
2. How will interesting geologic features be documented and managed within the planning area (e.g., Spanish Peaks igneous dikes)? (Addressed in the ACEC Relevance and Importance report available from the Documents and Reports page on the ECRMP project website: <http://on.doi.gov/1HVULcA>).
3. How will the RMP alternatives consider the following areas as ACECs?
 - a. Arkansas Canyonlands
 - b. Arkansas River Corridor (north of the Arkansas River between Parkdale and Salida)
 - c. Beaver Creek (expansion of existing ACEC)
 - d. Birdseye
 - e. Castle Garden (near Salida)
 - f. Cotopaxi
 - g. Cucharas Canyon (expansion of existing ACEC)
 - h. Dikes of the Spanish Peaks
 - i. Droney Gulch
 - j. Garden Park (expansion of existing ACEC)
 - k. Grape Creek
 - l. Mosquito Pass (expansion of existing ACEC)
 - m. Mt. Mestas
 - n. Mt. Ouray to Poncha Drainages (south and west of Poncha Springs)
 - o. North Raton Basin

- p. Phantom (northeast of Cañon City)
- q. Reinecker Ridge
- r. South Badger

5.3.1.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of lands and realty within the planning area include:

- Designation of Areas (43 CFR 1610.7)
- BLM Manual 1613 – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

5.3.1.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.3.1.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Areas of Critical of Environmental Concern (ACECs) are special management areas designated by the Bureau of Land Management to protect significant historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; natural process or systems; and/or natural hazards that:

- have more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource;
- have qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change;
- have been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act;
- have qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare; and/or
- pose a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

Table 54 identifies management for all ACECs across the alternatives. Tables 55 to 65 contain allowable uses and management actions for existing and proposed ACECs.

Table 54. Comparison of Alternatives: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>ACEC Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Within all special designation lands, maintain healthy and diverse vegetation communities through active and ongoing project-based management. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>ACEC Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Manage areas of special designation that contain important values that are currently unprotected. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Designate special areas (ACECs, BCAs, etc.) to protect key resource and address community vision. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>ACEC Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs. | Minimize designations that would place restrictions on development. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>ACEC Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Designate ACECs to protect areas and prevent irreparable damage to resources or natural systems for special status or priority species habitat, sensitive plants, critical wildlife habitat, research natural areas, and places of Native American Cultural and Religious importance. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Designate all or portions of the Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek, Arkansas Canyonlands, Droney Gulch, Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek, and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and manage them to protect and enhance their special values (Appendix M, Map M-1). | Designate the following ACECs (Appendix M, Map M-2): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas Canyonlands (23,700 acres)• Cucharas Canyon (6,100 acres)• Droney Gulch (700 acres)• Garden Park (3,100 acres)• Grape Creek (16,600 acres)• Ruby Mountain/Railroad Gulch (1,800 acres)• South Pikes Peak (40,500 acres)• Top of the World (8,700 acres) | Designate the following ACECs (Appendix M, Map M-3): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas Canyonlands (23,700 acres)• Beaver Creek (12,100 acres)• Cucharas Canyon (1,400 acres)• Garden Park (2,700 acres)• Grape Creek (16,600 acres)• Phantom Canyon (6,400 acres)• Ruby Mountain/Railroad Gulch (1,800 acres)• Top of the World (Mosquito Pass existing) (4,200 acres) | No similar action. | Designate the following ACECs (Appendix M, Map M-4): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas Canyonlands (23,700 acres)• Castle Gardens (300 acres)• Droney Gulch (700 acres)• Garden Park (3,100 acres)• Grape Creek (16,600 acres)• Ruby Mountain/Railroad Gulch (1,800 acres)• South Pikes Peak (40,500 acres)• Top of the World (8,700 acres) | Designate the following ACECs (Appendix M, Map M-4): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cucharas Canyon (6,100 acres) | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>ACEC Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | See management actions for each ACEC. | Management common to all ACECs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ROW avoidance area• Restrict vehicles and bicycles to designated roads and trails• Retain in public ownership• Allow vegetation management for the enhancement of special values• Prohibit fuelwood permits | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>ACEC Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | Include all ACECs as part of an integrated activity plan, which will be completed during the early years of RMP plan implementation. This plan will replace and supersede any multiple overlapping single use activity plans completed on the same area. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>ACEC Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | Future areas may be nominated, screened, and recommended. Prepare an environmental assessment/plan amendment for future designated areas. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

Table 55. Comparison of Alternatives: Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| | Northeast Resource Management Plan (RMP) Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES | | | | | |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 1 | No similar action. | Allow fluid minerals leasing on portions of Mosquito Pass and Arkansas Canyonlands with a no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation. | Prohibit surface disturbance and occupancy for fluid mineral development to protect relevance and importance values. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 2 | No similar action. | Prohibit mineral materials development. | Allow for mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated relevance and importance values are not significantly impacted. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to renewable energy development. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 4 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 5 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 6 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 7 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Northeast Resource Management Plan (RMP) Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 9 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 10 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 11 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest site (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 12 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 13 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 14 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied golden eagle nest site until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 15 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of a peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complex to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 16 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of a peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complex to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| | Northeast Resource Management Plan (RMP) Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 17 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied peregrine falcon nest site until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Allowable Use 18 | No similar action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit or exclude livestock grazing in some areas and adjusted on other areas• Allow timber harvesting and wood gathering only for enhancement of protected values• Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry• Retention in public ownership• Limit off-highway vehicle (OHV) use to designated roads and trails• Close OHV use within the Wilderness Study Area (WSA) portions of ACECs | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Management Action 1 | No similar action. | Designate all or portions of Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek, Arkansas Canyonlands , Droney Gulch, Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek, and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and manage them to protect and enhance their special values. | Designate the Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC including all of the High Mesa (Instant Wilderness Study Area) Resource Natural Area (23,700 acres). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Management Action 2 | No similar action. | Avoid visual resource management (VRM) class II for major rights-of-way (ROWs). | Manage as VRM Class II. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Management Action 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Only allow vegetation treatments for the benefit of the identified relevant and important values. Emphasize activities that proactively protect or enhance vegetative diversity. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Management Action 4 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Seek opportunities to acquire and incorporate any non-Federal land within ACEC boundary. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Management Action 5 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Minimize habitat fragmentation during travel management planning by considering road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas and winter ranges to provide protection of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC Management Action 6 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities to protect migration and movement corridors for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. | Same as Alternative C. |

Table 56. Comparison of Alternatives: Beaver Creek ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | Mineral materials development will not occur. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Close to mineral material disposal and permits. Waive restrictions on commercial mineral materials disposal on a case-by-case basis if the restriction will result in a larger cumulative impact to the resource of concern than avoidance. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 9 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 10 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied golden eagle nest sites until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 11 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 12 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 13 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied peregrine falcon nest sites until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 14 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within a 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest sites to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 15 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within a 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest sites to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 16 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 17</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Allowable Use 18</i> | No similar action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit or exclude livestock grazing in some areas and adjusted on other areas• Allow timber harvesting and wood gathering only for enhancement of protected values• Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry• Avoid VRM class II for major ROWs• Retention in public ownership• Limit OHV use to designated roads and trails• Close OHV use within the WSA portions of ACECs | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</i> <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Designate all or portions of Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek, Arkansas Canyonlands, Droney Gulch, Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek , and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and manage them to protect and enhance their special values. | Do not re-designate the Beaver Creek ACEC. The existing Beaver Creek ACEC would be encompassed by the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Re-designate the existing Beaver Creek ACEC (12,100 acres). | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Minimize habitat fragmentation during travel management planning by considering road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas and winter ranges to provide protection of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Beaver Creek ACEC Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities to protect migration and movement corridors for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. | No similar action. Beaver Creek ACEC would be incorporated in to the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |

Table 57. Comparison of Alternatives: Castle Gardens ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Castle Gardens ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. |
| <i>Castle Gardens ACEC Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat, excluding designated routes and ROWs, and the west-wide energy corridor. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Castle Gardens ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Do not designate Castle Gardens as an ACEC. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Do not designate Castle Gardens as an ACEC. | Designate Castle Gardens as an ACEC (300 acres). |

Table 58. Comparison of Alternatives: Cucharas Canyon ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Cucharas Canyon ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry• Prohibit mineral materials development• Retention in public ownership• Limit OHV use to designated roads and trails | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Cucharas Canyon ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Designate all or portions of Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek, Arkansas Canyonlands, Droney Gulch, Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek, and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and will be managed to protect and enhance their special values. | Designate the Cucharas Canyon ACEC with an expanded boundary (6,100 acres). | Do not re-designate the Cucharas Canyon ACEC (1,400 acres). | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Cucharas Canyon ACEC Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | Avoid VRM class II for major ROWs. | Manage 6,100 acres as VRM Class II. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 59. Comparison of Alternatives: Droney Gulch ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Droney Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | Prohibit mineral materials development. | Close to mineral material disposal. Waive restrictions on commercial mineral materials disposal on a case-by-case basis if the restriction will result in a larger cumulative impact to the resource of concern than avoidance. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Droney Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within the Droney Gulch ACEC to protect Bureau sensitive plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Droney Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities except existing roads and ROWs within the Droney Gulch ACEC to protect to protect Bureau sensitive plant species. Consider expansion of the existing ROW east of the ACEC to collocate utilities. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Droney Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit livestock grazing• Adjust grazing stocking rates and season-of-use on the Droney Gulch ACEC (705 acres)• Allow timber harvesting and wood gathering only for enhancement of protected values• Allow fluid minerals leasing on portions with a NSO stipulation• Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry• Avoid VRM class II for major ROWs• Retention in public ownership• Limit OHV use to designated roads and trails | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Droney Gulch ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Designate all or portions of Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek, Arkansas Canyonlands, Droney Gulch , Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek, and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and manage them to protect and enhance their special values. | Re-designate the Droney Gulch ACEC (700 acres). | Do not re-designate the Droney Gulch ACEC. | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 60. Comparison of Alternatives: Garden Park ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Garden Park ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | Allow fluid minerals leasing with a NSO stipulation in the Garden Park ACEC. | Prohibit surface disturbance and occupancy for fluid mineral development to protect relevance and importance values. | Surface occupancy or use for fluid mineral development may be restricted to protect relevance and importance values. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Garden Park ACEC Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Garden Park ACEC Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat, excluding designated routes and ROW, or for scientific exploration and educational purposes. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Garden Park ACEC Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to target shooting once an area suitable for target shooting has been determined. | No similar action. Follow current target shooting restrictions. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Garden Park ACEC Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Limit camping to designated sites within the ACEC. Camping could be restricted as conditions warrant. | Camping could be restricted as conditions warrant. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Garden Park ACEC Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjust grazing stocking rates and season-of use on the Garden Park ACEC (2,728 acres)• Limit or exclude livestock grazing in some areas and adjusted on other areas• Allow timber harvesting and wood gathering only for enhancement of protected values• Prohibit mineral materials development except in Garden Park where it will be allowed if it enhances fossil values• Avoid VRM class II for major ROWs• Retention in public ownership• Limit OHV use to designated roads and trails• Close OHV use within the WSA portions of ACECs | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Garden Park ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Designate all or portions of Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek, Arkansas Canyonlands, Droney Gulch, Garden Park , Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek, and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and manage them to protect and enhance their special values. | Re-designate the Garden Park ACEC with an expansion to match the National Natural Landmark boundary (3,100 acres). | Re-designate the Garden Park ACEC (2,700 acres). | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Garden Park ACEC Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Conduct annual inventories of paleo resources in Garden Park ACEC. Use partnerships to support this effort. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Garden Park ACEC Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Maintain a local repository for Federal fossils particularly focusing on fossils from the Garden Park Fossil Area. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Garden Park ACEC Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Require pre-field work survey for all ground disturbing activity in the Garden Park ACEC and will likely be followed by monitoring by an authorized/certified paleontologist when disturbance to bed rock is proposed. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Garden Park ACEC Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry. | Recommend locatable minerals be withdrawn from entry to minimize impacts to paleontological resources, flora, and fauna. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 61. Comparison of Alternatives: Grape Creek ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | Limit livestock grazing. | Close the larger livestock grazing section that encompasses the portions of the following allotments: Close Copper Gulch Common, Grape Creek and Temple Canyon to protect the riparian resources. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 9 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 10 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied peregrine falcon nest sites until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| Grape Creek ACEC Allowable Use 11 | No similar action. | Manage a portion of the designated ACEC with special management as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow timber harvesting and wood gathering only for enhancement of protected values• Lease fluid minerals with NSO stipulations• Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry and mineral materials disposal• Retention in public ownership• Close certain areas to OHV use• Certain areas are restricted for OHVs with use limited to designated roads and trails• OHV use closed within the WSA portions of ACECs | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS Grape Creek ACEC Management Action 1 | No similar action. | Designate all or portions of Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek , Arkansas Canyonlands, Droney Gulch, Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek, and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and manage them to protect and enhance their special values. | Redesignate the Grape Creek ACEC (16,600 acres). | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| Grape Creek ACEC Management Action 2 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Minimize habitat fragmentation during travel management planning by considering road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas and winter ranges to provide protection of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods. | Same as Alternative C. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Grape Creek ACEC Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities to protect migration and movement corridors for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. | Same as Alternative C. |

Table 62. Comparison of Alternatives: Phantom Canyon ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Phantom Canyon ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within a 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest sites to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon ACEC Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers or within a 0.5-mile radius of roost or nest sites to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon ACEC Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon ACEC Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon ACEC Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon ACEC Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |
| <i>Phantom Canyon ACEC Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit or exclude livestock grazing will be in some areas and adjusted on other areas• Allow timber harvesting and wood gathering only for enhancement of protected values• Avoid VRM class II for major ROWs.• Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry• Prohibit mineral materials development• Retention in public ownership• Limit OHV use to designated roads and trails• Close OHV use within the WSA portions of ACECs | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. | No similar action. | No similar action. Phantom Canyon ACEC is incorporated into the South Pikes Peak ACEC. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Phantom Canyon ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Designate All or portions of Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek, Arkansas Canyonlands, Droney Gulch, Garden Park, Phantom Canyon , Beaver Creek, and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and manage them to protect and enhance their special values. | Do not re-designate the existing Phantom Canyon ACEC, but have it be part of the larger South Pikes Peak ACEC. | Re-designate the Phantom Canyon ACEC (6,400 acres). | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 63. Comparison of Alternatives: Ruby Mountain/Railroad Gulch ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES | | | | | |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nests with all or part of nest remaining. |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 8</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 9</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied golden eagle nest sites until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 10</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 11</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 12</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied peregrine falcon nest sites until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Allowable Use 13</i> | No similar action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit or exclude livestock grazing in some areas and adjusted on other areas• Avoid VRM class II for major ROWs.• Allow timber harvesting and wood gathering only for enhancement of protected values• Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry• Prohibit mineral materials development• Retention in public ownership• Limit OHV use to designated roads and trails• Close OHV use within the WSA portions of ACECs | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</i> <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Designate all or portions of Browns Canyon , Mosquito Pass, Grape Creek, Arkansas Canyonlands, Droney Gulch, Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek, and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and manage them to protect and enhance their special values. | Redesignate the areas of the current Browns Canyon ACEC that are not with the Browns Canyon National Monument as an ACEC (to be renamed Ruby Mountain/Railroad Gulch) (1,800 acres). | Do not redesignate the areas of the current Browns Canyon ACEC that are not within the Browns Canyon National Monument as an ACEC. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Minimize habitat fragmentation during travel management planning by considering road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas and winter ranges to provide protection of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods. |
| <i>Ruby Mountain/ Railroad Gulch ACEC Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities to protect migration and movement corridors for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. |

Table 64. Comparison of Alternatives: South Pikes Peak ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape |
| South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 8 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.25-mile radius of golden eagle occupied nest sites (used within the last 5 years) to maintain the integrity sites and surrounding habitat; or within 328 feet of unoccupied nest with all or part of nest remaining. |
| South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 9 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. |
| South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 10 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile buffer around golden eagle nest sites from December 15 to July 15 to protect nesting, nest-centered courtship, nest attentiveness and construction or repair, egg-laying, incubation, feeding of nestlings, and post-fledging use of the nest. |
| South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 11 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied golden eagle nest sites until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. |
| South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 12 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. |
| South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 13 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 0.5-mile radius of peregrine falcon cliff-nesting complexes to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat. |
| South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 14 | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Prohibit rock climbing within 0.25-mile radius and 0.5-mile line-of-sight of occupied peregrine falcon nest sites until the nest has fledged or is inactive to maintain the integrity of the site and surrounding habitat. |
| South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 15 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to commercial mineral material disposal. Waive restrictions on commercial mineral materials disposal on a case-by-case basis if the restriction will result in a larger cumulative impact to the resource of concern than avoidance. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 16 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to fluid mineral leasing. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development to protect ACEC values. |

Comparison of Alternatives

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 17</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to solid mineral leasing. | No similar action. | Open to solid mineral leasing, if it can be demonstrated that it will not impact scenic and fauna values. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 18</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close to renewable energy development. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 19</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Only allow vegetation treatments for the identified relevant and important wildlife and plant values, public safety and protection and maintenance of ROWs. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 20</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close area (ROW exclusion) to military training, including areas for high altitude mountain environment training. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Allowable Use 21</i> | No similar action | No similar action | Close portions of the ACEC to livestock grazing (8,200 acres). | No similar action | Close portions of the ACEC to livestock grazing (5,400 acres). |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Designate the South Pikes Peak ACEC (40,500 acres). | Do not designate the South Pikes Peak ACEC. Existing ACECs within the South Pikes Peak ACEC would be re-designated. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Minimize habitat fragmentation during travel management planning by considering road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas (Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and elk), and winter ranges (Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range, mule deer severe winter range, elk winter concentration areas and severe winter range, pronghorn winter concentration areas, and moose winter range) to provide protection of big game production areas and winter ranges from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | No similar action. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities to protect migration and movement corridors for mule deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and elk. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow surface-disturbing activities that do not impact the scenic and fauna values. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>South Pikes Peak ACEC Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow new permanent or temporary roads if they would not significantly adversely affect the scenic and wildlife values. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. |

Table 65. Comparison of Alternatives: Top of the World ACEC

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape (Mosquito Pass ACEC)</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | Limit or exclude livestock grazing in some areas and adjusted on other areas. | Close to livestock grazing. | Open to livestock grazing. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within a 656-foot buffer from the edge of habitat of federally listed and Bureau sensitive plant species to protect plant species from direct and indirect impacts and loss of habitat. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods for big game winter range: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter range – November 1 to April 15 | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities during the following time periods to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period in mapped big game production areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production (lambing) areas – April 15 to June 30 | Same as Alternative C. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape (Mosquito Pass ACEC)</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 8</i> | No similar action. | Timber harvesting and wood gathering will be allowed only for enhancement of protected values. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Do not allow forest treatments primarily focused on commercial timber harvest and over-snow motorized travel within Canada lynx habitat in Lynx Analysis Units. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 9</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Designate Canada lynx landscape linkages as a ROW avoidance area (including renewable energy sites such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass development). | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 10</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.5 mile of identified breeding sites of Bureau sensitive amphibians. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 11</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Avoid all surface-disturbing activities within 0.5 mile of identified breeding sites of Bureau sensitive amphibians. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Allowable Use 12</i> | No similar action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow Fluid minerals leasing on portions of Mosquito Pass and Arkansas Canyonlands with an NSO stipulation• Avoid VRM class II for major ROWs• Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry• Prohibit mineral materials development• Limit OHV use to designated roads and trails• Close OHV use within the WSA portions of ACECs | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Top of the World ACEC Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Designate all or portions of Browns Canyon, Mosquito Pass (i.e., Top of the World ACEC) , Grape Creek, Arkansas Canyonlands, Droney Gulch, Garden Park, Phantom Canyon, Beaver Creek, and Cucharas Canyon as ACECs and manage them to protect and enhance their special values. | Designate the Top of the World ACEC using an expanded boundary (8,700 acres). | Designate the Top of the World ACEC using the existing boundaries (4,200 acres). | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Emphasize this area for inventory of cultural resources and proactive cultural resource research. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | Retain in public ownership. | Retain all lands within the ACEC. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape (Mosquito Pass ACEC)</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Minimize habitat fragmentation during travel management planning by considering road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas and winter ranges to provide protection of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Top of the World ACEC Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. Existing Alternative B management actions would apply. | Mitigate surface use and surface-disturbing activities to protect migration and movement corridors for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. | Same as Alternative C. |

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5.3.2 Backcountry Conservation Areas

The following issues pertaining to backcountry conservation areas were identified by the public, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the BLM incorporate and manage backcountry conservation areas “for safeguarding important intact and undeveloped fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing lands” or “backcountry lands”³ that are not adequately conserved by existing management tools?
2. How will the RMP alternatives consider the following proposed backcountry conservation areas (Table 66)?

Table 66. Publicly Proposed Backcountry Conservation Areas

| Geographic Area | Proposed BCAs |
|---|---------------------------|
| South Park/Northern Arkansas River Valley | James Mark Jones Adjacent |
| | Fourmile Creek |
| | Red Hill |
| | Mosquito Pass West |
| | Mosquito Pass East |
| | Granite |
| Southern Arkansas River Valley | Cottonwood |
| | Baldy |
| | Badger Creek |
| | Arkansas Mountain |
| | Deadmans Hill |
| | Hindman Gulch |
| | Waugh Mountain |
| | Cottonwood West |
| | Cottonwood East |
| | Hammond |
| | Wormer Gulch |
| | Crampton Mountain |
| | Iron Mountain |
| Cripple Creek | Eightmile Mountain |
| | Cooper Mountain |

³ Royal Gorge Field Office Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan Scoping Comments – Sportsmen Backcountry Conservation Area Proposal, July 31, 2015

| Geographic Area | Proposed BCAs |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| La Veta/Sangre de Cristo | Oak Creek |
| | Gardner |
| | Silver Mountain |
| | Badito |
| | Little Sheep Mountain |
| | Point of Rocks |
| | South Huerfano |
| | North Huerfano |
| | Mount Mestas |
| | Wolf Springs |

5.3.2.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

No legal or policy mandates are in place for backcountry conservation areas.

5.3.2.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.3.2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 67 identifies management for backcountry conservation areas across the alternatives.

Table 67. Comparison of Alternatives: Backcountry Conservation Areas

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>BCA Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Maintain healthy and diverse vegetation communities through active and ongoing project-based management within all special designation lands. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>BCA Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Manage areas for potential special designation that contain important backcountry values that are currently unprotected. | No similar resource goal. | Identify qualifying lands for special designations. | Designate special areas (ACECs, BCAs, etc.) to protect key resource and address community vision. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>BCA Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs. | Minimize designations that would place restrictions on development. | No similar resource goal. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>BCA Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Manage BLM lands within the BCAs to meet Standard 3 of the <i>Colorado Public Land Health Standards</i> (BLM 1997). The objective is for 100% of BLM-administered lands to meet this Standard. | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No resource objective. |
| <i>BCA Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Within BCAs, participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below by BCA (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No resource objective. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>BCA Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close BCAs to cross-country over-snow motorized travel. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Designate BCAs as ROW avoidance areas. New rights-of-way would be collocated with existing | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | utilities/disturbance; BMPs and/or mitigation measures (e.g., buried utilities) may be considered to address impacts to recreation and wildlife resources. | | | | | |
| <i>BCA Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Retain BCAs for long term management. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow for mineral material disposal only if it can be demonstrated that hunting/fishing and wildlife habitat values and access are not significantly impacted. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow for non-energy solid leasable minerals only if it can be demonstrated that hunting/fishing and wildlife habitat values and access are not significantly impacted. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes. When completing TMPs or amending existing travel management plans consider road density to reduce habitat fragmentation. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Allowable Use 7</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy and use for fluid mineral activities to protect backcountry values. If currently leased, when the lease expires, an NSO would be applied in the future. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Allowable Use 8</i> | No similar action. | Exemptions may be granted to the road and trail restrictions for BLM employees to perform administrative tasks, and for others who are authorized through grazing permits, timber sale contracts, etc., to conduct business on BLM-administered lands. | Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>BCA Allowable Use 9</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow for the placement of range improvements with an attempt to minimize impacts to hunting/fishing and wildlife values. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Allowable Use 10</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow geophysical exploration if it can be demonstrated that backcountry characteristics would not be impacted in the long term. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>BCA Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage 62,600 acres as BCAs to protect wildlife habitat and provide outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities (Appendix L, Map L-1). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Badito (5,200 acres)• Cottonwood (4,100 acres)• Crampton Mountain (4,800 acres)• Deadmans Hill (3,300 acres)• Hammond (4,200 acres)• James Mark Jones (10,900 acres)• Mount Mestas (3,800 acres)• North Huerfano (2,600 acres)• Oak Creek (2,800 acres)• Point of Rocks (1,000 acres)• Red Hill (1,800 acres)• Rye Slough (2,600 acres)• Silver Mountain (2,000 acres)• Wolf Springs (4,600 acres)• Wormer Gulch (8,900 acres) | Do not designate BCAs. | No similar action. | Manage 70,000 acres as BCAs to protect wildlife habitat and provide outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities (Appendix L, Map L-2). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooper Mountain (18,600 acres)• Crampton Mountain (4,800 acres)• Deadmans Hill (3,300 acres)• Eightmile Mountain (18,600 acres)• Hindman (11,300 acres)• South Badger (6,800 acres)• Waugh Mountain (6,600 acres) | Manage 52,500 acres as BCAs to protect wildlife habitat and provide outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities (Appendix L, Map L-2). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cottonwood (4,100 acres)• Hammond (4,200 acres)• James Mark Jones (10,900 acres)• Mount Mestas (3,800 acres)• Oak Creek (2,800 acres)• Red Hill (1,800 acres)• Rye Slough (2,600 acres)• Silver Mountain (2,000 acres)• South Huerfano (6,800 acres)• Wolf Springs (4,600 acres)• Wormer Gulch (8,900 acres) | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Allow forest restoration treatments including but not limited to density management to improve forest health and diversity, | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | wildlife habitat, post disturbance salvage to reduce fuel loads, and mistletoe removal so long as the treatments do not have adverse impacts on long term natural values. | | | | | |
| <i>BCA Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Pursue fuels/vegetation treatments that improve wildlife habitat within Backcountry Conservation Areas. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage as VRM Class II. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close and restore routes that have been closed through TMPs and are not needed for administrative purposes to improve wildlife habitat. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |
| <i>BCA Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Work to provide or improve public access to facilitate backcountry hunting and/or fishing values. Ensure that wildlife habitat values and primitive values are considered when considering new/improved access. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. |

5.3.3 National and State Scenic Byways

No national and State scenic byway issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping.

5.3.3.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of national and State scenic byways within the planning area include:

- National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads Programs (FHWA No date)
- BLM Handbook 8357-1 – Byways

5.3.3.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.3.3.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 68 identifies management for national and State scenic byways across the alternatives.

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Table 68. Comparison of Alternatives: National and State Scenic Byways

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Byways Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Identify scenic or national back county byways and develop management to maintain resource values. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Byways Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Within all special designation lands, maintain healthy and diverse vegetation communities through active and ongoing project-based management. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Byways Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Identify areas for potential special designation that contain important values that are currently unprotected. | No similar resource goal. | Identify qualifying lands for special designations. | Designate special areas (ACECs, BCAs, etc.) to protect key resource and address community vision. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Byways Resource Goal 4</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs. | Minimize designations that would place restrictions on development. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Byways Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Work with communities, non-profit and others based on management strategies identified in Corridor Management Plans. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Byways Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Protect the scenic qualities of the byway using tools such as the visual resource management criteria. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Byways Objective 3</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Market byways to meet community desires using various types of mediums. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Byways Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.5 mile of byways. | Open to fluid mineral leasing subject to standard stipulations and best management practices. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Byways Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Avoid ROW within 0.5 mile of byways. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Byways Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Do not designate new BLM Backcountry Byways. | Through subsequent plan amendments, develop new backcountry byways in collaboration with local communities, interested publics and tribes to promote tourism and enhance the local economy. | No similar action. | Through subsequent plan amendments, designate new backcountry byways after a complete analysis of the impacts of increased visitor use to remote areas, in collaboration with local, State government, conservation groups, and other interested public. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |
| <i>Byways Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Continue to work with local partners to manage the existing byways in accordance to the approved byway corridor plans. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Byways Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | High Plains: Provide education and interpretation on BLM surface lands along byways that will focus on ecosystem values and natural communities. Southern Rockies: Provide education and interpretation on BLM surface lands along byways that will focus on ecosystem values and natural communities. Southwestern Tablelands: No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Education and interpretation on BLM surface on byways will focus on byway plans. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |
| <i>Byways Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Encourage consistency with national scenic byway plans on Federal action occurring on BLM public lands. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Byways Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | High Plains: No similar action. Southern Rockies: Manage byway viewshed corridors on BLM-administered surface lands as VRM Class II. Southwestern Tablelands: No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage byway viewshed corridors on BLM-administered surface as VRM Class II. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar action. |
| <i>Byways Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage byways using Visual Resource Management criteria to protect scenic values. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| Byways Management Action 7 | No similar action. | No similar action. | High Plains and Southern Rockies: Provide interpretation and education for the public using various types of media (i.e., brochures, interpretive signs, books, video, etc.) Southwestern Tablelands: No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.3.4 Wild and Scenic Rivers

The following wild and scenic river issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. Which eligible river segments are suitable or not suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System?
2. Which segments are found suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, and what management is required to protect the values while minimizing restrictions on other resource uses?

5.3.4.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of wild and scenic rivers within the planning area include:

- Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287)
- BLM Manual 6400, Wild and Scenic Rivers

5.3.4.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.3.4.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 69 identifies management for wild and scenic rivers across the alternatives.

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Table 69. Comparison of Alternatives: Wild and Scenic Rivers

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>WSR Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Within all special designation lands, maintain healthy and diverse vegetation communities through active and ongoing project-based management. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>WSR Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Manage special areas (ACECs, BCAs, etc.) to protect key resources and address ecosystem function. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Manage special areas (ACECs, BCAs, etc.) to protect key resources and address community vision. | Manage special areas (ACECs, BCAs, etc.) to protect key resources and address community vision. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>WSR Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs. | Minimize designations that would place restrictions on development. | No similar resource goal. | Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>WSR Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | No resource objective. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>WSR Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Close 19 segments that are suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS to oil and gas leasing. | Open 19 segments determined not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS to oil and gas leasing subject to standard stipulations. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | Close 5 segments that are suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS to oil and gas leasing. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. |
| <i>WSR Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development within 0.5 mile of the ordinary high water mark or other preliminary or final boundary of identified eligible or suitable WSR study corridors, as defined in the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report, of the segments classified as “Wild.” | No similar action. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | No similar action. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. |
| <i>WSR Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.5 mile of the ordinary high water mark or other preliminary or final boundary of identified eligible or suitable WSR study corridors, as defined in the Wild and Scenic | No similar action. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | Restrict surface use for fluid mineral development within 0.25 mile of the ordinary high water mark or other preliminary or final boundary of identified eligible or suitable WSR study corridors, as defined in the Wild and Scenic | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | River Suitability Report, of segments classified as “Scenic” or “Recreational.” | | | River Suitability Report, of the segments classified as “Scenic” or “Recreational.” | | |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>WSR Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | <p>The Arkansas River Segments 1-4 and Beaver Creek are suitable for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System (Appendix M, Map M-5). Recommend to Congress that the Arkansas River corridor from Leadville to Pueblo Reservoir be designated and managed as a National Recreation Area to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revocation of existing waterpower/reservoir withdrawals• Initiation of protective withdrawals on the corridor | <p>Determine the following 19 eligible segments as suitable for designation, and apply interim protective management (Appendix M, Map M-6):</p> <p>The stream segments below are grouped according to the stream’s classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which refers to the existing level of development in the stream corridor.</p> <p>Recreational Classification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas River (segments 1-3) – recreation, scenery, wildlife, botany, fish, and cultural Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) (42 BLM miles)• Arkansas River (segment 4) – recreation, scenery, and wildlife ORVs (3 BLM miles)• East Fork Arkansas River – botany ORV (3.5 BLM miles)• Eightmile Creek – scenery, recreation, botany, and cultural ORVs (14 BLM miles)• Fourmile Creek – paleontology, scenery, recreation and botany ORVs (10 BLM miles)• Grape Creek (segment 3) – recreation and scenery ORVs (4 BLM miles)• Pass Creek – botany ORV (1.5 BLM miles) <p>Scenic Classification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beaver Creek – recreation, scenery, and | <p>Determine the following 19 eligible segments as not suitable for designation, and release them from interim protective management afforded eligible segments. This concludes the suitability study phase for these segments:</p> <p>The stream segments below are grouped according to the stream’s classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which refers to the existing level of development in the stream corridor.</p> <p>Recreational Classification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas River (segments 1-3) – recreation, scenery, wildlife, botany, fish, and cultural ORVs (42 BLM miles)• Arkansas River (segment 4) – recreation, scenery, and wildlife ORVs (3 BLM miles)• East Fork Arkansas River – botany ORV (3.5 BLM miles)• Eightmile Creek – scenery, recreation, botany, and cultural ORVs (14 BLM miles)• Fourmile Creek – paleontology, scenery, recreation and botany ORVs (10 BLM miles)• Grape Creek (segment 3) – recreation and scenery ORVs (4 BLM miles)• Pass Creek – botany ORV (1.5 BLM miles) <p>Scenic Classification</p> | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | <p>Determine the following 5 eligible segments as suitable for designation, and apply interim protective management (Appendix M, Map M-7):</p> <p>The stream segments below are grouped according to the stream’s classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which refers to the existing level of development in the stream corridor.</p> <p>Recreational Classification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas River (segments 1-3) – recreation, scenery, wildlife, botany, fish, and cultural ORVs (42 BLM miles)• Arkansas River (segment 4) – recreation, scenery, and wildlife ORVs (3 BLM miles)• Eightmile Creek – scenery, recreation, botany, and cultural ORVs | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | botany ORVs (0.3 BLM miles) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• East Gulch – botany ORV (4.4 BLM miles)• Falls Gulch – hydrology and botany ORVs (0.1 BLM miles)• Grape Creek (segment 1) – recreation and scenery ORVs (3 BLM miles) Wild Classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cottonwood Creek – botany ORV (6 BLM miles)• East Beaver Creek – recreation and scenery ORVs (2 BLM miles)• Grape Creek (segment 2) – recreation, scenery, and wildlife ORVs (13 BLM miles)• Little High Creek – botany ORV (1.8 BLM miles)• Red Creek – botany ORV (1.6 BLM miles)• West Beaver Creek – recreation, scenery, and botany ORVs (0.3 BLM miles) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beaver Creek – recreation, scenery, and botany ORVs (0.3 BLM miles)• East Gulch – botany ORV (4.4 BLM miles)• Falls Gulch – hydrology and botany ORVs (0.1 BLM miles)• Grape Creek (segment 1) – recreation and scenery ORVs (3 BLM miles) Wild Classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cottonwood Creek – botany ORV (6 BLM miles)• East Beaver Creek – recreation and scenery ORVs (2 BLM miles)• Grape Creek (segment 2) – recreation, scenery, and wildlife ORVs (13 BLM miles)• Little High Creek – botany ORV (1.8 BLM miles)• Red Creek – botany ORV (1.6 BLM miles)• West Beaver Creek – recreation, scenery, and botany ORVs (0.3 BLM miles) | | | | |
| WSR Management Action 2 | No similar action. | Protect all eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers segments’ river values (free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs) and tentative classification on a case-by case basis until suitability/non-suitability decisions are made. | Apply interim protective management guidelines until suitable segments are designated or released to multiple use by Congress: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve no actions altering the free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs of the eligible segments through impoundments, channeling, or rip-rapping.• Approve no actions that would modify the setting or level of development of | Do not apply interim protective management guidelines for segments determined not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | Same as Alternative B, except that land authorization exclusions would not apply because no suitable segments are classified as Wild under this Alternative. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | <p>an eligible river segment to a degree that would change its tentative classification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve no actions that would significantly degrade the water quality in the segment that is necessary to support the ORVs.• Apply land use authorization exclusions (including solar and wind development) on suitable segments classified as Wild.• Apply land use authorization avoidance on suitable segments classified as Scenic or Recreational.• Apply COAs, BMPs, and SOPs. | | | | | |
| WSR Management Action 3 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Interim protective management would be subject to valid existing rights. | Do not apply interim protective management guidelines for river segments determined not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | Same as Alternative B. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. |
| WSR Management Action 4 | No similar action. | No similar action. | <p>In addition to being suitable, the following protections would also apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas River: SRMA, ACEC (Segments 3 and 4)• Beaver Creek: WSA, ACEC• Cottonwood Creek: BCA• East Beaver Creek: WSA, ACEC• East Gulch: LWC• Eightmile Creek: LWC, ACEC, and SRMA• Falls Gulch: LWC• Fourmile Creek: LWC, SRMA, and ACEC | <p>The eligible segments that are not to be found suitable would be have the following protections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beaver Creek: WSA, ACEC• East Beaver Creek: WSA, ACEC• Fourmile Creek: portions of SRMA, ACEC• Grape Creek Segment 1: ACEC• Grape Creek Segment 2: WSA, ACEC• Grape Creek Segment 3: ACEC• Red Creek: WSA• West Beaver Creek: | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | <p>In addition to being suitable, the following protections would also apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas River: SRMA, ACEC (Segments 3 and 4)• Eightmile Creek: LWC, BCA, ACEC, and SRMA <p>The eligible segments that are not to be found suitable would be have the following protections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beaver Creek: WSA, ACEC• Cottonwood Creek: BCA• East Beaver Creek: WSA, ACEC• East Gulch: BCA | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. | No eligible or suitable segments present in this landscape. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grape Creek Segment 1: LWC, ACEC• Grape Creek Segment 2: WSA, ACEC• Grape Creek Segment 3: ACEC• Little High Creek: LWC• Red Creek: WSA, ACEC• West Beaver Creek: WSA, ACEC | WSA, ACEC | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Falls Gulch: LWC• Fourmile Creek: SRMA, ACEC and BCA• Grape Creek Segment 1: LWC, ACEC• Grape Creek Segment 2: WSA, ACEC• Grape Creek Segment 3: SRMA, ACEC• Little High Creek: SRMA• Red Creek: WSA, ACEC• West Beaver Creek: WSA, ACEC | | |

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5.3.5 Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas

The following wilderness area and WSA issues were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the BLM manage WSAs should they be released by Congress?
2. What type of management will be identified in WSAs to support protection of wilderness characteristics while minimizing restrictions on other resource uses?

5.3.5.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of wilderness areas and WSAs within the planning area include the following:

- The Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131–1136) established a National Wilderness Preservation System and provides guidance for the designation and management of wilderness areas.
- FLPMA Section 603 (43 U.S.C. 1782) instructed the BLM to inventory all of its lands, identify which were definitely not of wilderness quality, and then begin an intensive inventory and analysis to determine which of the remaining lands would be recommended for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. FLPMA Section 201 (43 U.S.C. 1711) requires the Secretary of the Interior to “prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resource and other values.” This requirement includes inventory and evaluation of wilderness values and applies to all BLM-administered surface lands.
- The Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (107 Stat. 756) added acreages to the following wilderness areas: Buffalo Peaks, Byers Peak, Fossil Ridge, Greenhorn Mountain, Hunter-Fryingpan, La Garita, Lost Creek, Mount Zirkel, Never Summer, Ptarmigan Peak, Raggeds, Sangre de Cristo, Sarvis Creek, South San Juan, Uncompahgre, Vasquez Peak, and Weminuche.
- BLM wilderness regulations in 43 CFR 6300.
- BLM Manual 6330 – Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas provides policy on the FLPMA-mandated non-impairment standard for WSAs.
- BLM Manual 6340 – Management of Designated Wilderness Areas provides general policies for the administration and management of BLM Wilderness Areas designated by Congress.

5.3.5.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.3.5.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 70 identifies management for wilderness areas and wilderness study areas across the alternatives.

Table 70. Comparison of Alternatives: Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS <i>Wilderness Resource Goal 1</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Within all special designation lands, maintain healthy and diverse vegetation communities through active and ongoing project-based management. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Wilderness Resource Goal 2</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Identify areas for potential special designation that contain important values that are currently unprotected. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | Designate special areas (ACECs, BCAs, etc.) to protect key resources and address community vision. | Same as Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape. | No similar resource goal. |
| <i>Wilderness Resource Goal 3</i> | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs. | Minimize designations that would place restrictions on development. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. | No similar resource goal. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES <i>Wilderness Objective 1</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Manage WSAs for purposes other than wilderness if they are released by Congress and are not located within a designated ACEC. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource objective. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource objective. | No similar resource objective. |
| <i>Wilderness Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Manage WSAs to maintain wilderness characteristics and provide wilderness experiences. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource objective. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar resource objective. | No similar resource objective. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC ALLOWABLE USES <i>Wilderness Allowable Use 1</i> | No similar action. | Management actions identified within WSAs and requiring OHV use will conform to wilderness interim management policies until Congressional decision is made regarding designation. After WSA release, OHV use of these areas will be determined based upon other resource uses. | Manage all WSAs as closed to motorized and mechanized travel. Exceptions are allowed in the case of valid existing rights and grandfathered use as long as the travel is done in the same manner and degree as was occurring prior to the WSA being designated. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Wilderness Allowable Use 2</i> | No similar action. | Manage as ROW exclusion. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative A. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Wilderness Allowable Use 3</i> | No similar action. | Close to non-energy solid mineral leasing. | Same as Alternative A | Same as Alternative A | No similar action. | Same as Alternative A | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Wilderness Allowable Use 4</i> | No similar action. | Prohibit surface occupancy for fluid mineral development. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative A. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Wilderness Allowable Use 5</i> | No similar action. | Close to mineral material disposal. | Same as Alternative A. | Same as Alternative A. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative A. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Wilderness Allowable Use 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Use minimum impact suppression tactics in response to wildfire to limit impacts on wilderness characteristics. Only allow ground-disturbing mechanical tactics if life and/or property are threatened. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS <i>Wilderness Management Action 1</i> | No similar action. | Manage WSAs under the BLM's <i>Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review</i> until Congress makes a decision on wilderness recommendations (BLM 1995) (Appendix M, Map M-8). *Note: this policy has been replaced by BLM Manual 6330. | Manage the following areas as WSAs under BLM Manual 6330/Interim Management Policy unless designated by Congress as Wilderness Areas or released for other purposes (Appendix M, Map M-8): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beaver Creek (27,300 acres)• High Mesa Grassland Research Natural Area (700 acres)• McIntyre Hills (16,700 acres)• Lower Grape Creek (14,000 acres)• Upper Grape Creek (9,500 acres) | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| <i>Wilderness Management Action 2</i> | No similar action. | Return WSAs not designated wilderness to other types of multiple-use management, as prescribed in other management actions. | Should any WSA, in whole or in part, be released from wilderness consideration, such released lands would be managed in accordance with the goals, objectives, and management prescriptions established in this RMP, unless otherwise specified by Congress in its releasing legislation. The BLM would examine proposals in the released | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Northeast RMP Landscape | Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Planning Area Landscape | Eastern Plains Landscape | Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape | Rural Foothills Landscape | Front Range Landscape |
| | | | areas on a case-by-case basis, but would defer all actions that are inconsistent with RMP goals, objectives, and prescriptions until it completes a land use plan amendment. (Because any released lands would continue to be managed consistent with the prescriptions identified in this RMP, unless and until the RMP is amended, no separate analysis would be required to address impacts to the released lands.) | | | | | |
| Wilderness Management Action 3 | No similar action. | Desired plant community will be determined for WSAs returned to other types of multiple-use management. | If released by Congress, manage all or portions of 5 former WSAs for purposes other than wilderness using BMPs, land use restrictions, authorization stipulations, and mitigation measures to protect resources. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Management Action 4 | No similar action. | No similar action. | Manage all WSAs as VRM Class I. If released by Congress, management would be consistent with adjacent surrounding lands or additional designations based on visual resource inventory data. Areas designated as wilderness would be managed as VRM Class I. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | Same as Alternative B. | No similar action. | No similar action. |
| Wilderness Management Action 5 | No similar action. | Manage any designated wilderness areas in accordance with BLM and Congressional directives. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.4 Social and Economic Conditions

5.4.1 Public Health and Safety

The following issues pertaining to public health and safety were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. What management will be included in the RMP for areas with public safety concerns, such as abandoned mine lands and hazardous sites?
2. What management will be included in the RMP to balance public safety concerns and public demands for resource use?
3. What measures will be included in the RMP to minimize the potential for impacts on public health and safety from hazardous materials associated with oil and gas development, uranium exposure, fire danger, and High Altitude Mountain Environment Training operations?
4. What areas need to be managed for geologic hazards? What management restrictions are needed (or which existing ones need to be re-evaluated) to protect access to critical and strategic mineral supplies?

5.4.1.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of public health and safety including abandoned mine lands and hazardous materials, are:

- The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6921–6924) regulates the use of hazardous substances and strictly regulates the management and disposal of hazardous as well as ordinary solid wastes.
- The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) allows, after meeting coal cleanup responsibilities, reclamation resources to be used for cleanup of non-coal mines that, if not addressed, would substantially degrade the quality of the environment, prevent or damage the beneficial use of land or water resources, or endanger the health or safety of the public.
- The Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) provides EPA with authority to require reporting, record-keeping, and testing requirements, and restrictions relating to chemical substances and/or mixtures.
- The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601) provides for liability, compensation, cleanup, and emergency response for hazardous substances released into the environment.

- The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.) is designed to help local communities protect public health, safety, and the environment from chemical hazards.
- National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300) regulations provide the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants.
- Various U.S. Department of Transportation regulations related to the transport of hazardous substances.
- The Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.
- In accordance with 40 CFR 112, a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures plan intended to prevent the release of oils such as diesel fuel, gasoline, crude oil, or condensate into the waters of the United States is generally required for facilities with an aggregate above-ground oil storage capacity of 1,320 gallons or more.
- The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) is the comprehensive Federal law that regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources.
- BLM Instruction Memoranda numbers WO-93-344 and CO-97-023 require that all NEPA documents list and describe any hazardous and extremely hazardous materials that would be produced, used, stored, transported, or disposed of as a result of a proposed project.

5.4.1.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

The following resource goals are common to all action alternatives for public health and safety:

- **Safety Resource Goal 1:** Stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore abandoned mine lands on priority sites to improve water quality or watershed condition.
- **Safety Resource Goal 2:** Mitigate high-priority abandoned mine features.
- **Safety Resource Goal 3:** Maintain mine waste repositories, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 constructed remedies, and physical safety closures.
- **Safety Resource Goal 4:** Limit visitor exposure to unhealthy or unsafe human created conditions (defined by a repeat incident in the same year, of the same type, in the same location, due to the same cause).

5.4.1.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 71 identifies management for public health and safety across the alternatives.

Table 71. Comparison of Alternatives: Public Health and Safety

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| RESOURCE GOALS | No resource goal. | No resource goal. | See Section 5.4.1.2. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE OBJECTIVES | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Continue to update the abandoned mines inventory on an annual basis. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Safety Objective 1</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Safety Objective 2</i> | No resource objective. | No resource objective. | Coordinate with Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety to mitigate dangerous, mine openings, up to 10 dangerous accessible mine features per year. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS | No similar action. | No similar action. | Maintain safety for visiting public and/or employees. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Safety Management Action 1</i> | | | | | | | | |
| RESOURCE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS | No similar action. | Reclaim existing sites/areas from past mineral development considered to be potentially hazardous because of high side walls, deep pits, etc., in coordination with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board hazard abatement program. | Close or mitigate abandoned mine features that pose a high safety hazard to the visiting public and/or to employees until all high priority sites have been addressed. High priority sites include those where death or injury has occurred, where the site is situated on or in immediate proximity to developed recreation sites, and areas with high visitor use. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Safety Management Action 2</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Safety Management Action 3</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Monitor and perform any necessary maintenance on waste repositories and/or CERCLA constructed remedies. Maintain these areas (i.e., Dinero, Nelson, Tiger, Venture projects) in coordination with affected parties as needed. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| <i>Safety Management Action 4</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Monitor physical safety closures and perform maintenance as needed to ensure public safety. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Safety Management Action 5</i> | No similar action. | Control trespass dumping on BLM lands through signing and monitoring and increasing public awareness. | Proactively work to minimize dumping on public lands. | Prioritize working with communities to reduce dumping on public lands. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Safety Management Action 6</i> | No similar action. | No similar action. | Stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore Abandoned Mine Lands on priority sites to improve water quality or watershed condition. Priority sites include areas where ecological health risk is high and areas where other resources are planning improvements. | Stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore Abandoned Mine Lands on priority sites to improve water quality or watershed condition. Priority sites include areas where human health risk is high and/or where funding contributions from multiple agencies or organizations match or exceed Federal funds. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. | Same as Alternative C. |
| <i>Safety Management Action 7</i> | Management actions on 6,630 acres classified as “Concern Areas,” where the presence of significant geologic features or hazards is known or suspected, will be based on field investigations to develop surface protection requirements for preserving the scientific and scenic values of significant geologic features. Field investigations and possible detailed engineering studies will be made to avoid or mitigate problems due to geologic hazards. When management actions are considered for such an area, they will include protective stipulations. | Review all hazard sites/areas on a case-by-case basis. | Screen proposed projects to ascertain if they will be located within a mapped seismic and/or landslide zone and if this has any potential effect on the project. If the proposed project will be affected by one of these designations, then ensure that the project proponent has adequately analyzed and engineered the project and determined the feasibility of implementation. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |
| <i>Safety Management Action 8</i> | No similar action. | Incorporate hazards management into all appropriate integrated activity plans. | If the proposed project involves a proposal that could result in a geologically hazardous condition (such as an undercut slope), ensure that the project proponent has | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. | Same as Alternative B. |

| | Alternative A (No Action) | | Alternative B (Natural Processes) | Alternative C (Human Demand) | Alternative D (Human Ecoregion) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Northeast RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Royal Gorge Resource Area RMP Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Planning Area Landscape</i> | <i>Eastern Plains Landscape</i> | <i>Upper Arkansas River Valley Landscape</i> | <i>Rural Foothills Landscape</i> | <i>Front Range Landscape</i> |
| | | | adequately analyzed and engineered the project, and determined the feasibility of implementation. | | | | | |
| <i>Safety Management Action 9</i> | No similar action. | Handle hazardous materials emergencies according to the District Emergency Response Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. | No similar action. |

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5.4.2 Social and Economic Values

The following issues pertaining to social and economic values were identified during internal and external (public) scoping, and these as well as additional issues that were subsequently identified are addressed through the goals, objectives, and management actions described in this section:

1. How will the RMP include information to accurately represent current social and economic baseline conditions, and how will the RMP analyze social and economic impacts of planning decisions?
2. What information will be included in the RMP to accurately represent current social and economic baseline conditions and identify important industries that could be affected by planning decisions?
3. How will the RMP address potential impacts on public services, quality of life, tax base, and important area industries, including oil and gas development, tourism, and ranching?

5.4.2.1 Legal and Policy Mandates

The primary legal and policy mandates applicable to the BLM's management of social and economic values within the planning area include:

- NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) requires that consequences to the human environment be analyzed and disclosed. The human environment includes economic and social, as well as physical and biological, components of the affected area. The extent to which these environmental factors are analyzed and discussed is related to the nature of public comments received during the public involvement process, from scoping through preparation of the Final EIS.
- FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701–1785) and its implementing regulations require a systematic interdisciplinary approach to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological, economic, and social effects consistent with NEPA.
- Executive Order 12898 requires every Federal agency to comply by “identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” The purpose of the assessment is to address the environmental justice of Federal actions.
- The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 181) established the program administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior that monitors, collects, and distributes royalties for energy and mineral resources produced and removed from Federal and tribal lands.

- The Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) authorizes the BLM to sell mineral materials at fair market value and to grant free use permits for mineral materials to government agencies and for a limited amount of material to non-profit organizations.
- The Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act of 1976 (31 U.S.C. 6901–6907) determined the formula regarding compensation to local governments for the presence of tax-exempt Federal lands within their jurisdictions. Payment in Lieu of Taxes is a Federal revenue-sharing program administered by the BLM. The compensation to local governments is based on the amount of non-taxable acreage within their boundaries, with adjustments for other Federal payments.
- Colorado fiscal policies that relate to the economic value of BLM-administered surface lands include State severance taxes on Federal mineral production, local property taxes on the value of minerals and other development on BLM-administered surface lands, and State and local sales taxes indirectly generated by activities on BLM-administered surface lands.

5.4.2.2 Resource Goals Common to All Action Alternatives

No resource goals common to all action alternatives have been identified.

5.4.2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

No specific management for social and economic values have been identified for the action alternatives. Existing management for social and economic values under the No Action Alternative include a requirement that all management decisions consider three economic perspectives (i.e., efficiency, cost effectiveness, and local and regional effects) and three social perspectives (i.e., community capacity to absorb change, social distribution of effects, and attitudes toward change).

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Preliminary Alternatives Report

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan

Appendix A – Glossary

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100-year floodplain. The area inundated by a flood event with a one percent chance of occurring in any given year.

2920 permits. Land use authorizations processed under 43 CFR 2920 that can include agricultural, industrial, commercial, or residential uses, such as commercial filming, advertising displays, apiaries, commercial or noncommercial croplands, or temporary or permanent facilities for commercial purposes. Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1732[b]) provides the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) authority to issue these types of leases and permits.

Acquisition. Acquisition of lands can be pursued to facilitate various resource management objectives. Acquisitions, including easements, can be completed through exchange, purchase, or donation.

Adaptive management. A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing science-based process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, and evaluating applied strategies, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches that are based on scientific findings and the needs of society. Results are used to modify management policy, strategies, and practices.

Administrative access. Administrative access pertains to travel on routes that are limited to authorized users (typically motorized access). These are existing routes that lead to developments that have an administrative purpose, where the BLM or a permitted user must have access for regular maintenance or operation.

AIM. Acronym for Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring. BLM's strategy that provides a process to collect quantitative information on location, abundance, condition, and trend of renewable resources.

Allotment. An area of land in which one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consist of BLM-administered surface lands but may include other federally managed, state-owned, and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

Allotment management plan (AMP). A concisely written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific, multiple-use management goals in a grazing allotment. An allotment management plan is prepared in consultation with the permittee(s), lessee(s), and other affected interests. Livestock grazing is considered in relation to other uses of the range and to renewable resources, such as watershed, vegetation, and wildlife. An allotment management plan establishes seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted, the range improvements needed, and the grazing system.

Ambient air quality. The state of the atmosphere at ground level as defined by the range of measured and/or predicted ambient concentrations of all significant pollutants for all averaging periods of interest.

Ambient noise. The all-encompassing noise level associated with a given environment, being a composite of sounds from all sources.

Amendment. The process for considering or making changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of approved Resource Management Plans or management framework plans. Usually only one or two issues are considered that involve only a portion of the planning area.

Analysis of the Management Situation. Assessment of the current management direction. It includes a consolidation of existing data needed to analyze and resolve identified issues, a description of current BLM management guidance, and a discussion of existing problems and opportunities for solving them.

Application for Permit to Drill (APD). An application filed by an oil or gas lessee to drill a well on Federal and Indian lands and leases. A complete application for permit to drill includes a drilling plan, a surface use plan of operations, evidence of bond coverage, and other information as may be required by applicable orders and notices. The BLM or other State or local agencies may impose additional conditions of approval that do not significantly change the terms of the lease.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Special area designation established through the BLM's land use planning process (43 CFR 1610.7-2), where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. The level of allowable use within an area of critical environmental concern is established through the collaborative planning process. Designation of an area of critical environmental concern allows for resource use limitations in order to protect identified resources or values.

Authorized/authorized use. These terms refer to any activity occurring on public lands that is both explicitly or implicitly recognized and legalized by law or regulation. This term may refer to those activities occurring on the public lands for which the BLM, United States (U.S.) Forest Service, or other appropriate authority (e.g., Congress for RS 2477 rights-of-way, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for major, interstate rights-of-way), has issued a formal authorization document (e.g., livestock grazing lease/permit, right-of-way grant, coal lease, oil and gas permit to drill). Formally authorized uses typically involve some type of commercial activity, facility placement, or event. These formally authorized uses are often spatially or temporally limited. Unless constrained or bounded by statute, regulation, or an approved land use plan decision, legal activities involving public enjoyment and use of the public lands (e.g., hiking, camping, and hunting) require no formal BLM or U.S. Forest Service authorization.

Authorized officer. An employee of the BLM, to whom has been delegated the authority to take action (43 CFR 5400.0-5).

Avoidance/avoidance area. These terms usually address mitigation of some activity (i.e., resource use). Paraphrasing the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR

1508.20), avoidance means to circumvent, or bypass, an impact altogether by not taking a certain action, or parts of an action. Therefore, the term “avoidance” does not necessarily prohibit a proposed activity, but it may require the relocation of an action, or the total redesign of an action to eliminate any potential impacts resulting from it. Also see “*right-of-way avoidance area*” definition.

Backcountry Conservation Area (BCA). An administrative designation made at the local planning level to manage generally intact, undeveloped lands that provide or have the potential to provide important habitats for socially important fish and wildlife species, and also provide high-quality, dispersed, wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing.

Baseline. The pre-existing condition of a defined area and/or resource that can be quantified by an appropriate metric(s). During environmental reviews, the baseline is considered the affected environment that exists at the time of the review's initiation, and is used to compare predictions of the effects of the proposed action or a range of reasonable alternatives.

Best management practices (BMPs). A suite of techniques that guide or may be applied to management actions to aide in achieving desired outcomes. Best management practices are often developed in conjunction with land use plans, but they are not considered a planning decision unless the plans specify that they are mandatory.

Casual use. For locatable minerals, casual use means activities ordinarily resulting in no or negligible disturbance of the public lands or resources (e.g., collection of geochemical, rock, soil, or mineral specimens using hand tools), as defined in 43 CFR 3809.5. For rights-of-way, casual use means activities ordinarily resulting in no or negligible disturbance of the public lands, resources, or improvements (e.g., surveying, marking routes, and collecting data to use to prepare grant applications), as defined in 43 CFR 2801.5.

Classified surface water supply segment. A “public water system,” as defined by the State of Colorado in 5 Code of Colorado Regulations 1002-11.3, beginning at the surface water point of intake and extending five miles upstream.

Common use area. Areas designated to sell various mineral materials (gravel, moss rock, etc.) to the public through purchase of a permit from the BLM Field Office.

Condition of approval (COA). Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) or a Sundry Notice is approved. These are often site-specific and can be based on project-specific analysis. Conditions of approval must not violate regulations or lease rights.

Controlled surface use (CSU) stipulation. Surface use and occupancy for fluid minerals development is allowed (unless restricted by another stipulation), but identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. Constraints may include special design, construction, or implementation measures, and/or requiring relocation of surface

operations beyond 656 feet (200 meters). Controlled surface use stipulations cannot require relocation of surface operations outside the boundary of the Federal lease.

Criteria pollutant. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency uses six “criteria pollutants” as indicators of air quality, and has established for each of them a maximum concentration above which adverse effects on human health may occur. These threshold concentrations are called National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which are codified in 40 CFR Part 50. The criteria pollutants are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead.

Cultural resources. Locations of human activity, occupation, or use. Cultural resources include archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and locations of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups.

Cultural resources inventory. An inventory to assess the potential presence of cultural resources. There are three classes of surveys:

- **Class I.** An existing data survey. This is an inventory of a study area to (1) provide a narrative overview of cultural resources by using existing information, and (2) compile existing cultural resources site record data on which to base the development of the BLM’s site record system.
- **Class II.** A sampling field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites within a portion of an area so that an estimate can be made of the cultural resources for the entire area.
- **Class III.** An intensive field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites in an area. Upon its completion, no further cultural resources inventory work is normally needed.

Cumulative effects. The direct and indirect effects of a proposed project alternative’s incremental impacts when they are added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of who carries out the action.

Decision area. The lands within a planning area for which the BLM has authority to make land use and management decisions. In general, the BLM has jurisdiction over all BLM-administered lands (surface and subsurface) and over the subsurface minerals only in areas of split estate (areas where the BLM administers Federal subsurface minerals). The decision area does not include lands or minerals that are privately owned, owned by the State of Colorado, owned by local governments, or administered by other Federal agencies (e.g., U.S. Forest Service).

Desired future condition (DFC). In a general context, desired future condition is a portrayal of the land or resource conditions that are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved. For rangeland vegetation, the condition of rangeland resources on a landscape scale that meet management objectives. It is based on ecological, social, and economic considerations

during the land use planning process. It is usually expressed as ecological status or management status of vegetation (species composition, habitat diversity, and age and size class of species) and desired soil qualities (soil cover, erosion, and compaction).

Desired outcomes. A type of land use plan decision expressed as a goal or objective.

Direct impacts. Direct impacts are caused by an action or implementation of an alternative and occur at the same time and place.

Directional drilling. A drilling technique whereby a well is deliberately deviated from the vertical in order to reach a particular part of the oil- or gas-bearing reservoir. Directional drilling technology enables the driller to steer the drill stem and bit to a desired bottom hole location. Directional wells initially are drilled straight down to a predetermined depth and then gradually curved at one or more different points to penetrate one or more given target reservoirs. This specialized drilling usually is accomplished with the use of a fluid-driven downhole motor, which turns the drill bit. Directional drilling also allows multiple production and injection wells to be drilled from a single surface location such as a gravel pad, thus minimizing cost and the surface impact of oil and gas drilling, production, and transportation facilities. It can be used to reach a target located beneath an environmentally sensitive area.

Disposal lands. Transfer of public land out of Federal ownership to another party through sale, exchange, the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926 (43 U.S.C. 869 et. seq.), Desert Land Entry (43 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), or other land law statutes.

Diversity. The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area.

Domestic well. A well serving up to three single-family dwellings, irrigating one acre or less of lawn and garden, and providing water for the individual's domestic animals and livestock.

Early detection. As applied to invasive species, is a comprehensive, integrated system of active or passive surveillance to find and verify the identity of new invasive species as early after entry as possible, when eradication and control are still feasible and less costly. It may be targeted at areas where introductions are likely (such as near to pathways of introduction) and in sensitive ecosystems where impacts are likely to be great or invasion is likely to be rapid.

Easement. A right afforded a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

Ecologic functionality. These levels include successional processes that are in place, energy and nutrients that are being cycled effectively, and soil that is being appropriately stabilized. An area can be functioning at a basic level of ecologic functionality without meeting land health standards.

Ecosystem diversity. The variety of habitats, living communities, and ecological processes in the living world. Ecosystem diversity refers to the diversity of a place at the ecosystem level. Inherent in ecosystem diversity are both biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components. The term differs from biodiversity, which refers to variation in species rather than ecosystems.

Eligible river. A river or river segment found to meet criteria found in Sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271, 1273[b]) of being free flowing and possessing one or more outstandingly remarkable value (BLM 2012).

Emergency stabilization. Planned actions to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, to minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effects of a fire, or to repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources. Emergency stabilization actions must be taken within 1 year following containment of a wildfire.

Endangered species. Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (BLM 2008). Under the Endangered Species Act., “endangered” is the more-protected of the two categories. Designation as endangered (or threatened) is determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as directed by the Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (as amended). Designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation. The Endangered Species Act is administered by two Federal agencies, the USFWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The purpose of the Endangered Species Act is to protect species and also the ecosystems upon which they depend (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544).

Enhance. Increase or improve in value, quality or desirability.

Exchange. A transaction whereby the Federal government receives land or interests in land in exchange for other land or interests in land.

Exclusion area. An area on the public lands where a certain activity or activities are prohibited to ensure protection of other resource values present on the site. In the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan, this term is primarily used in reference to lands and realty actions and proposals (e.g., rights-of-way) and renewable energy development. This restriction is functionally analogous to the phrase “no surface occupancy” used by the oil and gas program, and is applied as an absolute condition to those affected activities. The less restrictive analogous term is avoidance area. Also see “*right-of-way exclusion area*” definition.

Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). An extensive recreation management area is an administrative unit that requires specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or recreation and visitor services program investments (BLM 2014).

Film permits. The BLM issues permits for commercial filming under the authority of Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732[b]) and the regulations in 43 CFR 2920. A film permit authorizes a short-term commercial filming activity at fair market value.

Fluid minerals. Oil, gas, coal bed natural gas, and geothermal resources.

Forage. All browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals.

Forage base. The amount of vegetation available for wildlife and livestock use.

Forest health. The condition in which forest ecosystems sustain sufficient complexity, diversity, resiliency, and productivity to provide for specified human needs and values.

Fragile soil. Soils prone to erosion by wind or water or to impacts from drought conditions. For purposes of the Resource Management Plan, fragile soils are classified as low, moderate, or high concern for each characteristic above based on the dominant condition or average value in soil data from the U.S. Department of Agricultural Natural Resources Conservation Service. Specific parameters considered include soil erodibility and slope (water erosion), wind erodibility group (wind erosion), and available water capacity (drought tolerance).

Geophysical exploration. Efforts to locate deposits of oil and gas resources and to better define the subsurface.

Geothermal energy. Natural heat from within the Earth captured for production of electric power, space heating, or industrial steam.

Goal. A broad statement of a desired outcome; usually not quantifiable and may not have established timeframes for achievement.

Grandfathered right. The right to use in a non-conforming manner due to existence prior to the establishment of conforming terms and conditions.

Grazing lease. As defined in 43 CFR 4100.0-5, a grazing lease is a document that authorizes grazing use of public lands under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315m); Section 15 applies to the administration of public lands outside grazing district boundaries established by the Taylor Grazing Act. A grazing lease specifies grazing preference and the terms and conditions under which lessees make grazing use during the lease term. Since passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934, BLM grazing regulations were amended by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751, 1753) and the Public Grazing Lands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) such that grazing administration on all public lands is consistent for both permits and leases.

Grazing permit. As defined in 43 CFR 4100.0-5, a grazing permit is a document that authorizes grazing use of public lands under Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315b); Section 3 applies to the administration of public lands within grazing district boundaries established by the Taylor Grazing Act. A grazing permit specifies grazing preference and the terms and conditions under which permittees make grazing use during the term of the permit. Since passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934, BLM grazing regulations were amended by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751, 1753) and the Public Grazing Lands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) such that grazing administration on all public lands is consistent for both permits and leases.

Grazing permitted use. Grazing permitted use or preference means the total number of animal unit months on public lands apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a

permittee, lessee, or an applicant for a permit or lease. Grazing permitted use includes active use and use held in suspension. Grazing permitted use holders have a superior or priority position against others for the purpose of receiving a grazing permit or lease (43 CFR 4100.0-5).

Grazing system. Scheduled grazing use and non-use of an allotment to reach identified goals or objectives by improving the quality and quantity of vegetation. Grazing systems include, but are not limited to, developing pastures, utilization levels, grazing rotations, timing and duration of use periods, and necessary range improvements.

Green completion. Those practices intended to reduce emissions by capturing salable hydrocarbon gas and condensate vapors during cleanout and flowback operations prior to the well being placed on production.

Impact. The effect, influence, alteration, or imprint caused by an action.

Impairment. The degree to which a distance of clear visibility is degraded by man-made pollutants.

Implementation decisions. Decisions that take action to implement land use planning; generally appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR 4.410.

Implementation plan. An area or site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. Implementation plans include both activity plans and project plans.

Indicators. Factors that describe resource condition and change and can help the BLM determine trends over time.

Indirect impacts. Indirect impacts result from implementing an action or alternative, but usually occur later in time or are removed in distance and are reasonably certain to occur.

Intermittent stream. An intermittent stream is a stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface sources such as melting snow in mountainous areas. During the dry season and throughout minor drought periods, these streams will not exhibit flow. Geomorphological characteristics are not well defined and are often inconspicuous. In the absence of external limiting factors, such as pollution and thermal modifications, species are scarce and adapted to the wet and dry conditions of the fluctuating water level.

Land classification. When, under criteria of 43 CFR 2400, a tract of land has the potential for retention for multiple use management or for some form of disposal or for more than one form of disposal. The relative scarcity of the values involved and the availability of alternative means and sites for realization of those values will be considered. Long-term public benefits will be weighed against more immediate or local benefits. The tract will then be classified in a manner that will best promote the public interest.

Land health condition. BLM regulation and policy direct lands to be classified in terms of health (BLM 2009). The Royal Gorge Field Office has subdivided the basic classifications of

“Meeting Land Health Standard(s)” and “Not Meeting Land Health Standard(s)” into the following subcategories:

- **Meeting Land Health Standard(s):** Lands for which health indicators are currently in acceptable condition such that basic levels of ecological processes and functions are in place. This rating includes the following subcategories:
 - **Fully Meeting Standard(s):** Lands for which there are no substantive concerns with health indicators.
 - **Exceeding Standard(s):** Lands for which health indicators are in substantially better conditions than acceptable levels.
 - **Meeting Standard(s) with Problems:** Lands which have one or more concerns with health indicators to the degree that they are categorized as meeting the Land Health Standards, but have some issues which make them at risk of becoming “not meeting.”
- **Not Meeting Land Health Standard(s):** Lands for which one or more health indicators are in unacceptable conditions such that basic levels of ecological processes and functions are no longer in place.

Land health trend is used to describe these classes further. It includes these categories: upward, static, and downward:

- **Upward Trend:** lands which have shown improving indicator conditions over time.
- **Static Trend:** lands which have shown no clear improvement or decline in indicator conditions over time.
- **Downward Trend:** lands which have shown declining indicator conditions over time.

Land health improvement projects. Activities which are directed at increasing the levels and/or vigor of desirable species within the plant community so that it reaches a higher level of functioning. Activities include restoration or revegetation of areas of degraded vegetation; removal of weeds, and repair or retirement and rehabilitation of developments which are contributing to vegetation degradation.

Land tenure adjustments. Land ownership or jurisdictional changes. To improve the manageability of the BLM-administered lands and their usefulness to the public, the BLM has numerous authorities for repositioning lands into a more consolidated pattern, disposing of lands, and entering into cooperative management agreements. These land pattern improvements are completed primarily through the use of land exchanges, but also through land sales, through jurisdictional transfers to other agencies, and through the use of cooperative management agreements and leases.

Land treatment. All methods of artificial range improvement arid soil stabilization such as reseeding, brush control (chemical and mechanical), pitting, furrowing, water spreading, etc.

Land use allocation. The identification in a land use plan of the activities and foreseeable development that are allowed, restricted, or excluded for all or part of the planning area, based on desired future conditions (BLM 2005).

Land use plan. A set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act; an assimilation of land use plan level decisions developed through the planning process outlined in 43 CFR 1600, regardless of the scale at which the decisions were developed. The term includes both RMPs and management framework plans (BLM 2005).

Land use plan boundary. The geographic extent of a resource management plan or management framework plans.

Land use plan decision. Establishes desired outcomes and actions needed to achieve them. Decisions are reached using the planning process in 43 CFR 1600. When they are presented to the public as proposed decisions, they can be protested to the BLM Director. They are not appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Lease. Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732[b]) provides the BLM's authority to issue leases for the use, occupancy, and development of public lands. Leases are issued for purposes such as a commercial filming, advertising displays, commercial or noncommercial croplands, apiaries, livestock holding or feeding areas not related to grazing permits and leases, native or introduced species harvesting, temporary or permanent facilities for commercial purposes (does not include mining claims), residential occupancy, ski resorts, construction equipment storage sites, assembly yards, oil rig stacking sites, mining claim occupancy if the residential structures are not incidental to the mining operation, and water pipelines and well pumps related to irrigation and nonirrigation facilities. The regulations establishing procedures for processing these leases and permits are found in 43 CFR 2920.

Lease notice. A lease notice provides more detailed information concerning limitations that already exist in law, lease terms, regulations, or operational orders. A lease notice also addresses special items the lessee should consider when planning operations, but does not impose new or additional restrictions. Lease notices attached to leases should not be confused with Notices to Lessees.

Locatable minerals. Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 21 et seq.), as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

Long-term. Occurs for an extended period after implementation. The effect could last several years or more.

Master Development Plans. A set of information common to multiple planned wells, including drilling plans, Surface Use Plans of Operations, and plans for future production.

Master Leasing Plan (MLP). The purpose of an MLP is to plan for oil and gas development at the land use plan level in a defined area containing a high-level of potential resource concerns. An MLP may be considered when the following criteria are met:

- Substantial portion of the area is unleased
- Majority Federal mineral interest
- Expressed industry interest in leasing and moderate or high potential for oil and gas
- Additional analysis or information needed to address likely resource or cumulative impacts

An MLP may also be completed under other circumstances at the discretion of the Field Manager, District Manager, or State Director.

Mechanized travel. Moving by means of mechanical devices, such as a bicycle; not powered by a motor (BLM 2011).

Mineral estate. The ownership of minerals, including rights necessary for access, exploration, development, mining, ore dressing, and transportation operations.

Mineral materials. Common varieties of mineral materials such as soil, sand and gravel, stone, pumice, pumicite, and clay that are not obtainable under the mining or leasing laws, but that can be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 601 et. seq.), as amended.

Minimization. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation (40 CFR 1508.20 [b]).

Mitigation. Includes specific means, measures, or practices that could reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse impacts. Mitigation can include avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action, minimizing the impact by limiting the degree of magnitude of the action and its implementation, rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment, reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action, and compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

National conservation area. National conservation areas and similarly designated lands (i.e., Cooperative Management and Protection Areas, Outstanding Natural Areas, and Forest Reserves) are designated by Congress to conserve, protect, enhance, and manage public lands for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. National conservation areas feature exceptional scientific, cultural, ecological, historical, and recreational values, and are managed by the BLM under the National Landscape Conservation System.

Native vegetation. Plant species which were found in the planning area prior to European settlement, and consequently are in balance with these ecosystems because they have well developed parasites, predators, and pollinators.

Natural processes. Fire, drought, insect and disease outbreaks, flooding, and other events that existed prior to European settlement, and shaped vegetation composition and structure.

No surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation. Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral development is prohibited to protect identified resource values. This is the most restrictive stipulation, and is the only stipulation that may prohibit surface occupancy of an entire lease parcel.

Nonenergy leasable minerals. Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. Nonenergy minerals include resources such as phosphate, sodium, potassium, and sulfur.

Notice to lessees and operators. A written notice issued by the authorized officer that implements the regulations found at 43 CFR 3160 for conducting oil and gas operations, and serves as instructions on specific item(s) of importance within a State, District, or Area (43 CFR 3160.0-5).

Old growth. Forest stands composed of trees that represent the late stages of forest development and are primarily distinguished by old trees, large trees, snags, and large wood on the forest floor.

Open. Generally denotes that an area is available for a particular use or uses. Refer to specific program definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs. For example, 43 CFR 8340.0-5 defines the specific meaning of “open” as it relates to off-highway vehicle use.

Over-snow vehicle. A motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow. Machinery used strictly for the grooming of nonmotorized trails are not considered snowmobiles.

Potential Conservation Area. Areas delineated by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program that can provide the habitat and ecological processes upon which a particular species, suite of species, or natural community depends for their continued existence. Potential conservation area boundaries are meant to be used for conservation planning purposes and have no legal status.

Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system. The potential fossil yield classification system is meant to provide baseline guidance for predicting, assessing, and mitigating paleontological resources. It is used to classify geologic units based on the relative abundance of vertebrate fossils or scientifically significant invertebrate or plant fossils and their sensitivity to adverse impacts, with a higher class number indicating a higher potential (BLM 2007).

Prescribed fire. Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist and National Environmental Policy Act requirements, where applicable, must be met before ignition (Fire Executive Council 2009).

Proper functioning condition. A term describing stream health that is based on the presence of adequate vegetation, landform, and debris to dissipate energy, reduce erosion, and improve water quality. A lotic riparian area is considered to be in proper functioning condition, or “functioning properly,” when adequate vegetation, landform, or woody material is present to:

- Dissipate stream energy associated with high waterflow, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality.
- Capture sediment and aid floodplain development.
- Improve floodwater retention and ground-water recharge.
- Develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against erosion.
- Maintain channel characteristics (Dickard et al. 2015).

Reclamation. The suite of actions taken within an area affected by human disturbance, the outcome of which is intended to change the condition of the disturbed area to meet pre-determined objectives and/or make it acceptable for certain defined resources (e.g., wildlife habitat, grazing, ecosystem function).

Recreation experiences. Immediate states of mind resulting from participation in recreation opportunities that result in benefits (BLM 2014).

Recreation Management Zone (RMZ). Recreation management zones provide an optional management tool to manage recreation resources in complex situations where many recreation opportunities are provided. A special recreation management area may be subdivided into recreation management zones to further delineate specific recreation opportunities. While generally unnecessary, extensive recreation management areas may be subdivided into recreation management zones to ensure recreation and visitor services are managed commensurate with the management of other resources and resource uses (BLM 2014).

Renewable Energy. Resources that constantly renew themselves or that are regarded as practically inexhaustible. These include solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and wood. Although particular geothermal formations can be depleted, the natural heat in the Earth is a virtually inexhaustible reserve of potential energy.

Resilient landscape. A landscape that can absorb disturbance and adjust to change by sustaining its components and function; thus, being able to persist and adapt to change in the future.

Resource Advisory Council (RAC). A council established by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice or recommendations to BLM management. The Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Council covers issues within the Royal Gorge Field Office.

Resource Management Plan (RMP). A land use plan as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, objectives, and actions to be achieved.

Restriction/restricted use. A limitation or constraint on public land uses and operations. Restrictions can be of any kind, but most commonly apply to certain types of vehicle use, temporal and/or spatial constraints, or certain authorizations.

Right-of-way (ROW). Public lands authorized to be used or occupied for specific purposes pursuant to a ROW grant from the BLM Lands and Realty Program, which are in the public interest and which require ROWs over, on, under, or through such lands.

- **Major right-of-way.** Any ROW involving one or more the following: Large powerlines (115 kilovolts or above), large diameter pipelines (greater than 8 inches), substantial surface disturbance (linear or site), covers long distances (e.g., interstate pipelines, fiber optic projects), multiple Federal jurisdictions, land use plan amendment, controversial project, potential to impact critical or sensitive resources, extensive coordination, or an environmental impact statement.
- **Minor right-of-way.** Any ROW that does not meet the criteria of a major ROW.

Right-of-way avoidance area. An area identified through resource management planning to be avoided, but may be available for ROW location with special stipulations.

Right-of-way exclusion area. An area identified through resource management planning that is not available for ROW location under any conditions.

Road. A linear route declared a road by the owner, managed for use by low-clearance vehicles having four or more wheels, and maintained for regular and continuous use (BLM 2011).

Seeding. Seeding is a vegetation treatment that includes the application of grass, forb, or shrub seed, either aerially or from the ground. In areas of gentle terrain, ground applications of seed are often accomplished with a rangeland drill. Seeding allows the establishment of native species or placeholder species and restoration of disturbed areas to a perennial-dominated cover type, thereby decreasing the risk of subsequent invasion by exotic plant species. Seeding would be used primarily as a follow-up treatment in areas where disturbance or the previously described treatments have removed exotic plant species and their residue.

Short-term. Occurs only during or immediately after implementation.

Solitude. The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. A lonely or secluded place. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude may include size, natural screening, topographic relief, vistas, physiographic variety, and the ability of the user to find a secluded spot.

Source water protection area. The area delineated by a state for a public water supply or including numerous suppliers, whether the source is ground water or surface water or both.

Southern Great Plains Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT). The Southern Great Plains CHAT is a spatial model that designates and prioritizes areas for lesser prairie chicken conservation activities and industry development (Southern Great Plains CHAT 2013). Following

guidelines of the Western Governors’ Association, the Southern Great Plains CHAT classifies crucial habitats and important wildlife corridors into five “actionable” categories:

- **Category 1** is comprised of the focal areas for lesser prairie chicken conservation.
- **Category 2** is comprised of the connectivity zones for lesser prairie chicken conservation.
- **Category 3** is derived from an ecological niche model used for describing available and potential lesser prairie chicken habitat.
- **Category 4** is comprised of the estimated occupied range for lesser prairie chicken plus 10 miles for range expansion and planning.
- **Category 5** is comprised of areas outside of the estimated occupied range plus 10 miles region.

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). An administrative unit where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, or distinctiveness, especially compared to other areas used for recreation (BLM 2014).

Special recreation permit (SRP). Authorization that allows for recreational uses of public lands and related waters. Issued as a means to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. Commercial SRPs are also issued as a mechanism to provide a fair return for the commercial use of public lands.

Special Status Species. Collectively, federally listed or proposed and Bureau sensitive species, which include both Federal candidate species and delisted species within 5 years of delisting.

Split estate. Lands on which the mineral estate is owned by someone other than the surface estate owner. For example, the surface is in private ownership and the mineral resources are publicly held and managed by the Federal government. Split estates may have any combination of surface/subsurface owners: Federal/state; Federal/private; state/private; or percentage ownerships. When referring to the split estate ownership on a particular parcel of land, it is generally necessary to describe the surface/subsurface ownership pattern of the parcel.

Stabilize. The process of stopping further damage from occurring.

Standard. A description of the physical and biological conditions or degree of function required for healthy, sustainable lands (e.g., land health standards). To be expressed as a desired outcome (goal).

Standard lease terms and conditions. Areas may be open to mineral leasing with no specific management decisions defined in a Resource Management Plan; however, these areas are subject to lease terms and conditions as defined on the lease form (Form 3100-11, Offer to Lease and Lease for Oil and Gas; and Form 3200-24, Offer to Lease and Lease for Geothermal Resources).

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Required procedure to be followed in carrying out a given operation.

Stipulation. A provision that modifies standard lease rights and is attached to and made part of a fluid minerals lease. Any party submitting a bid or offer shall be deemed to have agreed to the terms of the stipulation.

Surface occupancy. Occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral development.

Surface use plan of operations (SUPO). A 12-point plan describing the construction and operation of a proposed oil and gas project, with supporting maps and diagrams. BLM Onshore Oil and Gas Order #1 requires operators submit a surface use plan of operations as part of a complete Application for Permit to Drill package.

Surface use. These are all the various activities that may be present on the surface or near-surface (e.g., pipelines) of public lands. It does not refer to those subterranean activities (e.g., underground mining) occurring on the public lands or Federal mineral estate. When administered as a use restriction (e.g., No Surface Use), this phrase prohibits all but specified resource uses and activities in a certain area to protect particular sensitive resource values and property. This designation typically applies to small acreage sensitive resource sites (e.g., plant community study enclosure), and/or administrative sites (e.g., government ware-yard) where only authorized, agency personnel are admitted.

Surface-disturbing activities (or surface disturbance). Greater than casual use actions created through mechanized or motorized means that would cause soil mixing and result in alteration or removal of soil and vegetation, exposing the mineral soil to erosive processes to the extent that reclamation may be required. These actions may include the use of mechanized earth-moving equipment; self-propelled drilling equipment; certain geophysical exploration; placement of surface facilities such as utilities, pipelines, structures, and oil and gas wells; new road construction; and use of pyrotechnics or explosives. Surface-disturbing activities may not include livestock grazing; low-impact vegetation tools (e.g., mastication, hand thinning, and feller-bunchers) and associated short term infrastructure; cross-country hiking; driving on and maintaining existing roads, primitive roads, and limited vehicle travel off routes in areas designated as limited to off-highway vehicle use; construction of trails; scientific excavation; cultural resource inventories, restoration, and/or mitigation of limited scope approved by the Field Office Manager. Any potential impacts to historic properties from surface-disturbing activities would be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through the Section 106 process.

Temporary/temporary use. A relative term that must be considered in the context of the resource values affected and the nature of the resource use or activity taking place. Generally, a temporary activity is considered to be one that is not fixed in place and is of short duration.

Timing limitation (TL) stipulation. The timing limitation stipulation, a moderate constraint, is applicable to fluid mineral leasing, all activities associated with fluid mineral leasing (e.g., truck-mounted drilling and geophysical exploration equipment off designated routes, construction of wells and/or pads), and other surface-disturbing activities (i.e., those not related to fluid mineral leasing). Areas identified for timing limitation stipulation are closed to fluid mineral exploration

and development, surface-disturbing activities, and intensive human activity during identified time frames. This stipulation does not apply to operation and basic maintenance activities, including associated vehicle travel, unless otherwise specified. Construction, drilling, completions, and other operations considered to be intensive in nature are not allowed. Intensive maintenance, such as workovers on wells, is not permitted. Timing limitation stipulations can overlap spatially with no surface occupancy and controlled surface use, as well as with areas that have no other restrictions.

Total Maximum Daily Load. An estimate of the total quantity of pollutants from all sources (point, nonpoint, and natural) that may be allowed into waters without exceeding applicable water quality criteria, determined in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., as amended).

Treatments (as used for Wildland Fire and Fuel Management).

Biological: including insects or grazing by allowable livestock to reduce biomass.

Manual: hand thinning, and hand piling.

Mechanical: includes mastication, mowing, weed whacking, chopping, chipping, and cutting; mastication, mowing, weed whacking, chopping, chipping, cutting, logging, skidding (activities associated with commercial timber operations), improving control feature effectiveness (e.g., shaded fuel breaks along roads), and improving point protection around values at risk.

Prescribed fire: including broadcast burning, activity slash pile burning, aspect burning, and jackpot burning.

Trespass. Any unauthorized use of public land.

Unallotted. Lands that currently are not committed to livestock grazing use.

Undisturbed settings. Undisturbed settings are those areas where past or present surface-disturbing activities or other human modifications to the landscape are not readily visible or evident, or have not occurred.

Utility corridor. Tract of land varying in width forming passageway through which various commodities such as oil, gas, and electricity are transported.

Utility-scale renewable energy development. A renewable energy facility with a nominal generating capacity of 20 megawatts or greater for solar and greater than 10 megawatts for wind that is designed to deliver electricity to many users through transmission and distribution systems.

Valid existing rights. Documented, legal rights or interests in the land that allow a person or entity to use said land for a specific purpose and that are still in effect. Such rights include but are not limited to fee title ownership, mineral rights, ROW, easements, permits, and licenses. Such rights may have been reserved, acquired, leased, granted, permitted, or otherwise authorized over time.

Vegetation treatments. Management practices which change the vegetation structure to a different stage of development. Vegetation treatment methods include managed fire, prescribed fire, chemical, mechanical, and seeding.

Visual resource management (VRM). The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual resource values and to establish objectives for managing those values, and the management actions taken to achieve the visual resource management objectives.

Visual resource management classes. Define the degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A class is based on the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogeneous area and serves as a management objective. Categories assigned to public lands are based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. Each class has an objective that prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape (BLM 2005).

The four classes are described below:

- **Class I** provides for natural ecological changes only. This class includes primitive areas, some natural areas, some wild and scenic rivers, and other similar areas where landscape modification activities should be restricted.
- **Class II** areas are those areas where changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color, or texture) caused by management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape.
- **Class III** includes areas where changes in the basic elements (form, line, color, or texture) caused by a management activity may be evident in the characteristic landscape. However, the changes should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the existing character.
- **Class IV** applies to areas where changes may subordinate the original composition and character; however, they should reflect what could be a natural occurrence within the characteristic landscape.

Visual resources. The visible physical features on a landscape, (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) that comprise the scenery of the area.

Visual sensitivity. Visual sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for scenic quality and existing or proposed visual change.

Watershed. Topographical region or area delineated by water draining to a particular watercourse or body of water.

Waterways. Perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams; riparian areas, fens, and wetlands; and water impoundments.

Wilderness. A congressionally designated area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, that is

protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that (1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. The definition is contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131–1136).

Wilderness characteristics. Wilderness characteristics attributes include the area’s size, its apparent naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. They may also include supplemental values. Lands with wilderness characteristics are those lands that have been inventoried and determined by the BLM to contain wilderness characteristics as defined in section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131–1136).

Wilderness Study Area. An area inventoried, found to have wilderness characteristics, and managed to preserve those characteristics under authority of public lands required by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701–1785) or the land use planning direction found in Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Wildfire. Unplanned ignition of a wildland fire (such as a fire caused by lightning, volcanoes, unauthorized and accidental human-caused fires) and escaped prescribed fires (Fire Executive Council 2009).

Wildfire suppression. An appropriate management response to wildfire, escaped wildland fire use or prescribed fire that results in curtailment of fire spread and eliminates all identified threats from the particular fire (National Wildfire Coordinating Group 2015).

Wildland fire. Any non-structure fire that occurs in vegetation or natural fuels. Wildland fire includes prescribed fire and wildfire (National Wildfire Coordinating Group 2015).

Wildland urban interface. The line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

Withdrawal. An action that restricts the use of public land and segregates the land from the operation of some or all of the public land and mineral laws. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction of management of public lands to other Federal agencies.

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Appendix B – Eastern Colorado Mitigation Strategy

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will develop an Eastern Colorado Mitigation Strategy (Mitigation Strategy) for inclusion in the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Mitigation Strategy will be based on the BLM Mitigation Handbook H-1794-1 (BLM 2016), United States (U.S.) Department of the Interior Departmental Manual Chapter 6: *Implementing Mitigation at the Landscape-scale* (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015), the November 3, 2015 Presidential Memorandum: *Mitigating Impacts on Natural Resources from Development and Encouraging Related Private Investment* (80 Federal Register 68743), and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations on Mitigation (40 CFR 1508.20).

The purpose of the Mitigation Strategy will be to identify mitigation needs and measures across the Royal Gorge Field Office at relevant and appropriate scales that, when implemented, will result in a framework that will guide future management and site-specific mitigation to achieve healthy and resilient landscapes while complying with the BLM’s multiple use mandate.

The Mitigation Strategy will incorporate guidance outlined in the BLM Mitigation Manual (BLM 2013; currently issued in draft format as interim policy) and the BLM Mitigation Handbook (BLM 2016). Many components are already present in the overall National Environmental Policy Act analysis associated with this planning effort. As a result, the strategy will build on this existing work rather than attempt to duplicate it. Examples of these components include descriptions of the uses of public land in the planning area, resource objectives, baseline conditions and trends, mitigation measures (including those referenced in the proposed RMP), and potential residual impacts. It will also address whether there is a potential need for compensatory mitigation to address these residual impacts.

The Mitigation Strategy will provide a framework for managers to use in determining necessary and appropriate mitigation for project proposals within the Royal Gorge Field Office. By employing several key building blocks, the Mitigation Strategy will: (1) incorporate mitigation measures included in the alternatives and best management practices considered in the EIS analysis, (2) incorporate comments received during the public review of the EIS, (3) be based on the best available science, (4) be resource-based, (5) consider reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from all of the foreseeable public land uses within the planning area, and (6) be developed using a transparent and meaningful engagement process with cooperating agencies.

The intent of the Mitigation Strategy is to achieve healthy and resilient landscapes. To achieve landscape goals, compensatory mitigation may be required for residual impacts—and not just to those impacts determined to be “significant” as defined under the National Environmental Policy Act. To do so, the BLM will undertake management actions identified in the RMP that are consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, minimize actions that result in resource loss, and include an accounting of uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation.

The Mitigation Strategy will employ a full mitigation hierarchy as described by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, including guidance on avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction, and compensation, as follows:

- *Avoidance* is defined as those measures that result in a potential impact not occurring from the outset by not taking a certain action or parts of an action. The RMP alternatives identify a range of potential avoidance measures. Examples of avoidance measures include No Surface Occupancy, Controlled Surface Use, withdrawn areas, closures, and exclusion areas.
- *Minimization* occurs through limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation. The RMP alternatives identify multiple potential minimization options for a variety of projects and land uses. The Draft RMP/EIS will identify multiple best management practices, design features, and various stipulations that can be applied to projects as appropriate. Examples of minimization include facility placement, timing of activities, facility design, and interim reclamation.
- *Rectification* is the repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring of the affected environment. This approach is more action specific. An example might be the reclamation of an abandoned mine location.
- *Reduction* of impacts involves preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the proposed project to be mitigated. This approach is more design specific. An example might be a phased development and reclamation project design or a similar approach to a related impact on the landscape.
- *Compensation* can occur if, after applying avoidance and minimization techniques, residual impacts remain. *Residual impacts* are defined in the BLM Mitigation Handbook as any reasonably foreseeable impacts from a proposed project that are expected to remain after implementing the avoidance, minimization, rectification, and reduction elements of the mitigation hierarchy. These impacts include those that will continue until the benefits of the mitigation measure are fully realized on the ground. Compensation could include the discussion of impact valuation, compensatory mitigation options, siting, compensatory project types and costs, monitoring, reporting, and funds administration.

The RMP prioritizes the avoidance of impacts, followed by minimization techniques. If after applying avoidance and minimization techniques, any residual impacts remain, then compensatory mechanisms may be used to address those impacts. Compensatory mechanisms could take the form of a mitigation or conservation bank, habitat exchange, in lieu fee program, proponent mitigation, or other options that might be developed or suggested. Numerous methodologies or tools may be developed, to determine and quantify the nature and extent of the compensatory mitigation required under a given mitigation mechanism. These tested methodologies are used to quantify the nature and extent of the impact from a public land use and nature and extent of the compensatory mitigation measure.

The strategy, with input from cooperating agencies, will identify which methodologies would be most appropriate for use in compensatory mitigation for resources within the scope of this RMP. The strategy will also identify the criteria for determining what compensatory mitigation mechanisms, and under what conditions, may be available to address residual impacts. This will include a cross-walk between various methodologies to ensure equivalent benefits are realized. The strategy will identify criteria for selection and prioritization of locations for compensatory mitigation activities.

In addition, it is expected that the Mitigation Strategy should ensure that mitigation measures are implemented and monitored for effectiveness using approved methodologies such as the BLM Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Strategy. It should describe how to remedy failed mitigation efforts, and incorporate adaptive management principles in the design and implementation of compensatory mitigation mechanisms.

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Appendix C – Adaptive Drought Management

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Goal: Provide management prescriptions for all surface-disturbing resource and vegetation consuming uses during times of extended drought.

Objective: Establish criteria for adaptively managing activities during severe, extreme, or exceptional drought.

During periods of drought, the following plan may be implemented to reduce impacts of drought on environmental resources. Due to the variability of the Field Office in size, elevation, and vegetation regimes, modifying activities would be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

1. Use Table C-1, Drought Severity Classification, as gross thresholds and triggers for implementing drought management actions.
2. Monitor local conditions using local and regional climate summaries, focusing on temperature and precipitation.
3. Focus on fragile soils.
4. Rely on soil moisture data measurements as needed to determine appropriate management actions.

No specific actions are required under the abnormally dry (D0) or moderate drought (D1) categories. Specific actions for the severe drought (D2), extreme drought (D3), and exceptional drought (D4) categories are identified below.

Severe (D2):

- Send drought letters to grazing permittees and other permitted land users requesting coordination with BLM.
- Coordinate with Colorado Parks and Wildlife for big game herd management concerns.
- Coordinate with others in affected areas to develop and closely examine local seasonal precipitation graphs.

Extreme (D3):

Same actions as for severe, but in addition:

- Consider prohibiting, delaying, or applying mitigation to new surface-disturbing activities in areas with sensitive soils, subject to valid existing rights or actions associated with other valid permitted activities.
- For Improve and Maintain category allotments, base changes in livestock use on site-specific data or conditions on those allotments affected by drought. Coordinate with grazing permittees and implement Grazing Best Management Practices or Adaptive Management Actions to help mitigate drought impacts on affected allotments.

- Closure of designated routes may be authorized as needed during periods of drought and wind events to reduce particulate matter.
- Additional erosion-control techniques/best management practices for surface-disturbing activities may be required as necessary.
- Limit prescribed burns and vegetation treatments.
- Monitor Colorado Water Conservation Board instream flow water rights for out of priority water use or potential injury – “formal call” of water.

Exceptional (D4):

Same actions as for extreme, but in addition:

- Prohibit new surface-disturbing activities, subject to valid existing rights or actions associated with other valid permitted activities.
- Consider closing areas to public entry.

Table C-1. Drought Severity Classification

| | | | Ranges | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Category ¹ | Description | Possible Impacts | Palmer Drought Index | Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture Model (Percentiles) | U.S. Geological Survey Weekly Streamflow (Percentiles) | Standardized Precipitation Index | Objective Short and Long-term Drought Indicator Blends (Percentiles) ² |
| D0 | Abnormally Dry | Going into drought: short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures. Coming out of drought: some lingering water deficits; pastures or crops not fully recovered | -1.0 to -1.9 | 21-30 | 21-30 | -0.5 to -0.7 | 21-30 |
| D1 | Moderate Drought | Some damage to crops, pastures; streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent; voluntary water-use restrictions requested | -2.0 to -2.9 | 11-20 | 11-20 | -0.8 to -1.2 | 11-20 |
| D2 | Severe Drought | Crop or pasture losses likely; water shortages common; water restrictions imposed | -3.0 to -3.9 | 6-10 | 6-10 | -1.3 to -1.5 | 6-10 |
| D3 | Extreme Drought | Major crop/pasture losses; widespread water shortages or restrictions | -4.0 to -4.9 | 3-5 | 3-5 | -1.6 to -1.9 | 3-5 |
| D4 | Exceptional Drought | Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses; shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies | -5.0 or less | 0-2 | 0-2 | -2.0 or less | 0-2 |

Source: University of Nebraska Lincoln, National Drought Mitigation Center 2008. A partnership consisting of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Joint Agricultural Weather Facility and National Water and Climate Center), the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center, National Climatic Data Center, and the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska Lincoln produces the Drought Monitor. However, advice from many other sources is incorporated in the product, including virtually every government agency dealing with drought.

¹Drought intensity categories are based on five key indicators and numerous supplementary indicators. This drought severity classification table shows the ranges for each indicator for each dryness level. Because the ranges of the various indicators often do not coincide, the final drought category tends to be based on what the majority of the indicators show. The analysts producing the map also weight the indices according to how well they perform in various parts of the country and at different times of the year. Also, additional indicators are often needed in the West, where winter snowfall has a strong bearing on water supplies.

D0-D4: The drought monitor summary map identifies general drought areas, labeling droughts by intensity, with D1 being the least intense and D4 being the most intense. D0, drought watch areas, are either drying out and possibly heading for drought, or are recovering from drought but not yet back to normal, suffering long-term impacts such as low reservoir levels.

²Short-term drought indicator blends focus on 1- to 3-month precipitation. Long-term blends focus on 6 to 60 months. Additional indices used, mainly during the growing season, include the U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Agricultural Statistics Service Topsoil Moisture, Keetch-Byram Drought Index, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service satellite Vegetation Health Indices. Indices used primarily during the snow season and in the West include snow water content, river basin precipitation, and the Surface Water Supply Index. Other indicators include groundwater levels, reservoir storage, and pasture/range conditions.

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Appendix D – Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Maps

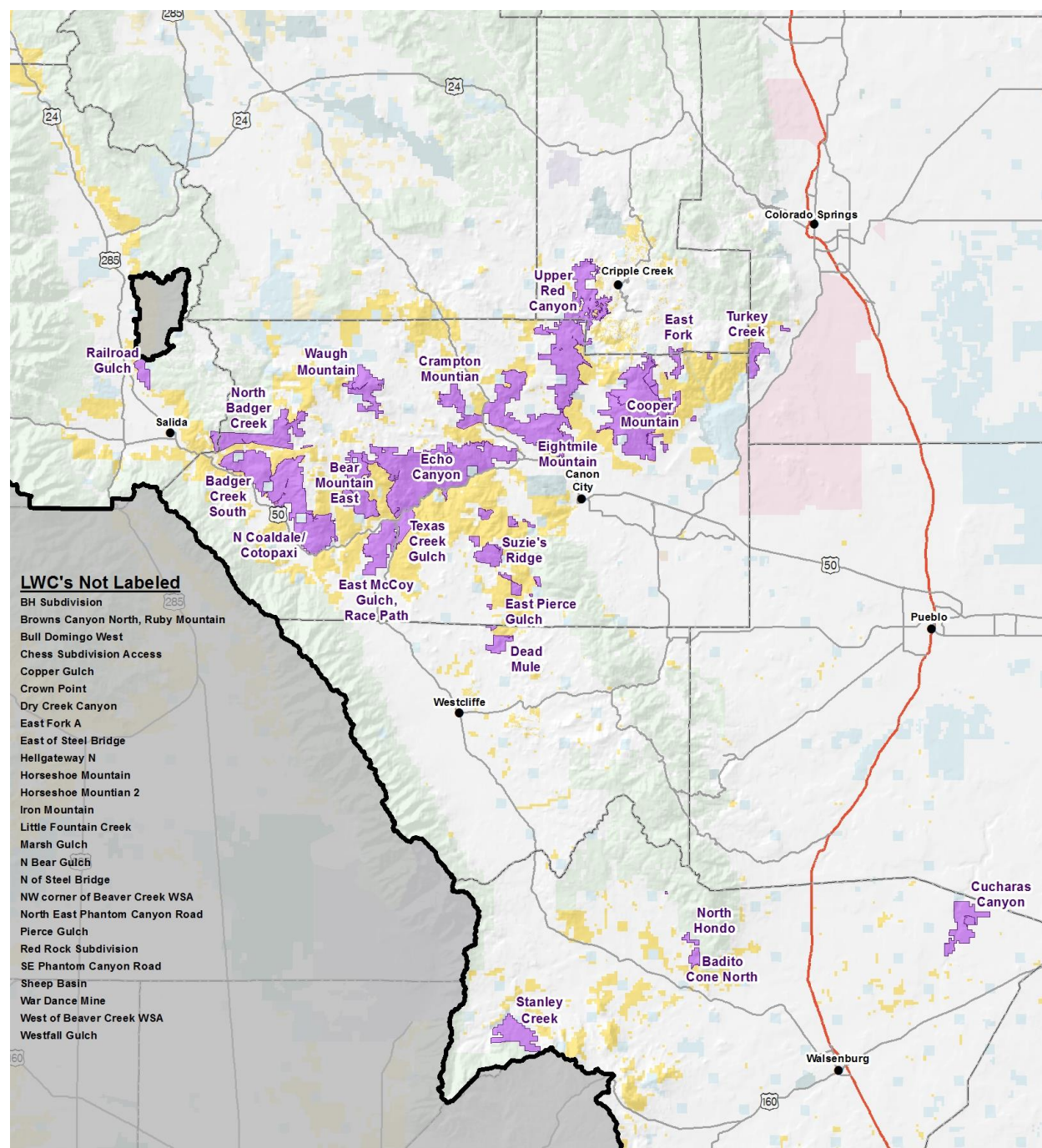
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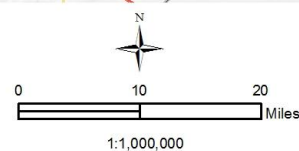
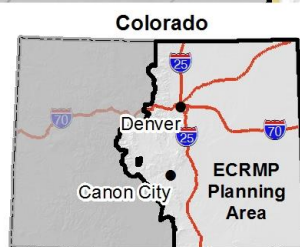
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Map D-1. Alternative B – Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



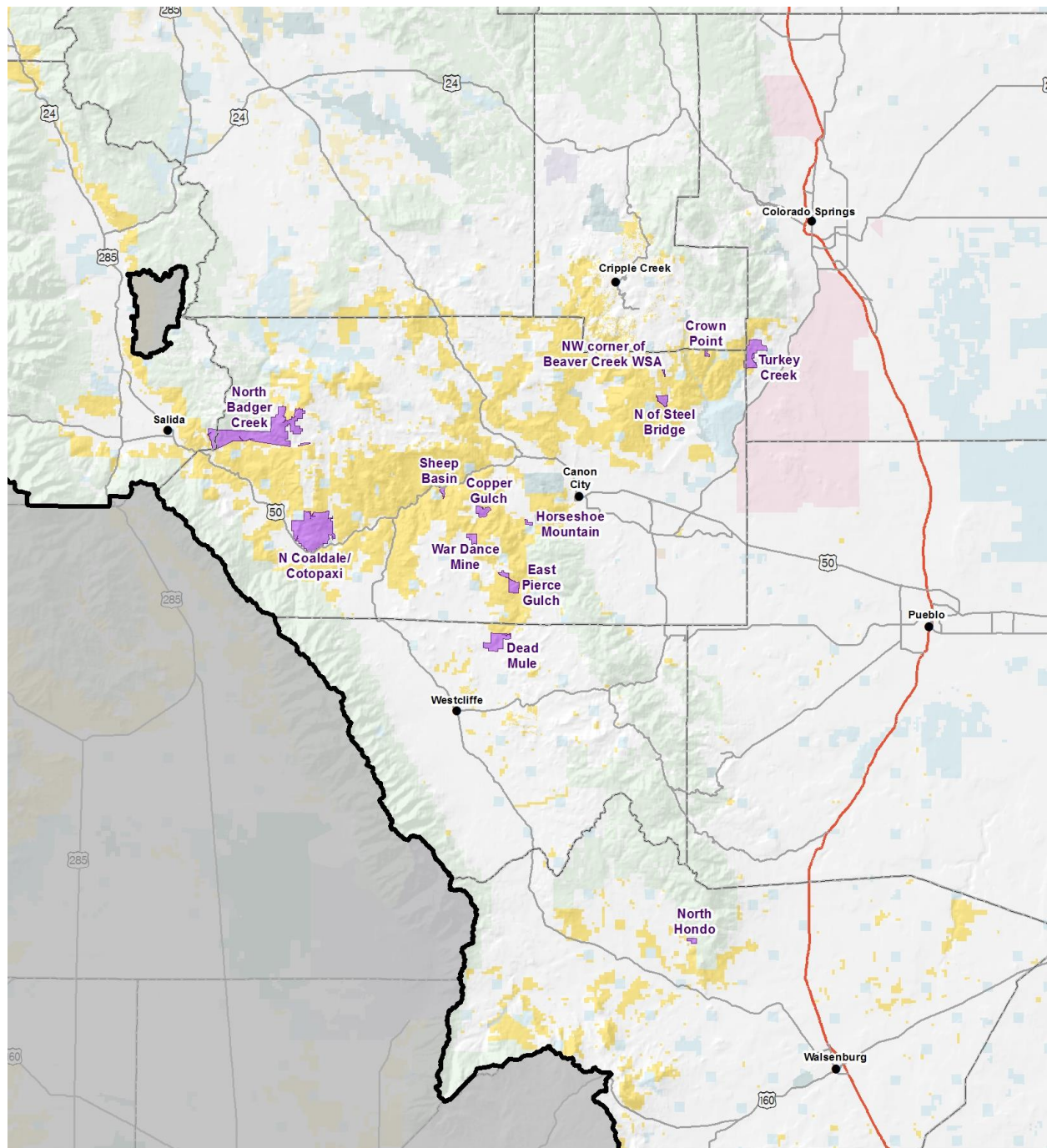
Alternative B

■ Lands With Wilderness Characteristics



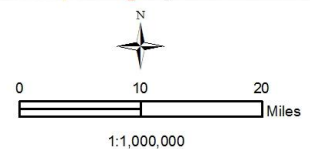
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map D-2. Alternative D – Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



Alternative D

■ Lands With Wilderness Characteristics



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

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Appendix E – Recreation and Visitor Services Management

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E.1 INTRODUCTION

This appendix provides supporting information to recreation and visitor services decisions in the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan (RMP).

E.2 KEY RECREATION PLANNING TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

E.2.1 Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

Definition. The SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance and/or distinctiveness, especially as compared to other areas used for recreation.

Management Focus. The SRMAs are managed to protect and enhance a targeted set of activities, experiences, benefits, and desired recreation setting characteristics. The SRMAs may be subdivided into recreation management zones (RMZ) to further delineate specific recreation opportunities. Within SRMAs, Recreation & Visitor Services (R&VS) management is recognized as the predominant land management focus, where specific recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are managed and protected on a long-term basis.

Requirements. The SRMAs/RMZs must have measurable outcome-focused objectives. Supporting management actions and allowable use decisions are required to: (1) sustain or enhance recreation objectives, (2) protect the desired recreation setting characteristics, and (3) constrain uses, including non-compatible recreation activities that are detrimental to meeting recreation or other critical resource objectives (e.g., cultural or threatened and endangered species).

A. SRMA/RMZ Outcome Objective. The outcome objective is a clear, measurable, and agreed-upon guide for decision making and evaluation of management effectiveness.

SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences, and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of R&VS management.

B. Recreation Outcomes. Recreation outcomes consist of experiences and benefits and are defined as:

- *Experiences.* Recreation experiences are immediate states-of-mind resulting from participation in recreation opportunities that result in benefits.
- *Benefits.* Recreation benefits accrue from having a satisfying recreation experience that leads to an (a) improved condition or (b) maintenance of a desired condition. These accrue from recreation participation, and are both short and long

term and are realized on and off-site. Benefits are identified in one of four categories and are described as:

- *Personal/Individual Benefits:* Recreation and leisure contributes to personal well-being and human development. It contributes to better physical and mental health for all individuals.
- *Social/Community Benefits:* Recreation contributes to the quality of life within communities by encouraging positive lifestyle choices, building social skills, reducing crime, and fostering a sense of community pride.
- *Economic Benefits:* Investments in recreation represent an investment in our economies through diversifying our economies, by attracting new businesses and by generating employment opportunities.
- *Environmental Benefits:* Participation in recreation and outdoor education programs can help protect the quality of the environment through improved understanding and stewardship of our natural, cultural and historic resources.

C. Proposed Recreation Setting Characteristics (RSCs). Proposed (or desired) RSCs are a description of the physical, social and operational characteristics that define an RMA's function and condition in the future. The desired RSCs may currently exist and be maintained, or may be a target toward which management of the SRMA or RMZ is to be directed that takes years to reach. Three recreation setting components and their RSCs are considered: (a) the physical qualities of nature and the landscape defined by remoteness, naturalness and facilities; (b) the social qualities associated with use defined by group size, contacts and evidence of use; and (c) the operational conditions to manage recreation use defined by type of access, visitor services and management controls. The BLM establishes these criteria in the land use plan to guide management action and allowable use decisions as well as the identification of site-specific use levels for activities during plan implementation (BLM H-1601-1, page 13). These are initial allocations unless otherwise stated. Monitoring and evaluation may cause recreation managers to adjust the RSCs over the life of the plan to meet recreation objectives.

E.2.2 Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)

Definition. The ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or R&VS program investments.

Management Focus. The ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. Management of ERMA areas is commensurate with the management of other resources and resource uses.

Requirements. The ERMA must have measurable objectives. Supporting management actions and allowable use decisions must facilitate the visitors' ability to participate in outdoor recreation activities and protect the associated qualities and conditions. Non-compatible uses, including some recreation activities, may be restricted or constrained to achieve interdisciplinary objectives.

- A. ERMA Objective.** ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.

E.2.3 Supporting Management Action and Allowable Use Decisions

Management actions and allowable use decisions are generally described as land use planning (LUP) level decisions needed to achieve program objectives or constrain non-compatible land uses. Supporting management action and allowable use decisions are selected in terms of their ability to help achieve the recreation objectives (i.e., recreation opportunities), maintain or enhance the recreation settings, or guide recreation implementation.

E.2.4 Implementation Decisions Included in this RMP Revision

Implementation decisions allow site specific (on-the-ground) actions needed to achieve land use plan decisions (see Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1, p. 30-31 and CFR 8365.1-6 Supplementary rules). If implementation decisions are included in the land use planning document to achieve R&VS program objectives, they must be clearly distinguished as implementation decisions that are appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

E.2.5 Best Management Practices

Recreation management areas with complex implementation issues may require a subsequent implementation-level recreation area management plan (RAMP) tiered to land use plan decisions. Subsequent site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis would be required to implement some types of actions. Other actions that involve education, information, interpretation and monitoring may not require site-specific NEPA analysis. The subsequent best management practices for implementation-level planning guidance is presented to illustrate opportunities for active stakeholder collaboration and to provide a suite of possible implementation actions that could be adaptively performed to ensure management effectiveness in meeting recreation and visitor services goals and objectives.

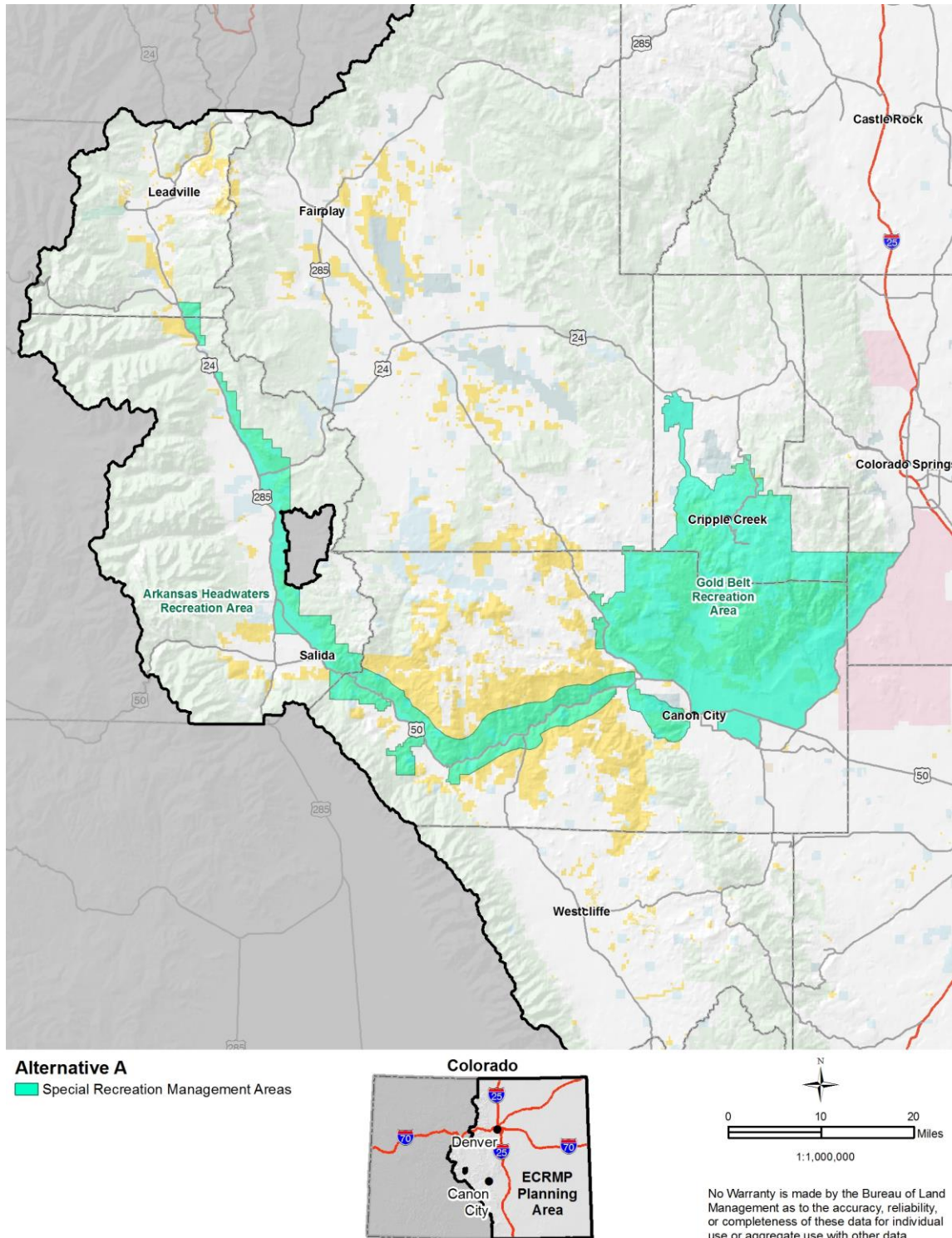
E.2.6 Supplementary Rules (43 CFR 8365.1-6)

Supplementary rules may be established to provide for the protection of persons, property, and public lands and resources. Supplementary rules may be proposed in circumstances where existing regulations are not sufficient to manage resource use conflicts or to protect resources and may also be needed to implement decisions in resource management plans or other planning

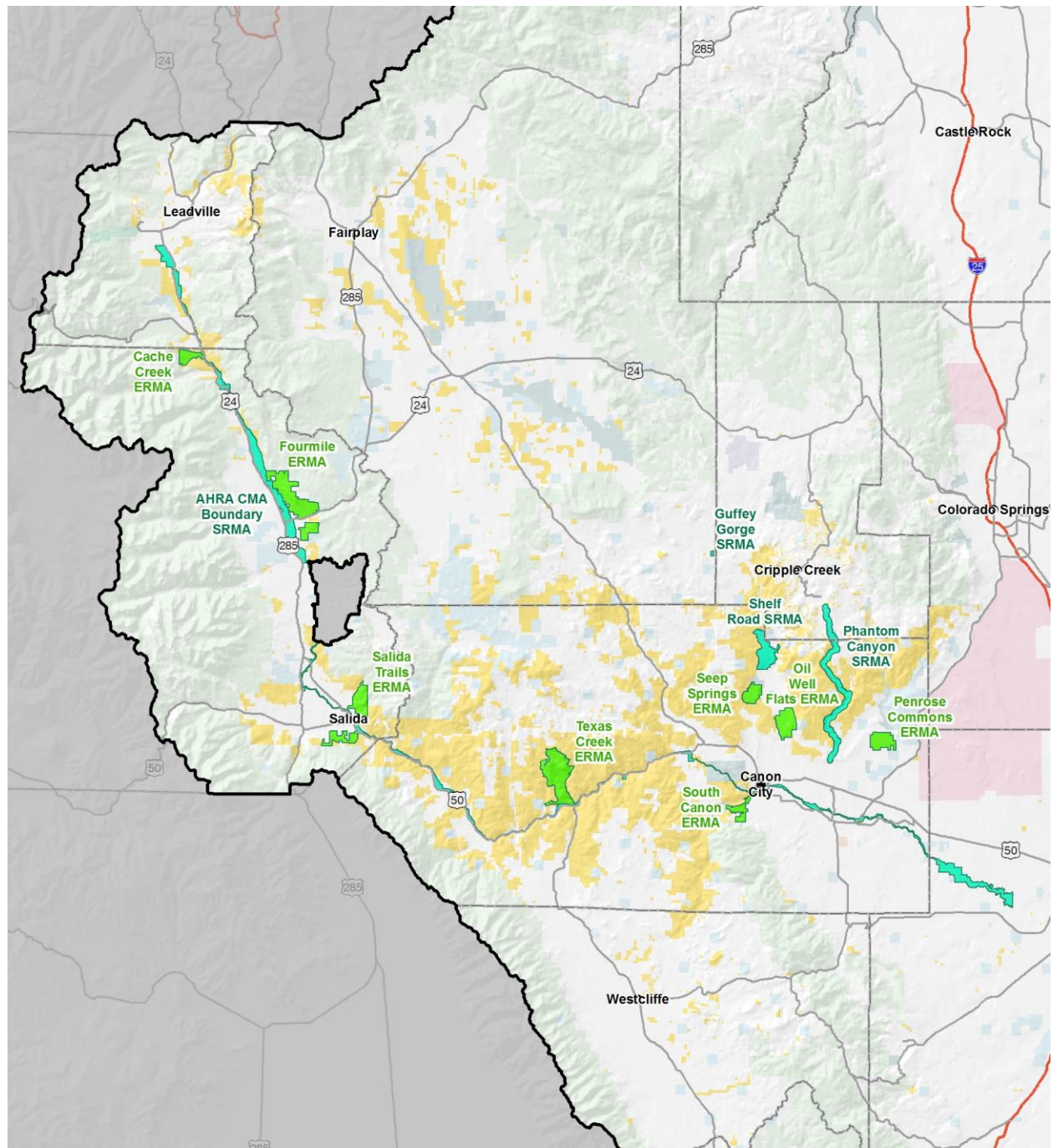
documents. Supplementary rules are used to support objectives of 43 CFR Subpart 8365, “Rules of Conduct” for the protection of public lands and resources, and for the protection, comfort and well-being of the public in its use of recreation areas, sites, and facilities on public lands.

E.3 MAPS OF RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS BY ALTERNATIVE

Map E-1. Alternative A – Recreation Management Areas

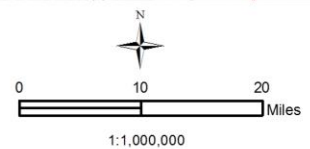


Map E-2. Alternative B – Recreation Management Areas



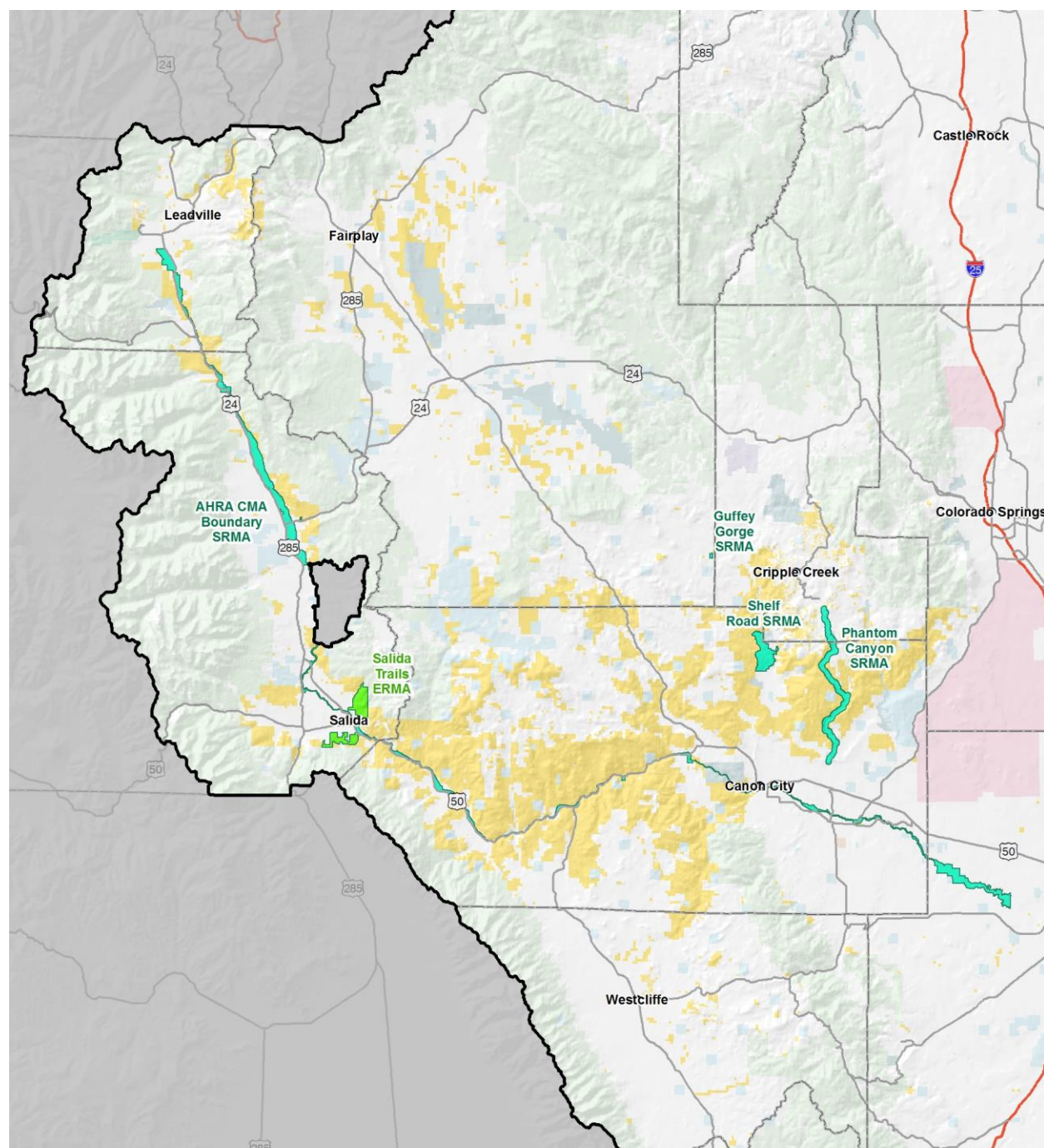
Alternative B

- Special Recreation Management Areas
- Extensive Recreation Management Areas



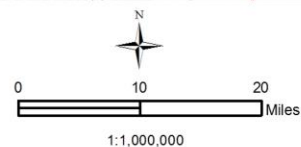
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map E-3. Alternative C – Recreation Management Areas



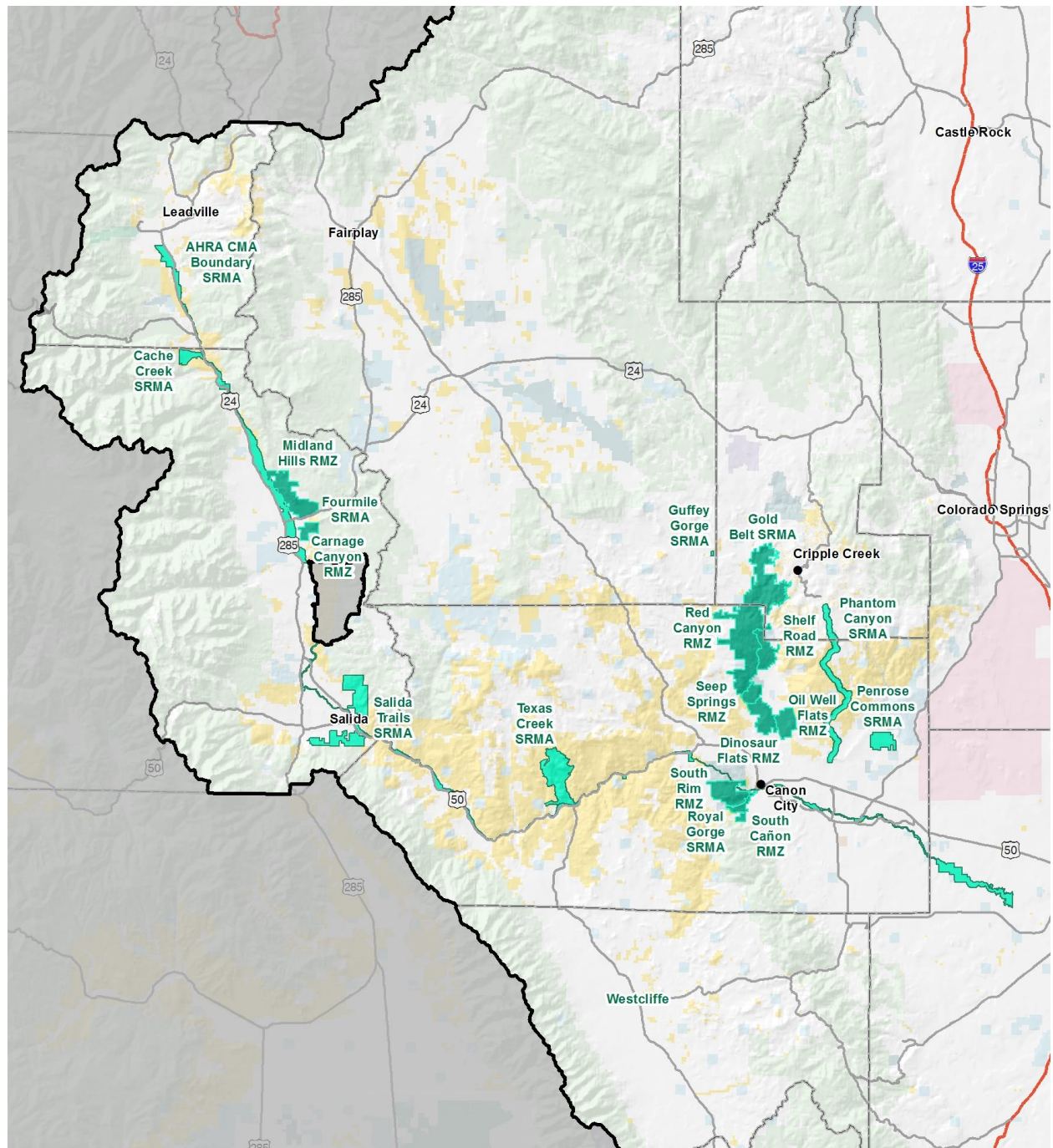
Alternative C

- Special Recreation Management Areas
- Extensive Recreation Management Areas



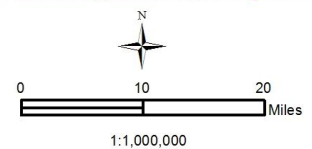
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map E-4. Alternative D – Recreation Management Areas



Alternative D - Recreation Management Areas

- Special Recreation Management Areas
- Recreation Management Zones within SRMAs



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

E.4 MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS FOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS

E.4.1 Alternative A (Current RMPs)

E.4.1.1 Special Recreation Management Areas

Arkansas River SRMA

Continue to intensively manage recreation on the lands along the Arkansas River and the Gold Belt Tour Area. Manage the SRMA in accordance with BLM policy and Connecting with Communities National Recreation Strategy.

Gold Belt SRMA

Continue to intensively manage recreation on the lands along the Arkansas River and the Gold Belt Tour Area. Manage the SRMA in accordance with BLM policy and Connecting with Communities National Recreation Strategy.

E.4.1.2 Extensive Recreation Management Areas

Royal Gorge ERMA

Manage lands outside the SRMAs as an ERMA. Manage the ERMA to provide for a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities and experiences in semi-primitive motorized, nonmotorized and primitive settings.

E.4.2 Alternative B

E.4.2.1 Special Recreation Management Areas

Arkansas River SRMA

The Arkansas River is managed in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife through the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. The management of the river corridor is directed through the Arkansas River Recreation Area Management Plan where outstanding opportunities exist for fishing, whitewater rafting, and kayaking. The river is managed by sections where distinct recreation outcomes and opportunities are targeted. This plan will adopt the recommended activities, outcomes, settings and objectives as outlined in the Arkansas River Recreation Area Management Plan.

Guffey Gorge SRMA

This small swimming hole receives high visitation in the summer months and is supported by a developed parking area with restrooms, picnic tables, and information kiosks. Visitors enjoy the area for its scenic beauty, sun bathing, and swimming.

Provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, sun bathing and swimming in a natural setting with participants experiencing connections with nature, group/family bonding, and having your peers think highly of you. Located in a rural area this recreation needs to be balanced with the quiet rural character of the surrounding landscape.

Table E-1. Alternative B – Guffey Gorge SRMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiking• Sunbathing• Swimming | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoying risk-taking adventure• Enjoying the closeness of friends/family• Enjoying easy access to natural landscapes | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Stronger ties with families/friends○ Confirmation/development of own values and self-confidence○ Greater cultivation of natural resource stewardship ethic• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Greater family bonding• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reduced negative human impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling and vandalism• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increased desirability as a place to live or retire | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Phantom Canyon SRMA

Part of the Gold Belt National Scenic Byway, this historic rail line that is now a county road provides rich interpretive opportunities of one of the country's largest gold rushes. This interpretive tour is supported by developed restrooms, picnic sites, and interpretive panels as well as numerous interpretive products developed in partnership with Gold Belt Byway Association.

The Phantom Canyon SRMA, through program management and stakeholder involvement, will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for auto touring and interpretation of the region's history. Visitors will increase their knowledge of the local history and agritourism opportunities while contributing to the local economy through related tourism.

Table E-2. Alternative B – Phantom Canyon SRMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Auto touring• Cultural heritage/interpretation | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning more about this specific area• Enjoying easy access to natural landscapes• Sharing the local cultural heritage with new people | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increased appreciation for area’s cultural history○ Greater awareness that the area is a special place• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved community pride and self-awareness of cultural heritage• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sustainability of communities cultural heritage• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Shelf Road SRMA

The Shelf Road SRMA will continue to serve as an internationally recognized sport climbing area providing an abundance of routes of varying difficulty serving as a destination location. Trails in the area will also provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking along with a four wheel drive backcountry route. Personal outcomes include mental relaxation/escape from daily lives, skill development, risk taking, along with family/group togetherness. Community benefits include economic development from outdoor recreation tourism and improved quality of life for local residents serving as an attraction for living in the area.

Table E-3. Alternative B – Shelf Road SRMA

| Management Objective: | | |
|---|---|---|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | |
| Outcomes | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock climbing | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing skills and abilities • Enjoying risk taking adventure • Enjoying strenuous activity • Relishing group affiliation and togetherness • Enjoying learning/teaching outdoor skills • Feeling I belong to this community | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved mental and physical well-being ○ Improved outdoor recreation skills ○ Stronger ties with family/friends • Community/Social: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heightened sense of satisfaction with community (community pride) • Environmental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduced impacts to the area from recreation use • Economic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved local economic stability ○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy ○ Increased local job opportunities ○ Greater value added local services/industry ○ Increased desirability as a place to live or retire ○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche |

| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

E.4.2.2 Extensive Recreation Management Areas

Cache Creek ERMA

Home to turn of the century mining operations the Cache Creek area is still known for its abundant gold deposits. Winter elk habitat, a recovering fishery and associated riparian areas, and historic values were the primary reasons for acquisition of this area by the BLM in 2002. Since this time the area has become popular for recreational level gold prospecting and is recognized at a national level for this resource.

Table E-4. Alternative B – Cache Creek ERMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| In the Cache Creek ERMA, recreational gold prospecting will continue to be a targeted activity while wildlife disturbance in the winter months is minimized, impacts to cultural resources do not occur, and there are minimal human caused sedimentation increases in Cache Creek to retain a healthy fishery and riparian habitat. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Fourmile ERMA

On the outskirts of Buena Vista, the Fourmile area plays an important role in the community's local economy and residents' quality of life. The ERMA provides outstanding opportunities for off-highway vehicle (OHV) rock crawling, hiking, and mountain biking, and serves as the jumping off point for OHV opportunities on adjacent U.S. Forest Service-managed lands. The area is also home to the cooperatively managed Barbara Whipple Trail System and the historic Midland Trail. The area contains important winter wildlife habitat and is an active grazing allotment.

Table E-5. Alternative B – Fourmile ERMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Through program management and stakeholder involvement, provide outstanding recreation opportunities through a variety of activities contributing to area residents' quality of life commensurate with wildlife habitat needs and cattle grazing use. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Oil Well Flats ERMA

Located north of Cañon City, the Oil Well Flats ERMA serves a popular area for nonmotorized trail based recreation serving both the local community and the larger region of the Colorado Front Range. The area is also part of an active grazing allotment and is within the Garden Park Area of Critical Environmental Concern famous for its rich paleontological history.

Table E-6. Alternative B – Oil Well Flats ERMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Continue to provide outstanding nonmotorized trail based opportunities including hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking commensurately with grazing uses and Area of Critical Environmental Concern values. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Penrose Commons ERMA

Located outside of Penrose, Colorado, the Penrose Commons ERMA is recognized as a regional motorized trail resource, particularly for off-season use, with numerous all-terrain vehicle (ATV) width trails and Independence Trail, for rock-crawling enthusiasts. The area is also part of an active grazing allotment.

Table E-7. Alternative B – Penrose Commons ERMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Continue to provide outstanding motorized trail based opportunities including all-terrain vehicle riding, motorcycles, utility task vehicles, and rock-crawling commensurately with grazing uses. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Salida Trails ERMA

The trail system on public lands surrounding Salida serves as the community’s backyard offering improved health and fitness, relief of day to day stress, skill development and youth engagement. As a regional destination the trail system also contributes greatly to the local economy. Primary activities include mountain biking, hiking, and trail running. Three Bureau sensitive plant species are found within the ERMA; it is also an elk winter concentration area and contains mule deer severe winter range. This habitat type is crucial for wildlife survival in the winter when forage resources are lowest.

Table E-8. Alternative B – Salida Trails ERMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, provide outstanding opportunities for nonmotorized trail based recreation and continue to contribute to area residents’ quality of life commensurately with winter wildlife habitat needs and sensitive plant species. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Seep Springs ERMA

Located just north of Cañon City, Colorado, the Seep Springs ERMA provides outstanding motorized trail based recreation opportunities with numerous purpose built ATV width trails and 4x4 roads serving the local community and the region. The area is also home to an active grazing allotment.

Table E-9. Alternative B – Seep Springs ERMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| The Seep Springs ERMA will provide motorized trail based recreation opportunities focusing on close to town ATV and motorcycle riding as well as 4x4 touring commensurately with grazing use. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

South Cañon ERMA

This ERMA provides outstanding opportunities for nonmotorized trail based recreation and exploration of natural areas directly outside of Cañon City, Colorado improving residents' quality of life. Populations of golden blazing star, a Bureau sensitive plant species, is known to occur in the area, as well as numerous wildlife species typical of those found in the pinyon-juniper forest.

Table E-10. Alternative B – South Cañon ERMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, provide outstanding opportunities for nonmotorized trail based recreation and continue to contribute to area residents' quality of life commensurately with wildlife habitat needs and sensitive plant species. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Texas Creek ERMA

The Texas Creek ERMA offers outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation in a backcountry setting. Due to the mild climate, the area is known for fall, winter, and spring riding opportunities and is a destination for the local communities as well as the Front Range of Colorado. This ERMA is served by an extensive route network with several miles of purpose built ATV trails. The area also offers outstanding dispersed camping suitable for trailers and groups and the close proximity to the Arkansas River offers fishing and relaxation. With public access and an extensive road and trail network, this ERMA also provides exceptional opportunities for motorized access big game hunting.

Table E-11. Alternative B – Texas Creek ERMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, continue to provide outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation and the personal benefits this area provides commensurate with wildlife habitat management and livestock grazing management needs. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

E.4.3 Alternative C

E.4.3.1 Special Recreation Management Areas

Arkansas River SRMA

The Arkansas River is managed in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife through the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. The management of the river corridor is directed through the Arkansas River Recreation Area Management Plan where outstanding opportunities exist for fishing, whitewater rafting, and kayaking. The river is managed by sections where distinct recreation outcomes and opportunities are targeted. This plan will adopt the recommended activities, outcomes, settings, and objectives as outlined in the Arkansas River Recreation Area Management Plan.

Guffey Gorge SRMA

This small swimming hole receives high visitation in the summer months and is supported by a developed parking area with restrooms, picnic tables, and information kiosks. Visitors enjoy the area for its scenic beauty, sunbathing, and swimming.

Provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, sunbathing and swimming in a natural setting with participants experiencing connections with nature, group/family bonding, and having your peers think highly of you. Located in a rural area this recreation needs to be balanced with the quiet rural character of the surrounding landscape.

Table E-12. Alternative C – Guffey Gorge SRMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiking• Sunbathing• Swimming | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoying risk-taking adventure• Enjoying the closeness of friends/family• Enjoying easy access to natural landscapes | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Stronger ties with families/friends○ Confirmation/development of own values and self-confidence○ Greater cultivation of natural resource stewardship ethic• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Greater family bonding• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reduced negative human impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling and vandalism• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increased desirability as a place to live or retire | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Phantom Canyon SRMA

Part of the Gold Belt National Scenic Byway, this historic rail line that is now a county road provides rich interpretive opportunities of one of the country's largest gold rushes. This interpretive tour is supported by developed restrooms, picnic sites, and interpretive panels as well as numerous interpretive products developed in partnership with Gold Belt Byway Association.

The Phantom Canyon SRMA, through program management and stakeholder involvement, will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for auto touring and interpretation of the region's history. Visitors will increase their knowledge of the local history and agritourism opportunities while contributing to the local economy through related tourism.

Table E-13. Alternative C – Phantom Canyon SRMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Auto touring• Cultural heritage/interpretation | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning more about this specific area• Enjoying easy access to natural landscapes• Sharing the local cultural heritage with new people | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increased appreciation for area’s cultural history○ Greater awareness that the area is a special place• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved community pride and self-awareness of cultural heritage• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sustainability of communities cultural heritage• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Shelf Road SRMA

The Shelf Road SRMA will continue to serve as an internationally recognized sport climbing area providing an abundance of routes of varying difficulty serving as a destination location. Trails in the area will also provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking along with a four wheel drive backcountry route. Personal outcomes include mental relaxation/escape from daily lives, skill development, risk taking, along with family/group togetherness. Community benefits include economic development from outdoor recreation tourism and improved quality of life for local residents serving as an attraction for living in the area.

Table E-14. Alternative C – Shelf Road SRMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rock Climbing | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing skills and abilities• Enjoying risk taking adventure• Enjoying strenuous activity• Relishing group affiliation and togetherness• Enjoying learning/teaching outdoor skills• Feeling I belong to this community | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved mental and physical well-being○ Improved outdoor recreation skills○ Stronger ties with family/friends• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Heightened sense of satisfaction with community (community pride)• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reduced impacts to the area from recreation use• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved local economic stability○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy○ Increased local job opportunities○ Greater value added local services/industry○ Increased desirability as a place to live or retire○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

E.4.3.2 Extensive Recreation Management Areas

Salida Trails ERMA

The trail system on public lands surrounding Salida serve as the community’s backyard offering improved health and fitness, relief of day to day stress, skill development, and youth engagement. As a regional destination, the trail system also contributes greatly to the local economy. Primary activities include mountain biking, hiking, and trail running. Three Bureau sensitive plant species are found within the ERMA; it is also an elk winter concentration area and contains mule deer severe winter range. This habitat type is crucial for wildlife survival in the winter when forage resources are lowest.

Table E-15. Alternative C – Salida Trails ERMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, provide outstanding opportunities for nonmotorized trail based recreation and continue to contribute to area residents’ quality of life commensurately with winter wildlife habitat needs and sensitive plant species. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

E.4.4 Alternative D

E.4.4.1 Special Recreation Management Areas

Arkansas River SRMA

The Arkansas River is managed in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife through the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. The management of the river corridor is directed through the Arkansas River Recreation Area Management Plan where outstanding opportunities exist for fishing, whitewater rafting and kayaking. The river is managed by sections where distinct recreation outcomes and opportunities are targeted. This plan will adopt the recommended activities, outcomes, settings and objectives as outlined in the Arkansas River Recreation Area Management Plan.

Cache Creek SRMA

Home to turn of the century mining operations the Cache Creek area is still known for its abundant gold deposits. Since being acquired by the BLM in 2002, the area has become a popular destination for recreational level gold prospecting and is recognized at a national level for this resource.

Goal: Provide outstanding opportunities for recreational level gold prospecting allowing for connections with nature, sense of accomplishment of using ones wits to discover gold, and bonding with others based on a common interest. This would be accomplished in balance with the other important resources of the area including winter wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and a fishery along Cache Creek.

Table E-16. Alternative D – Cache Creek SRMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gold panning | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connections with nature• Sense of accomplishment using knowledge and skills to discover gold• Bonding with others based on a common interest | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved physical fitness/better health○ Restored mind from stress/tension/anxiety | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Fourmile SRMA

On the outskirts of Buena Vista, the Fourmile SRMA plays an important role in the community's local economy and residents' quality of life. Consisting of two RMZs, Carnage Canyon and Midland Hill, the SRMA provides outstanding opportunities for OHV rock crawling, hiking, and mountain biking, and serves as the jumping off point for OHV opportunities on adjacent U.S. Forest Service-managed lands. The area is also home to the Barbara Whipple Trail System and the historic Midland Trail.

Goal: The Fourmile SRMA, through program management and stakeholder involvement, will continue to provide outstanding recreation opportunities through a variety of activities contributing to area residents' quality of life by contributing to the local economy and improvements to health and fitness, skill development, youth engagement, and enhanced stewardship of the area. The area will also continue to provide important winter wildlife habitat

requiring collaboration with wildlife management partners to mitigate and offset impacts from recreation.

Carnage Canyon RMZ

The Carnage Canyon RMZ will continue to provide outstanding motorized recreation opportunities, primarily in the form of rock crawling, and serve as a regional asset for this unique user group. Targeted outcomes include family/group togetherness, skill development, and risk taking.

Table E-17. Alternative D – Fourmile SRMA, Carnage Canyon RMZ

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rock crawling• ATV riding• Motorcycle riding | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing skills and abilities• Enjoying the closeness of friends/family• Talking to others about equipment | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Greater sense of adventure○ Improved skills○ Stronger ties with families and friends• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reduced negative impacts from recreation use• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Midland Hills RMZ

The Midland Hills RMZ will serve as Buena Vista’s backyard trail system offering abundant opportunities for personal benefits such as improved health and fitness, mental relaxation, skill development, and youth engagement while also playing an important role in the local economy by attracting tourists and potential new residents for the improved quality of life the trail opportunities provide.

Table E-18. Alternative D – Fourmile SRMA, Midland Hills RMZ

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiking• Horseback riding• Mountain biking• Off-highway vehicle use (County Road 375 Trailhead)• Rock climbing | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing skills and abilities• Enjoying strenuous physical exercise• Enjoying ability to frequently participate in desired activities close to home• Releasing stress and escaping from everyday responsibilities• Feeling that this community is a special place to live | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved mental and physical well-being○ A more outdoor-oriented lifestyle○ Improved physical capacity to do my favorite recreation activities• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Heightened sense of satisfaction with our community○ More well-rounded childhood development• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Greater community ownership and stewardship of natural resources• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increased work productivity○ Increased desirability as a place to live, work and play○ Greater value added local services/industry○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Gold Belt SRMA

Home to the Gold Belt National Scenic Backcountry Byway as well as internationally recognized Shelf Road Rock Climbing Area, Garden Park Fossil Area, and the increasingly popular Oil Well Flats and Seep Springs trail systems, this SRMA plays an important role in

regional tourism, education and interpretation of history and paleontology, and quality of life for local residents. Consisting of five RMZs—Shelf Road Climbing Area, Red Canyon Primitive Area, Seep Springs OHV Trail System, Oil Well Flats Trail System, and Dinosaur Flats Dispersed Area—the SRMA provides outstanding opportunities for a variety of recreation activities and interpretive sites.

The Gold Belt SRMA, through program management and stakeholder involvement, will continue to provide outstanding recreation opportunities through a variety of activities contributing to area residents' quality of life by contributing to the local and regional economy and improvements to health and fitness, skill development, youth engagement, enhanced stewardship of the area, and enhanced knowledge about the history and paleontological resources of the area.

Shelf Road Climbing Area RMZ

The Shelf Road Climbing Area RMZ will continue to serve as an internationally recognized sport climbing area providing an abundance of routes of varying difficulty serving as a destination location. Trails in the area will also provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking along with a four wheel drive backcountry route. Personal outcomes include mental relaxation/escape from daily lives, skill development, risk taking, along with family/group togetherness. Community benefits include economic development from outdoor recreation tourism and improved quality of life for local residents serving as an attraction for living in the area.

Table E-19. Alternative D – Gold Belt SRMA, Shelf Road Climbing Area RMZ

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rock climbing | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing skills and abilities• Enjoying risk taking adventure• Enjoying strenuous physical activity• Relishing group affiliation and togetherness• Enjoying learning/teaching outdoor skills• Feeling I belong to this community• Enjoying easy access to natural landscapes | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved mental and physical well-being○ Improved outdoor recreation skills○ Stronger ties with family/friends• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Heightened sense of satisfaction with community (community pride)• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reduced impacts to the area from recreation use• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved local economic stability○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy○ Increased local job opportunities○ Greater value added local services/industry○ Increased desirability as a place to live or retire○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Red Canyon Primitive Area RMZ

The Red Canyon Primitive Area RMZ will provide backcountry nonmotorized trail activities with exceptional opportunities for individuals to connect with nature, escape the stresses of day-to-day life, and challenge one's self with long distance excursions into a remote and primitive

area. The area also offers outstanding opportunities for backcountry hunting providing individual self-reliance and sense of accomplishment.

Table E-20. Alternative D – Gold Belt SRMA, Red Canyon Primitive Area RMZ

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiking• Horseback riding• Mountain biking• Backcountry hunting• Backcountry angling | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Releasing or reducing stress• Feeling good about solitude and independence• Enjoying an escape from crowds of people• Enjoying strenuous physical activity | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Better physical and mental health and health maintenance○ Closer relationship with the natural world○ Improved outdoor knowledge, skills and self-confidence• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Enhanced lifestyle○ Increased community pride• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Conservation of entire sustainable ecosystems• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved community economic resiliency○ Increased desirability as a place to live, work and play○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Seep Springs OHV Trail System RMZ

The Seep Springs OHV Trail System RMZ will provide motorized trail based recreation opportunities focusing on close to town ATV and motorcycle riding as well as 4x4 touring. Personal benefits of the trail system include mental relaxation/escape from daily lives, skill development, connections with nature, and family/group togetherness. Community benefits

include economic development from outdoor recreation tourism and serving as an attraction for living/re-locating to the area.

Table E-21. Alternative D – Gold Belt SRMA, Seep Springs OHV Trail System RMZ

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4x4 driving• ATV riding• Motorcycle riding | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing skills and abilities• Escaping personal/social pressures• Enjoying nature | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Better physical and mental health and health maintenance○ Improved skills for enjoying the outdoors○ A more outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Enhanced lifestyle○ Increased community pride• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Greater community ownership and stewardship of natural resources• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved community economic resiliency○ Increased desirability as a place to live, work and play○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Oil Well Flats Trail System RMZ

The Oil Well Flats Trail System RMZ will provide nonmotorized trail based recreation opportunities focusing on close to town mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. Personal benefits of the trail system include improved health and fitness, mental relaxation/stress

reduction, family/group bonding, skill development, and youth engagement while also playing an important role in the local economy by serving as a regional destination and attracting potential new residents for the improved quality of life the trail opportunities provide.

Table E-22. Alternative D – Gold Belt SRMA, Oil Well Flats Trail System RMZ

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mountain bikingHikingHorseback riding | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing skills and abilitiesEnjoying risk taking adventureEnjoying strenuous physical activityRelishing group affiliation and togethernessEnjoying learning/teaching outdoor skillsFeeling I belong to this communityEnjoying easy access to natural landscapes | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved mental and physical well-beingImproved outdoor recreation skillsStronger ties with family/friendsCommunity/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced lifestyleHeightened sense of satisfaction with community (community pride)Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduced impacts to the area from recreation useEconomic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved local economic stabilityMore positive contributions to local-regional economyIncreased local job opportunitiesGreater value added local services/industryIncreased desirability as a place to live, work and playMaintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Dinosaur Flats Dispersed Area RMZ

The Dinosaur Flats Dispersed Area RMZ would provide expanded trail based recreation opportunities close to the community of Cañon City as well as opportunities for target shooting. This RMZ will allow for trail opportunities to expand beyond Oil Well Flats to reduce conflicts between mountain biking and other trail users, increasing residents' quality of life through easy access to natural areas and economic development. This RMZ will also allow for the expansion of the Seep Springs motorized trail system creating a regional attraction for visitors from the Front Range enhancing the local economy and encouraging frequent visitation by local visitors decreasing stress, developing skills, and increasing bonding for families and groups.

Table E-23. Alternative D – Gold Belt SRMA, Dinosaur Flats Dispersed Area RMZ

| Management Objective: | | |
|---|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | |
| Outcomes | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain biking • Hiking • Horseback riding • Target shooting • Motorcycle riding • ATV riding | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing skills and abilities • Enjoying risk taking adventure • Enjoying strenuous physical activity • Relishing group affiliation and togetherness • Enjoying learning/teaching outdoor skills • Feeling I belong to this community • Enjoying easy access to natural landscapes • Escaping personal/social pressures • Enjoying nature | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved outdoor recreation skills ○ Stronger ties with family/friends ○ Better physical and mental health and health maintenance ○ A more outdoor-oriented lifestyle • Community/Social: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heightened sense of satisfaction with community (community pride) ○ Enhanced lifestyle • Environmental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduced impacts to the area from recreation use • Economic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved local economic stability ○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy ○ Increased local job opportunities ○ Greater value added local services/industry ○ Increased desirability as a place to live, work and play ○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche |

| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Guffey Gorge SRMA

This small swimming hole receives high visitation in the summer months and is supported by a developed parking area with restrooms, picnic tables, and information kiosks. Visitors enjoy the area for its scenic beauty, sunbathing, and swimming.

Provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, sunbathing, and swimming in a natural setting with participants experiencing connections with nature, group/family bonding, and having your peers think highly of you. Located in a rural area this recreation needs to be balanced with the quiet rural character of the surrounding landscape.

Table E-24. Alternative D – Guffey Gorge SRMA

| Management Objective: | | |
|---|--|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | |
| Outcomes | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking • Sunbathing • Swimming | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoying risk-taking adventure • Enjoying the closeness of friends/family • Enjoying easy access to natural landscapes | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stronger ties with families/friends ○ Confirmation/development of own values and self-confidence ○ Greater cultivation of natural resource stewardship ethic • Community/Social: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greater family bonding • Environmental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduced negative human impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling and vandalism • Economic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased desirability as a place to live or retire |

| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Penrose Commons SRMA

The Penrose Commons SRMA offers outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation. Due to the mild climate, the area is known for fall, winter, and spring riding opportunities and is a destination for the local communities as well as the Front Range of Colorado. This SRMA is served by an extensive route network with several miles of purpose built ATV trails and rock crawling routes.

The Penrose Commons SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation and the personal benefits this area provides including connections with nature, family/group togetherness, and satisfaction from challenging oneself.

Table E-25. Alternative D – Penrose Commons SRMA

| Management Objective: | | |
|---|---|---|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | |
| Outcomes | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock crawling • ATV riding • Motorcycle riding | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing skills and abilities • Enjoying the closeness of friends/family • Talking to others about equipment • Escaping personal/social pressures • Enjoying nature | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greater sense of adventure ○ Stronger ties with families and friends ○ Better physical and mental health and health maintenance ○ Improved skills for enjoying the outdoors ○ A more outdoor-oriented lifestyle • Environmental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduced negative impacts from recreation use • Economic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy |

| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | | | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| | | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| | | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |

Phantom Canyon SRMA

Part of the Gold Belt National Scenic byway, this historic rail line that is now a county road provides rich interpretive opportunities of one of the country’s largest gold rushes. This interpretive tour is supported by developed restrooms, picnic sites, and interpretive panels as well as numerous interpretive products developed in partnership with Gold Belt Byway Association.

The Phantom Canyon SRMA, through program management and stakeholder involvement, will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for auto touring and interpretation of the region’s history. Visitors will increase their knowledge of the local history and agritourism opportunities while contributing to the local economy through related tourism.

Table E-26. Alternative D – Phantom Canyon SRMA

| Management Objective: | | |
|---|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | |
| Outcomes | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto touring • Cultural heritage/interpretation | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning more about this specific area • Enjoying easy access to natural landscapes • Sharing the local cultural heritage with new people | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased appreciation for area’s cultural history ○ Greater awareness that the area is a special place • Community/Social: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved community pride and self-awareness of cultural heritage • Environmental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainability of communities cultural heritage • Economic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy |

| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Royal Gorge SRMA

Located south of Cañon City and the world famous Royal Gorge this SRMA serves as the backyard for the community and also provides the viewshed for hundreds of thousands of visitors. Comprised of two RMZs—South Cañon and South Rim—the area offers outstanding opportunities for nonmotorized trail based recreation, backcountry hunting and angling, exploration, and creek related recreation.

South Cañon RMZ

Provide outstanding opportunities for nonmotorized trail based recreation directly outside of Cañon City, Colorado improving residents’ quality of life through decreased stress, improved health and fitness, family/group bonding, and improved economic conditions through outdoor recreation based tourism.

Table E-27. Alternative D – Royal Gorge SRMA, South Cañon RMZ

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiking• Horseback riding• Mountain biking | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing skills and abilities• Enjoying strenuous physical exercise• Enjoying ability to frequently participate in desired activities close to home• Releasing stress and escaping from everyday responsibilities• Feeling that this community is a special place to live | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved mental and physical well-being○ A more outdoor-oriented lifestyle○ Improved physical capacity to do my favorite recreation activities• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Heightened sense of satisfaction with our community○ More well-rounded childhood development• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Greater community ownership and stewardship of natural resources• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increased work productivity○ Increased desirability as a place to live, work and play○ Greater value added local services/industry○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

South Rim RMZ

Provide a variety of recreation opportunities in a backcountry setting including hunting and angling, nonmotorized trail recreation, and creek related recreation providing greater connections with nature, sense of accomplishment, decreased stress, and a feeling of exploration and

adventure. The area would also contribute to improved economic conditions for the local community through outdoor recreation based tourism.

Table E-28. Alternative D – Royal Gorge SRMA, South Rim RMZ

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiking• Horseback riding• Mountain biking• Backcountry hunting• Backcountry angling | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Releasing or reducing stress• Feeling good about solitude and independence• Enjoying an escape from crowds of people• Enjoying strenuous physical activity | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Better physical and mental health and health maintenance○ Closer relationship with the natural world○ Improved outdoor knowledge, skills and self-confidence• Community/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Enhanced lifestyle○ Increased community pride• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Conservation of entire sustainable ecosystems• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved community economic resiliency○ Increased desirability as a place to live, work and play○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Salida Trails SRMA

The trail system on public lands surrounding Salida serve as the community’s backyard offering improved health and fitness, relief of day to day stress, skill development, and youth engagement. As a regional destination, the trail system also contributes greatly to the local economy. Primary activities include mountain biking, hiking, and trail running.

The Salida Trails SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will provide outstanding opportunities for nonmotorized trail based recreation and continue to contribute to area residents’ quality of life by contributing to the local economy and improvements to health and fitness, skill development, youth engagement, and enhanced stewardship of the area. The area will also continue to provide important winter wildlife habitat requiring collaboration with wildlife management partners to mitigate and offset impacts from recreation.

Table E-29. Alternative D – Salida Trails SRMA

| Management Objective: | | |
|---|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | |
| Outcomes | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking • Mountain biking | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing skills and abilities • Enjoying strenuous physical exercise • Enjoying ability to frequently participate in desired activities close to home • Releasing stress and escaping from everyday responsibilities • Feeling that this community is a special place to live | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved mental and physical well-being ○ A more outdoor-oriented lifestyle ○ Improved physical capacity to do my favorite recreation activities • Community/Social: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heightened sense of satisfaction with our community ○ More well-rounded childhood development • Environmental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greater community ownership and stewardship of natural resources • Economic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased work productivity ○ Increased desirability as a place to live, work and play ○ Greater value added local services/industry ○ Maintenance of communities distinctive recreation market niche |
| Setting Prescriptions | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

| <i>Implementation Decisions</i> | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <i>Management:</i> To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | <i>Administrative:</i> To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | <i>Information and Education:</i> To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | <i>Monitoring:</i> To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

Texas Creek SRMA

The Texas Creek SRMA offers outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation in a backcountry setting. Due to the mild climate, the area is known for fall, winter, and spring riding opportunities and is a destination for the local communities as well as the Front Range of Colorado. This SRMA is served by an extensive route network with several miles of purpose built ATV trails. The area also offers outstanding dispersed camping suitable for trailers and groups and the close proximity to the Arkansas River offers fishing and relaxation. With public access and an extensive road and trail network it also provides exceptional opportunities for motorized access big game hunting.

The Texas Creek SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation and the personal benefits this area provides including connections with nature, family/group togetherness, and satisfaction from challenging oneself. The area will also continue to serve as important wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for road/motorized trail based hunting opportunities.

Table E-30. Alternative D – Texas Creek SRMA

| Management Objective: | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | | | |
| Outcomes | | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4x4 driving• ATV riding• Motorcycle riding• Hunting | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing skills and abilities• Enjoying the closeness of friends/family• Releasing stress and escaping from everyday responsibilities• Enjoying and connecting with nature | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Greater sense of adventure○ Stronger ties with families and friends○ Better physical and mental health and health maintenance○ Improved skills for enjoying the outdoors○ A more outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Community/Social<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improved quality of life due to abundant recreation opportunities• Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reduced negative impacts from recreation use• Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ More positive contributions to local-regional economy | |
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

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Preliminary Alternatives Report

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan

Appendix F – BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado

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F.1 STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH

Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health, and relate to all uses of the public lands. Standards are applied on a landscape scale and relate to the potential of the landscape.

F.1.1 Standard 1

Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.

Indicators:

- Expression of rills, soil pedestals is minimal.
- Evidence of actively-eroding gullies (incised channels) is minimal.
- Canopy and ground cover are appropriate.
- There is litter accumulating in place and is not sorted by normal overland water flow.
- There is appropriate organic matter in soil.
- There is diversity of plant species with a variety of root depths.
- Upland swales have vegetation cover or density greater than that of adjacent uplands.
- There are vigorous, desirable plants.

F.1.2 Standard 2

Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water function properly and have the ability to recover from major disturbance such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat, and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.

Indicators:

- Vegetation is dominated by an appropriate mix of native or desirable introduced species.
- Vigorous, desirable plants are present.
- There is vegetation with diverse age class structure, appropriate vertical structure, and adequate composition, cover, and density.
- Streambank vegetation is present and is comprised of species and communities that have root systems capable of withstanding high streamflow events.
- Plant species present indicate maintenance of riparian moisture characteristics.

- Stream is in balance with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed (e.g., no headcutting, no excessive erosion or deposition).
- Vegetation and free water indicate high water tables.
- Vegetation colonizes point bars with a range of age classes and successional stages.
- An active floodplain is present.
- Residual floodplain vegetation is available to capture and retain sediment and dissipate flood energies.
- Stream channels with size and meander pattern appropriate for the stream's position in the landscape, and parent materials.
- Woody debris contributes to the character of the stream channel morphology.

F.1.3 Standard 3

Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.

Indicators:

- Noxious weeds and undesirable species are minimal in the overall plant community.
- Native plant and animal communities are spatially distributed across the landscape with a density, composition, and frequency of species suitable to ensure reproductive capability and sustainability.
- Plants and animals are present in mixed age classes sufficient to sustain recruitment and mortality fluctuations.
- Landscapes exhibit connectivity of habitat or presence of corridors to prevent habitat fragmentation.
- Photosynthetic activity is evident throughout the growing season.
- Diversity and density of plant and animal species are in balance with habitat/landscape potential and exhibit resilience to human activities.
- Appropriate plant litter accumulates and is evenly distributed across the landscape.
- Landscapes composed of several plant communities that may be in a variety of successional stages and patterns.

F.1.4 Standard 4

Special status, threatened, and endangered species (Federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.

Indicators:

- All the indicators associated with the plant and animal communities standard apply.
- There are stable and increasing populations of endemic and protected species in suitable habitat.
- Suitable habitat is available for recovery of endemic and protected species.

F.1.5 Standard 5

The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 Code of Colorado Regulations [CCR] 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

Indicators:

- Appropriate populations of macroinvertebrates, vertebrates, and algae are present.
- Surface and ground waters only contain substances (e.g., sediment, scum, floating debris, odor, heavy metal precipitates on channel substrate) attributable to humans within the amounts, concentrations, or combinations as directed by the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado (5 CCR 1002-8).

F.2 GUIDELINES FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Guidelines are the management tools, methods, strategies, and techniques (e.g., best management practices) designed to maintain or achieve healthy public lands as defined by the standards. Currently, the only guidelines for BLM Colorado that have been developed in concert with the Resource Advisory Councils are livestock grazing management guidelines.

1. Grazing management practices promote plant health by providing for one or more of the following:
 - Periodic rest or deferment from grazing during critical growth periods.
 - Adequate recovery and regrowth periods.
 - Opportunity for seed dissemination and seedling establishment.

***Appendix F – BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines
for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado***

2. Grazing management practices address the kind, numbers, and class of livestock, season, duration, distribution, frequency and intensity of grazing use and livestock health.
3. Grazing management practices maintain sufficient residual vegetation on both upland and riparian sites to protect the soil from wind and water erosion, to assist in maintaining appropriate soil infiltration and permeability, and to buffer temperature extremes. In riparian areas, vegetation dissipates energy, captures sediment, recharges ground water, and contributes to stream stability.
4. Native plant species and natural revegetation are emphasized in the support of sustaining ecological functions and site integrity. Where reseeding is required, on land treatment efforts, emphasis will be placed on using native plant species. Seeding of nonnative plant species will be considered based on local goals, native seed availability and cost, persistence of nonnative plants and annuals and noxious weeds on the site, and composition of nonnatives in the seed mix.
5. Range improvement projects are designed consistent with overall ecological functions and processes with minimum adverse impacts to other resources or uses of riparian/wetland and upland sites.
6. Grazing management will occur in a manner that does not encourage the establishment or spread of noxious weeds. In addition to mechanical, chemical, and biological methods of weed control, livestock may be used where feasible as a tool to inhibit or stop the spread of noxious weeds.
7. Natural occurrences such as fire, drought, flooding, and prescribed land treatments should be combined with livestock management practices to move toward the sustainability of biological diversity across the landscape, including the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of habitat to promote and assist the recovery and conservation of threatened, endangered, or other special status species, by helping to provide natural vegetation patterns, a mosaic of successional stages, and vegetation corridors, and thus minimizing habitat fragmentation.
8. Colorado Best Management Practices and other scientifically developed practices that enhance land and water quality should be used in the development of activity plans prepared for land use.

Preliminary Alternatives Report

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan

Appendix G – Mineral Resources Maps

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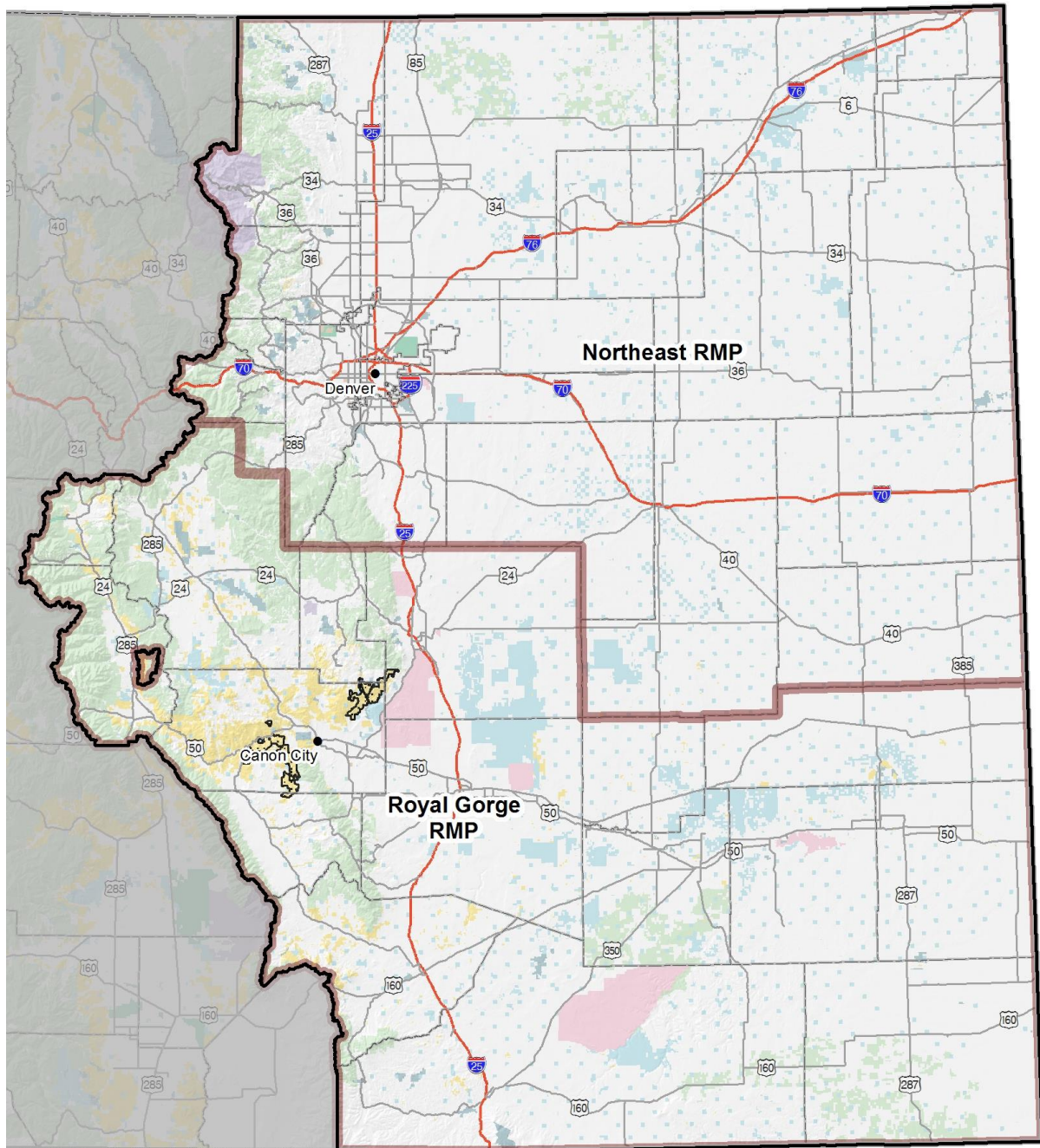
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G.1 FLUID MINERALS

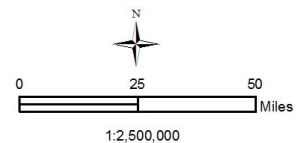
Map G-1. Alternative A – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing



Alternative A

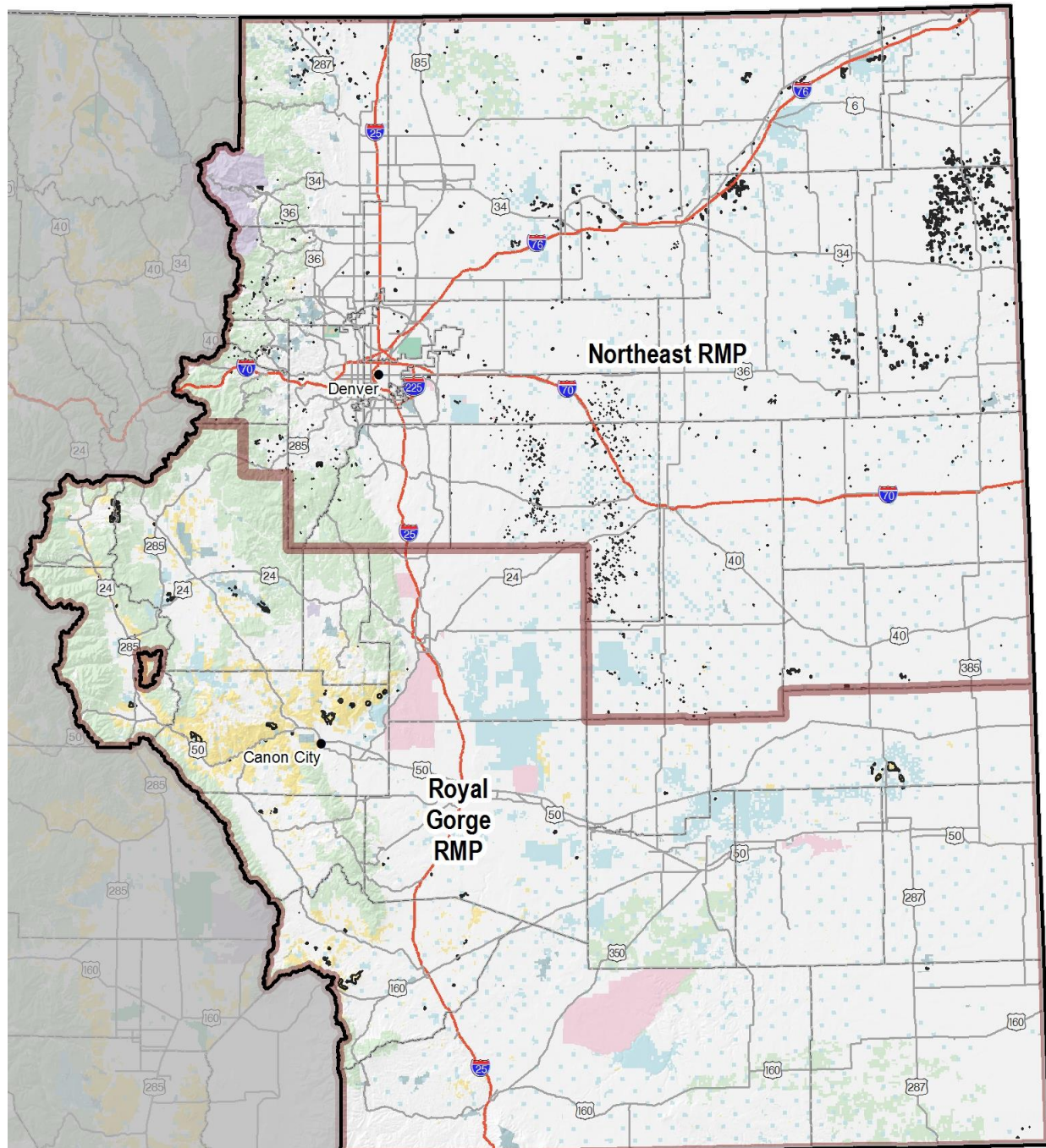
 Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing
for Mineral Estate

Colorado




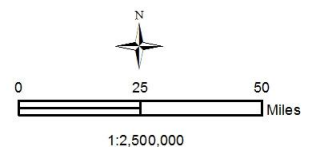
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Map G-2. Alternative A – Federal Mineral Estate No Surface Occupancy for Fluid Mineral Leasing



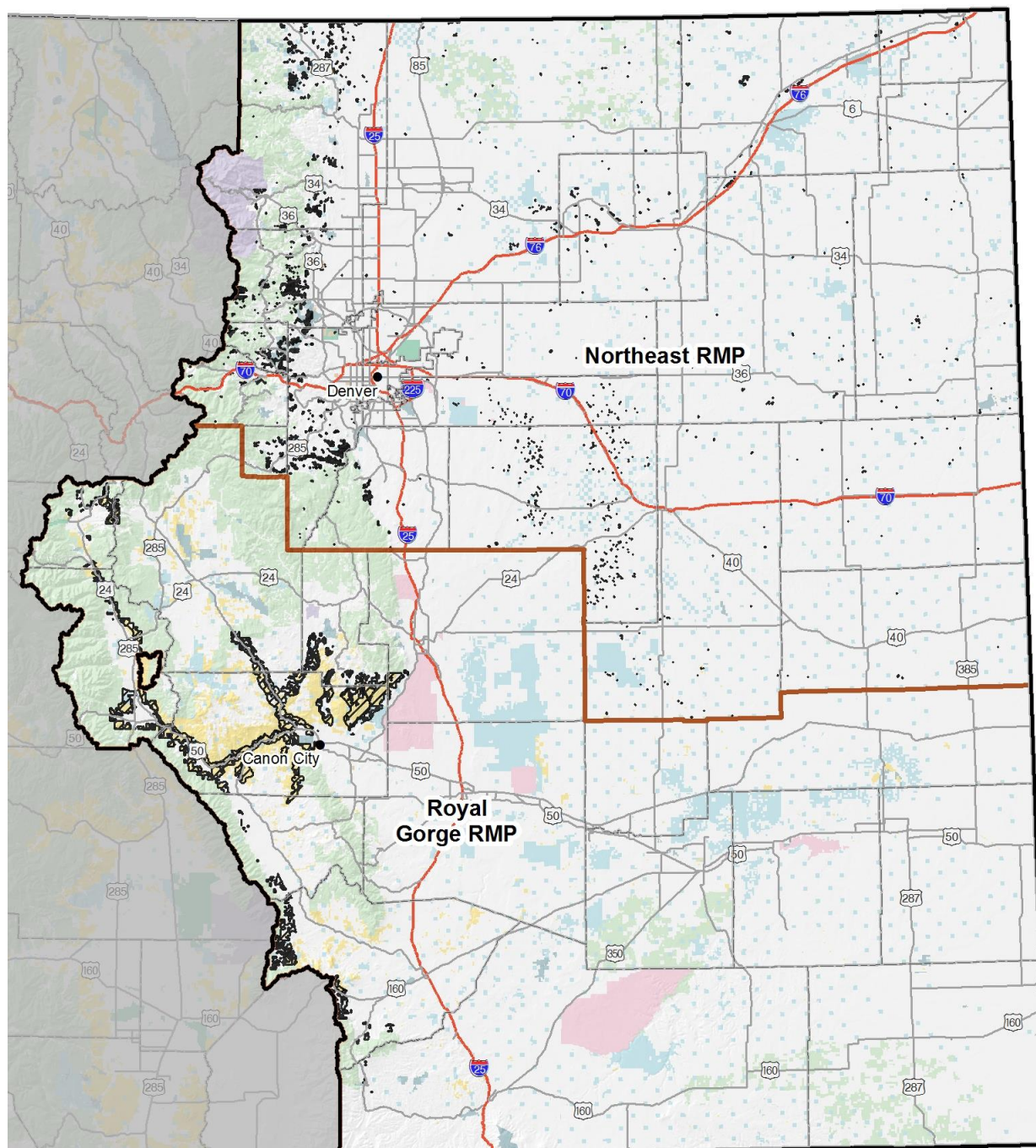
Alternative A

 No Surface Occupancy
for Federal Minerals




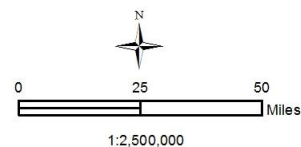
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Map G-3. Alternative A – Federal Mineral Estate Controlled Surface Use for Fluid Mineral Leasing



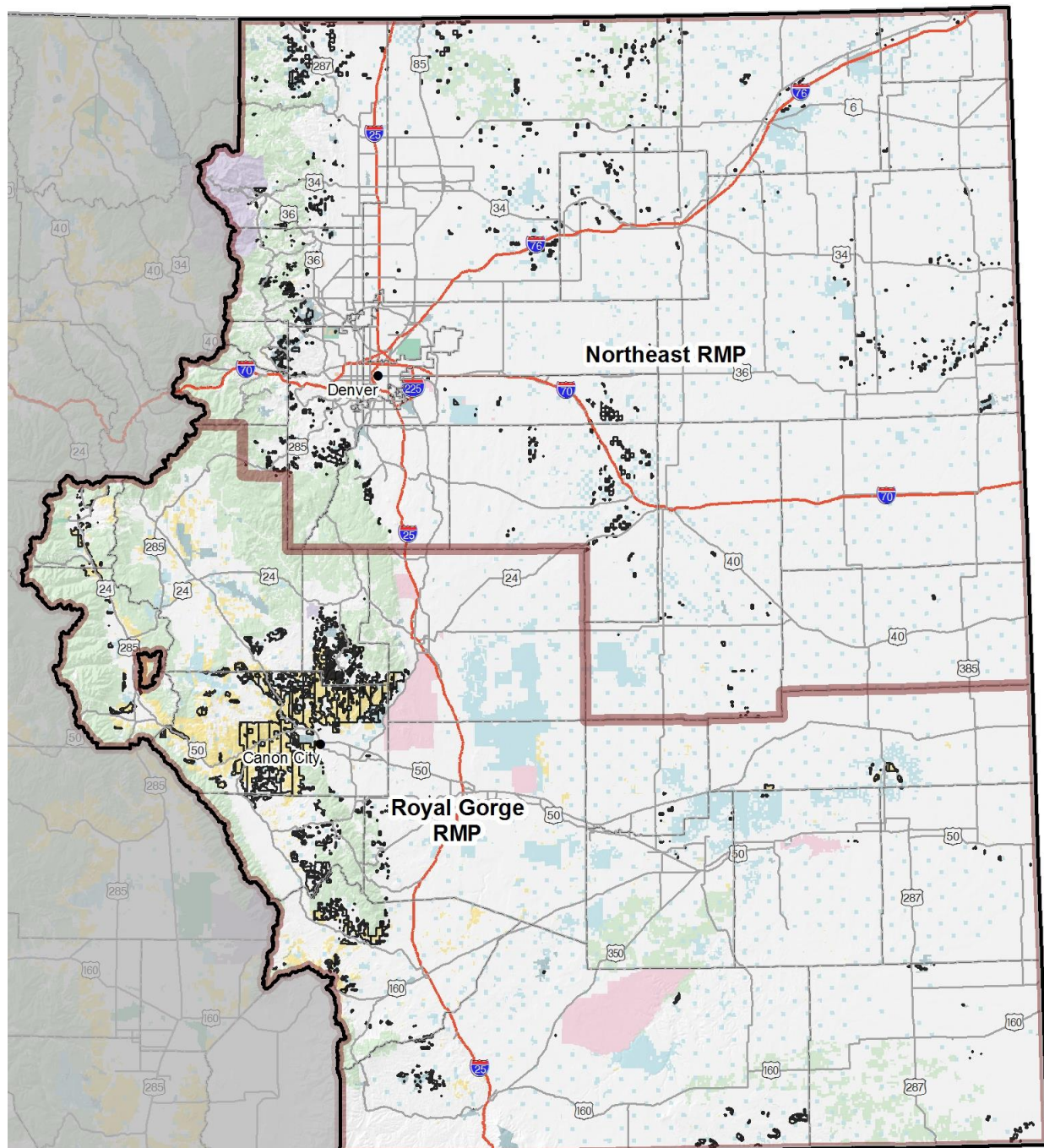
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
 Controlled Surface Use
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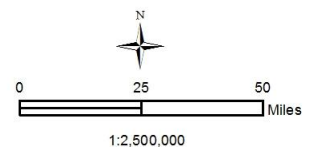


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Map G-4. Alternative A – Federal Mineral Estate Timing Limitations for Fluid Mineral Leasing

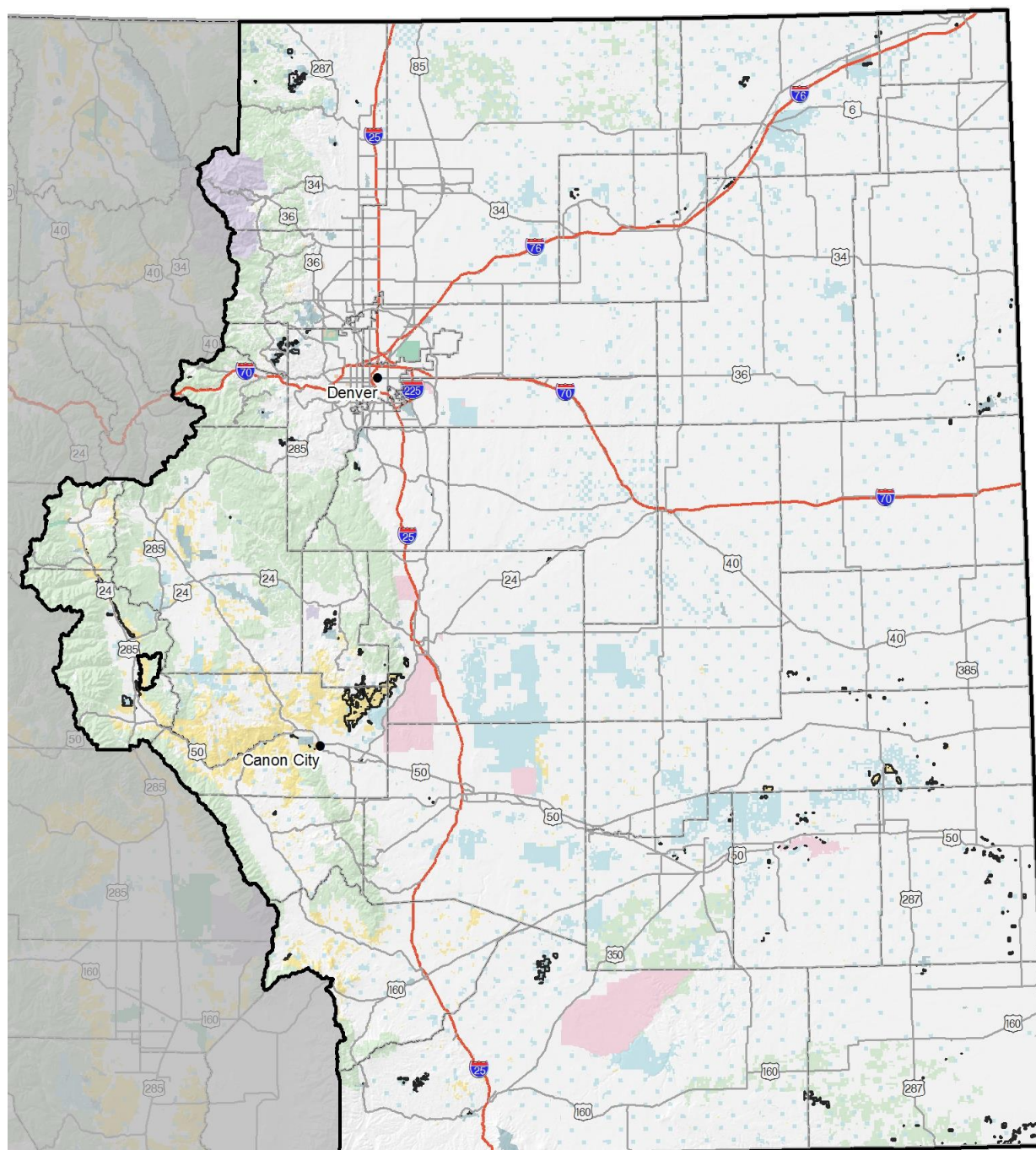


Alternative A
 Timing Limitation
 for Federal Minerals



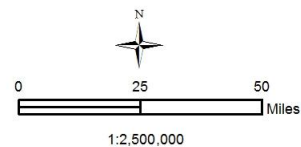
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Map G-5. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing



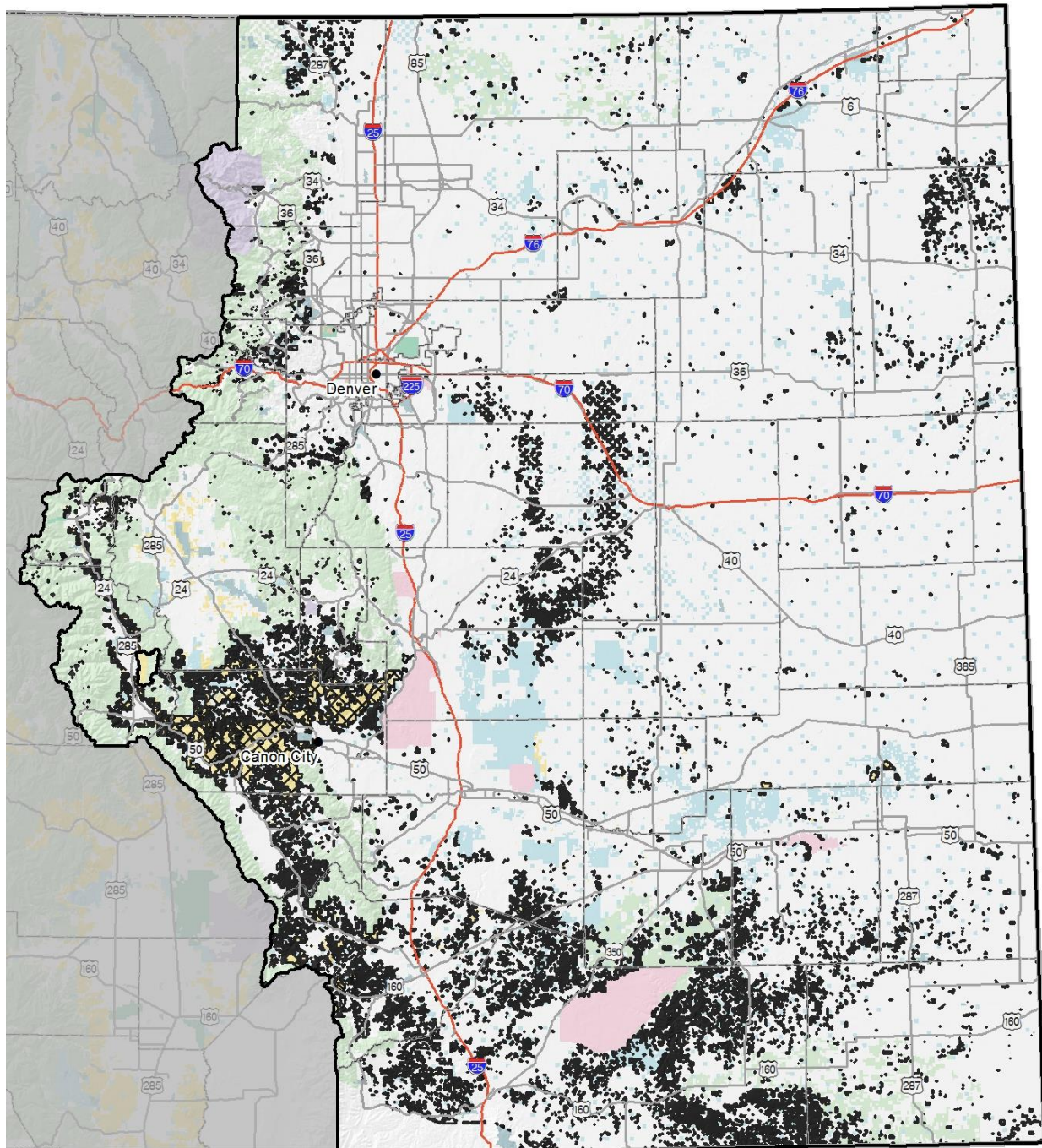
Alternative B

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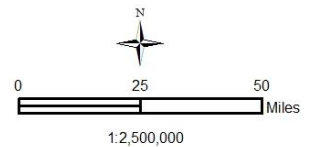
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Map G-6. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate No Surface Occupancy for Fluid Mineral Leasing



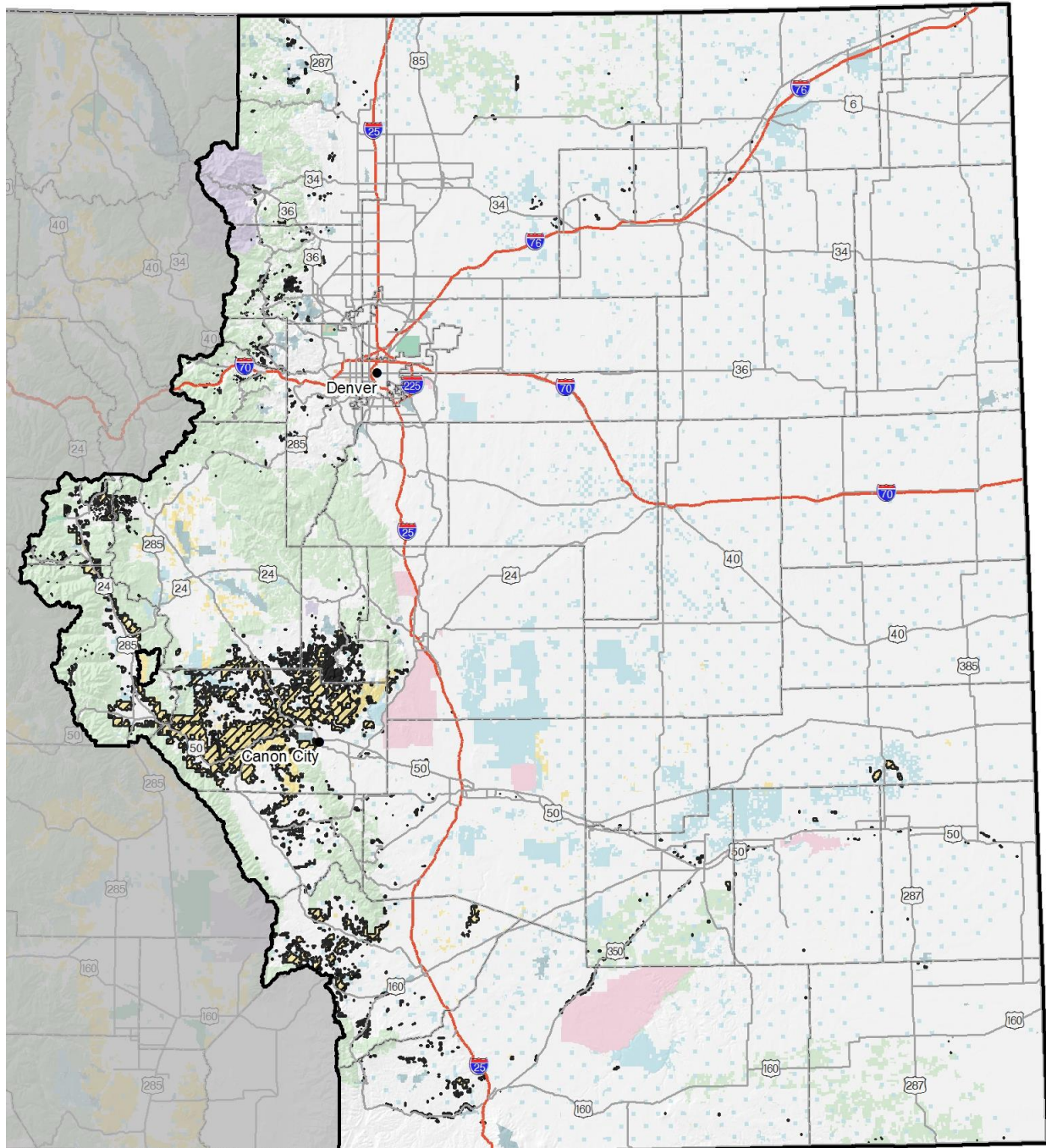
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 No Surface Occupancy
for Federal Minerals




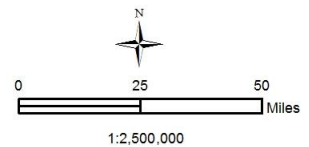
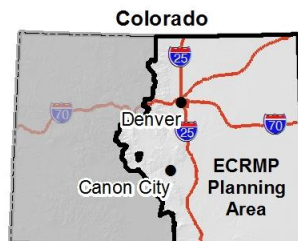
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Map G-7. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate Controlled Surface Use for Fluid Mineral Leasing



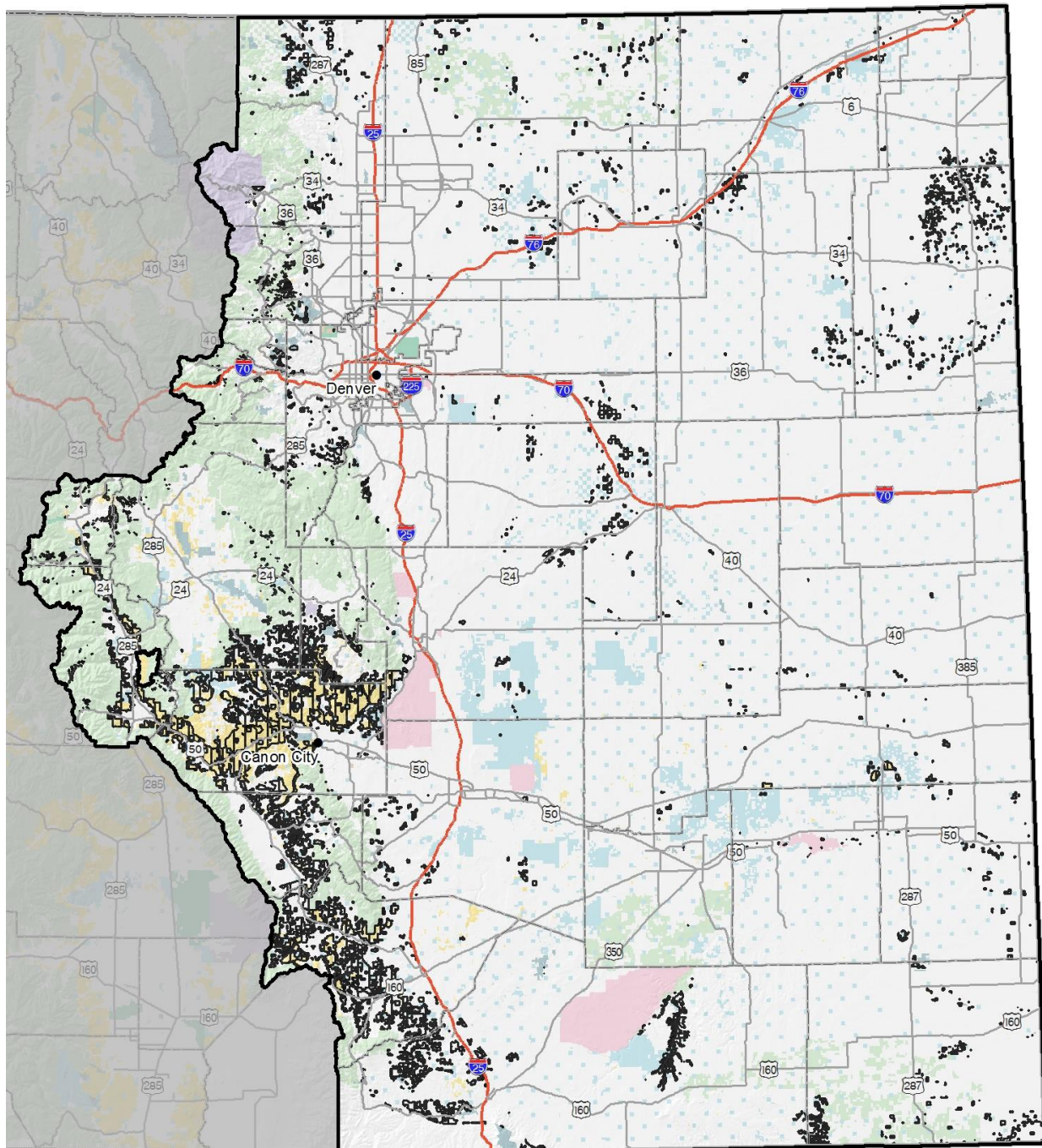
Alternative B


 Controlled Surface Use
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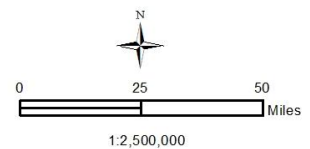
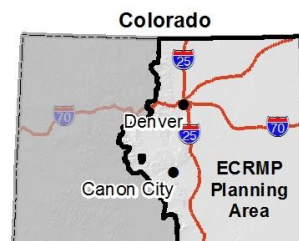


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Map G-8. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate Timing Limitations for Fluid Mineral Leasing

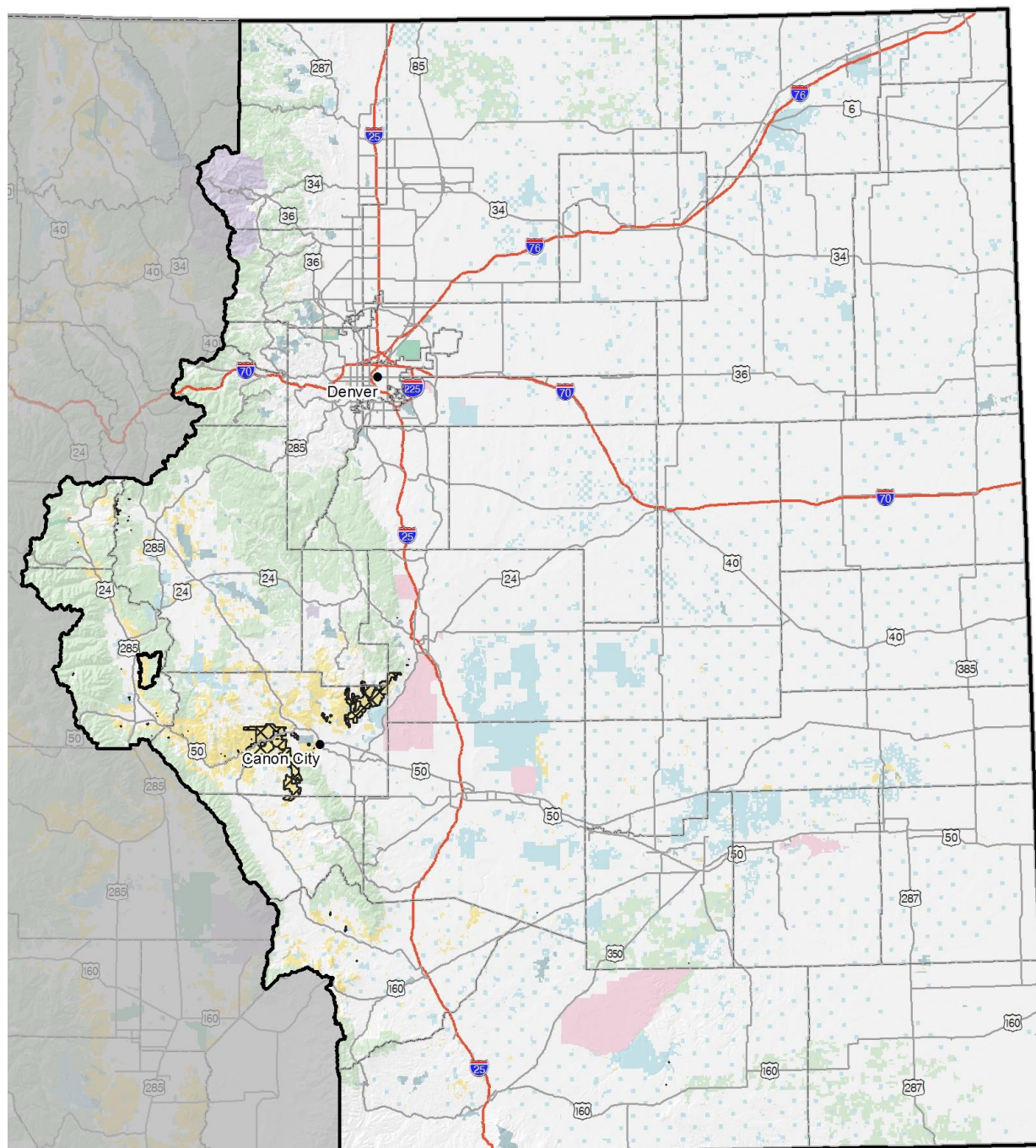


Alternative B
 Timing Limitation
 for Federal Minerals




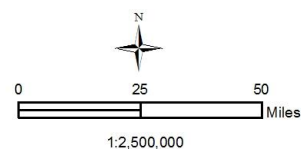
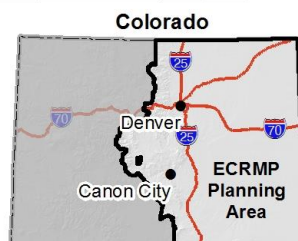
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Map G-9. Alternative C – Federal Mineral Estate No Surface Occupancy for Fluid Mineral Leasing



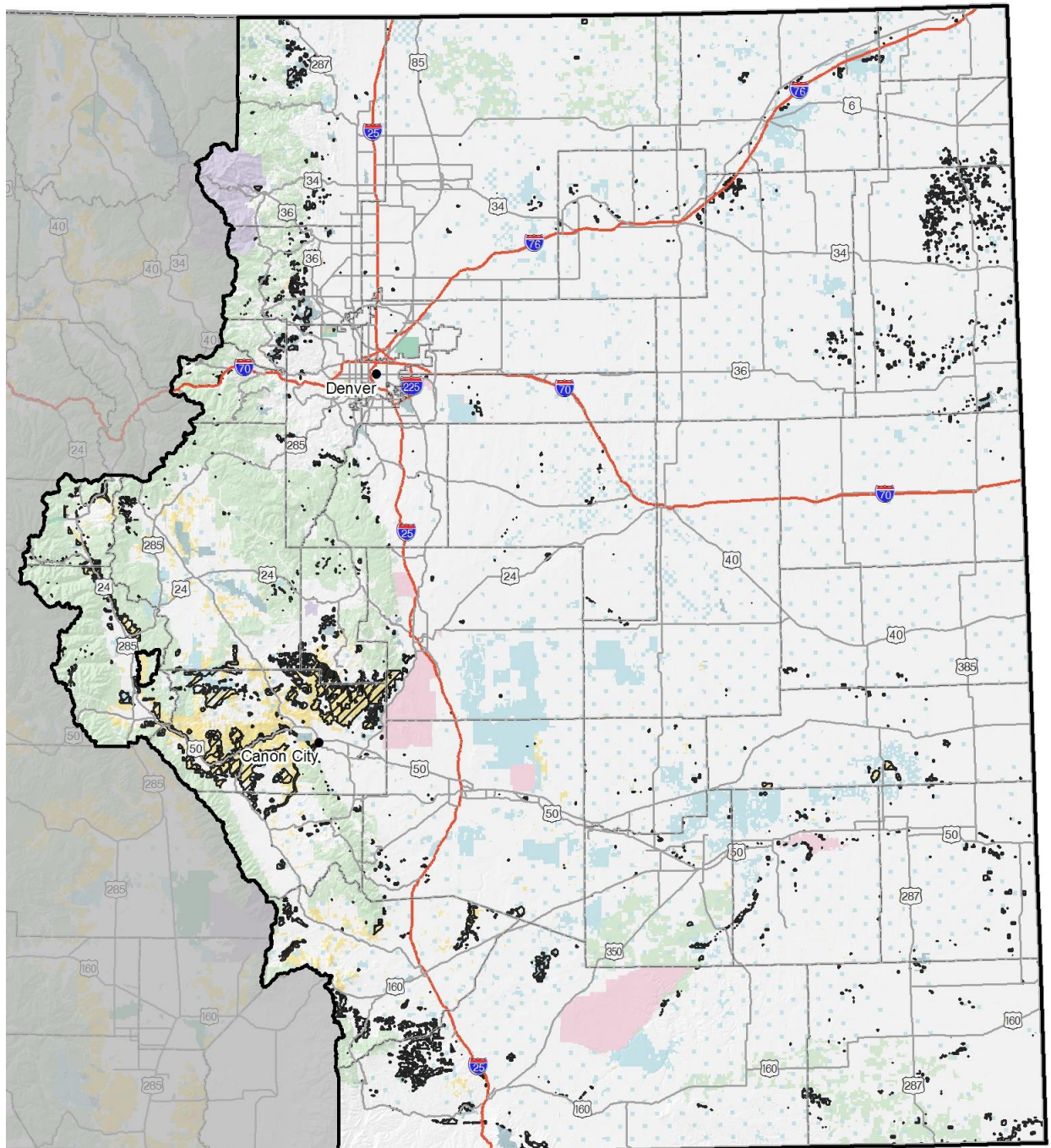
Alternative C

 No Surface Occupancy
for Federal Minerals




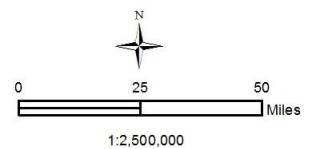
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Map G-10. Alternative C – Federal Mineral Estate Controlled Surface Use for Fluid Mineral Leasing



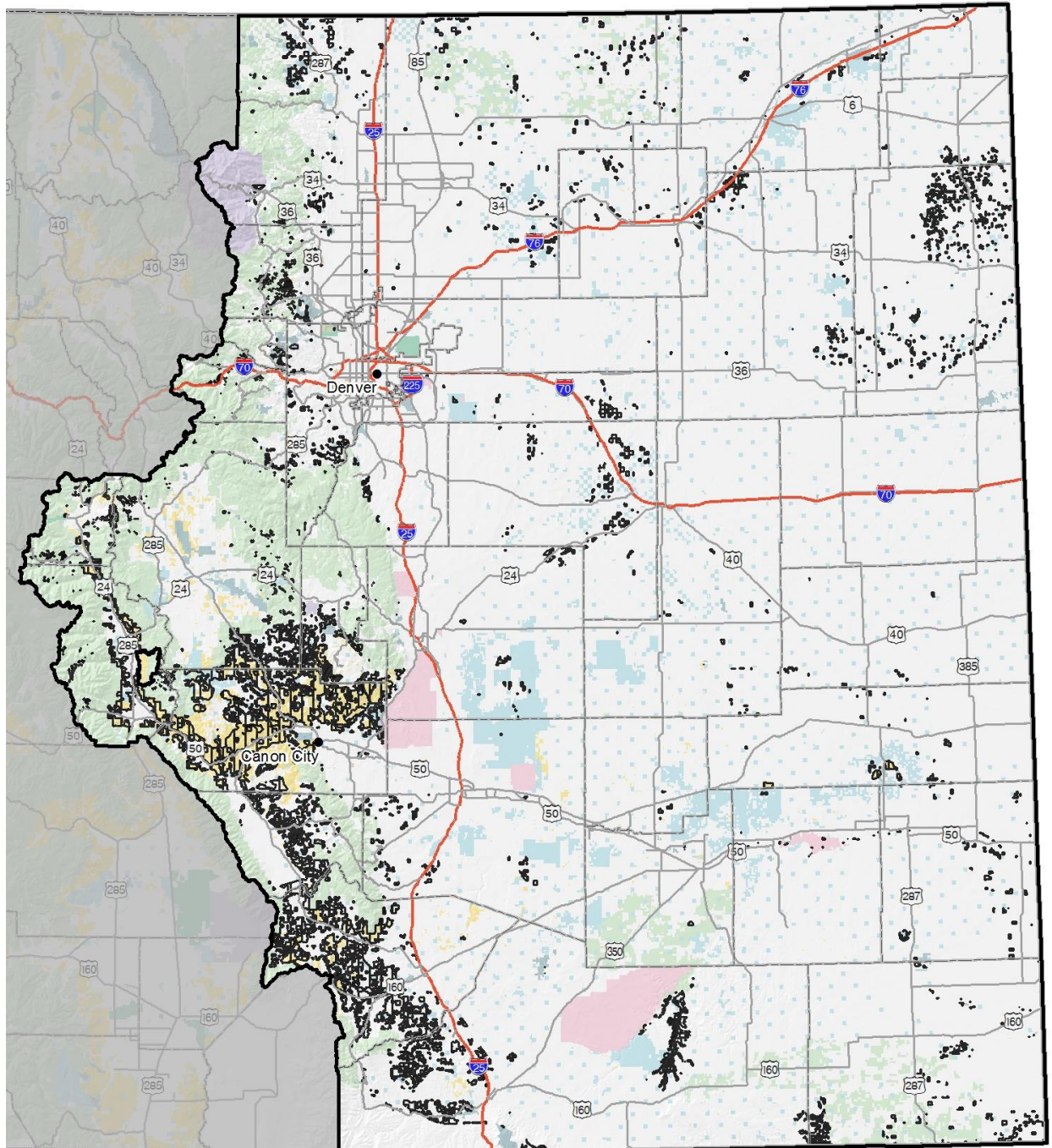
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 Controlled Surface Use
for Federal Minerals

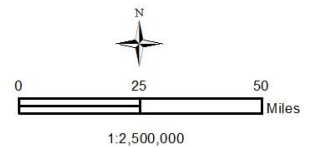


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Map G-11. Alternative C – Federal Mineral Estate Timing Limitations for Fluid Mineral Leasing

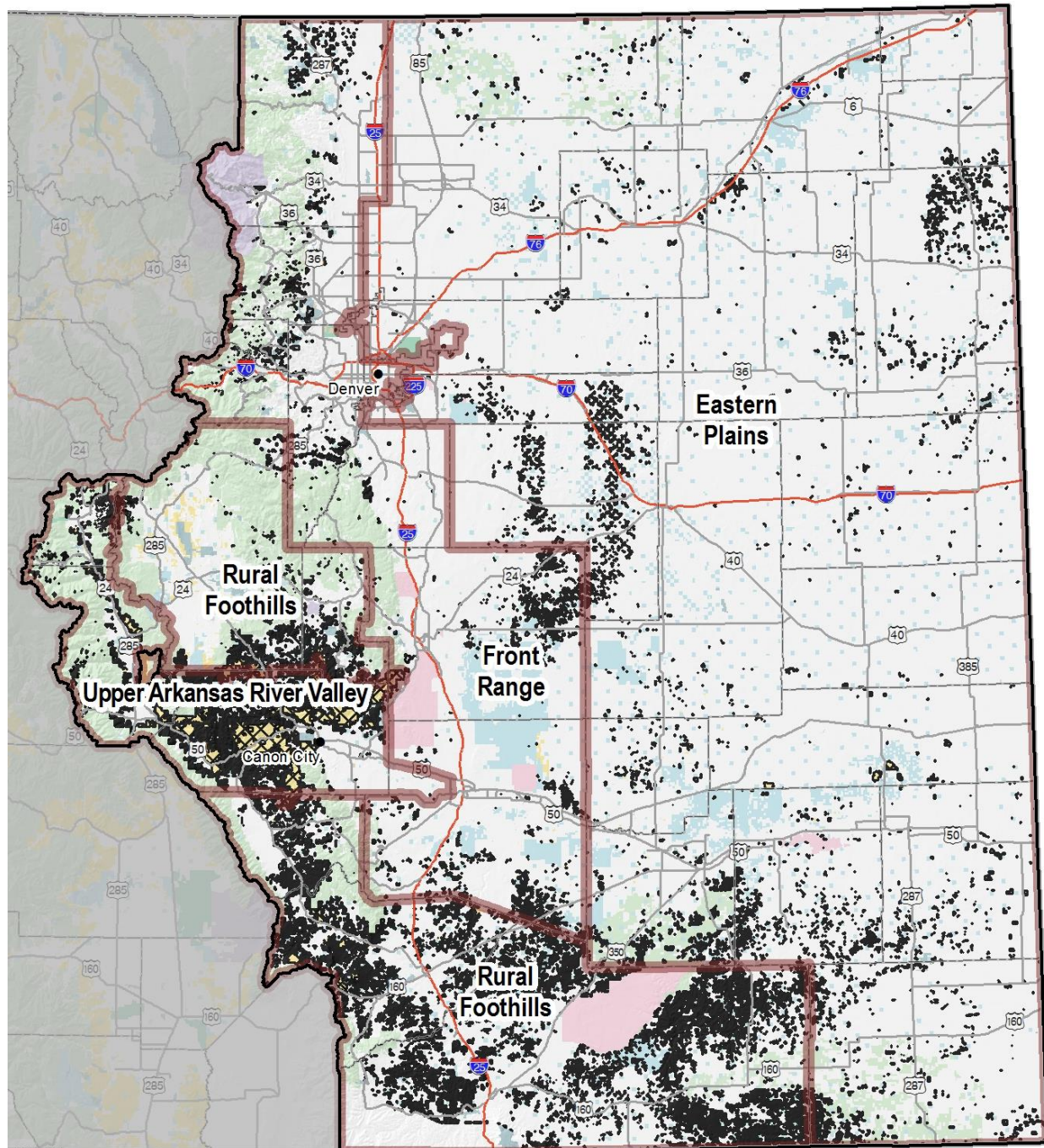


Alternative C
 Timing Limitation
 for Federal Minerals



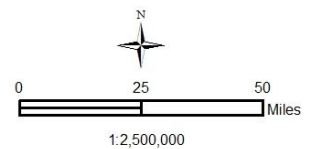
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Map G-12. Alternative D – Federal Mineral Estate No Surface Occupancy for Fluid Mineral Leasing



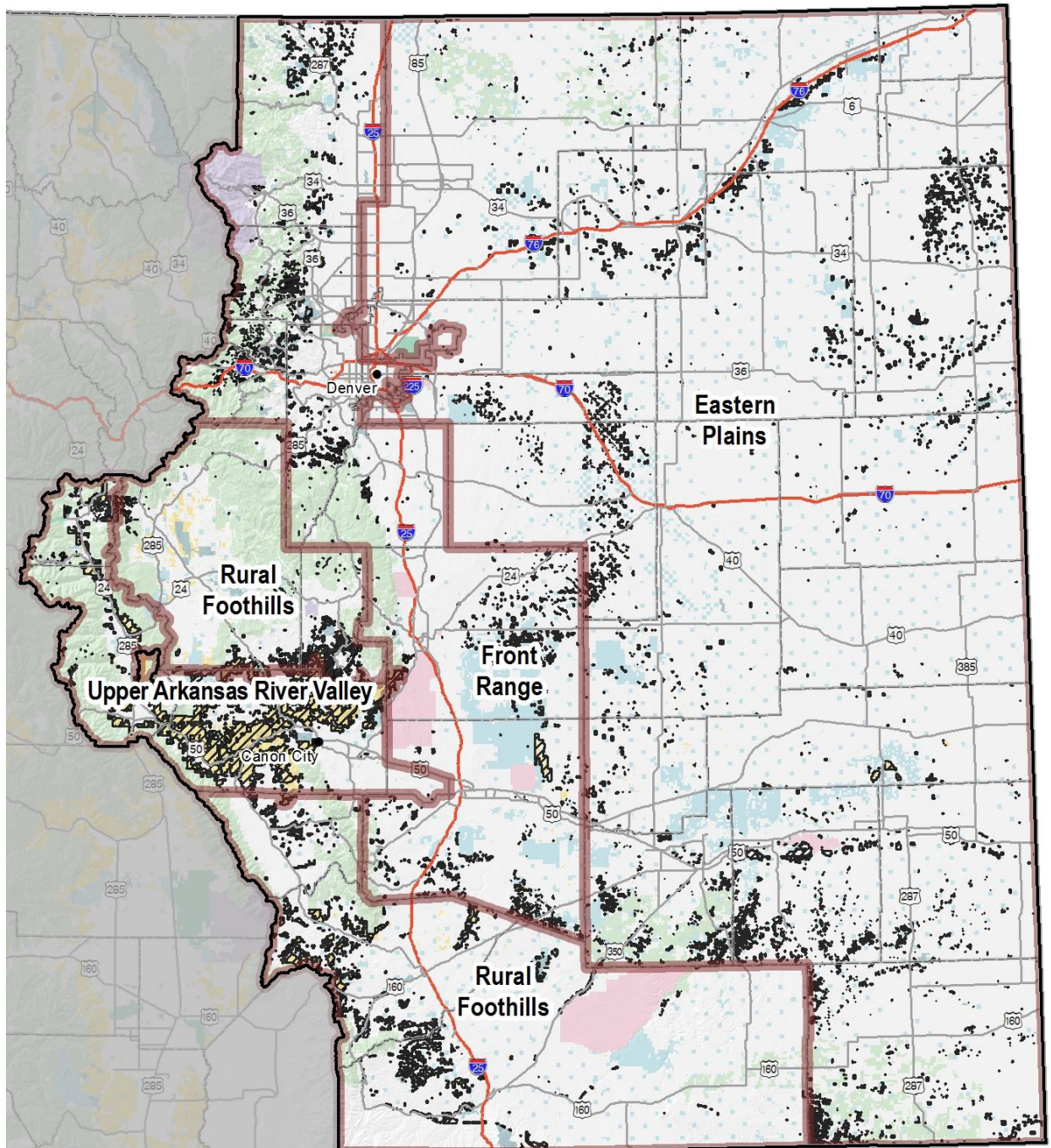
Alternative D

 No Surface Occupancy
for Federal Minerals




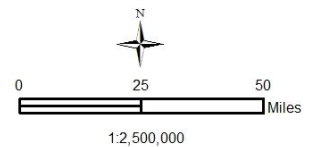
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Map G-13. Alternative D – Federal Mineral Estate Controlled Surface Use for Fluid Mineral Leasing



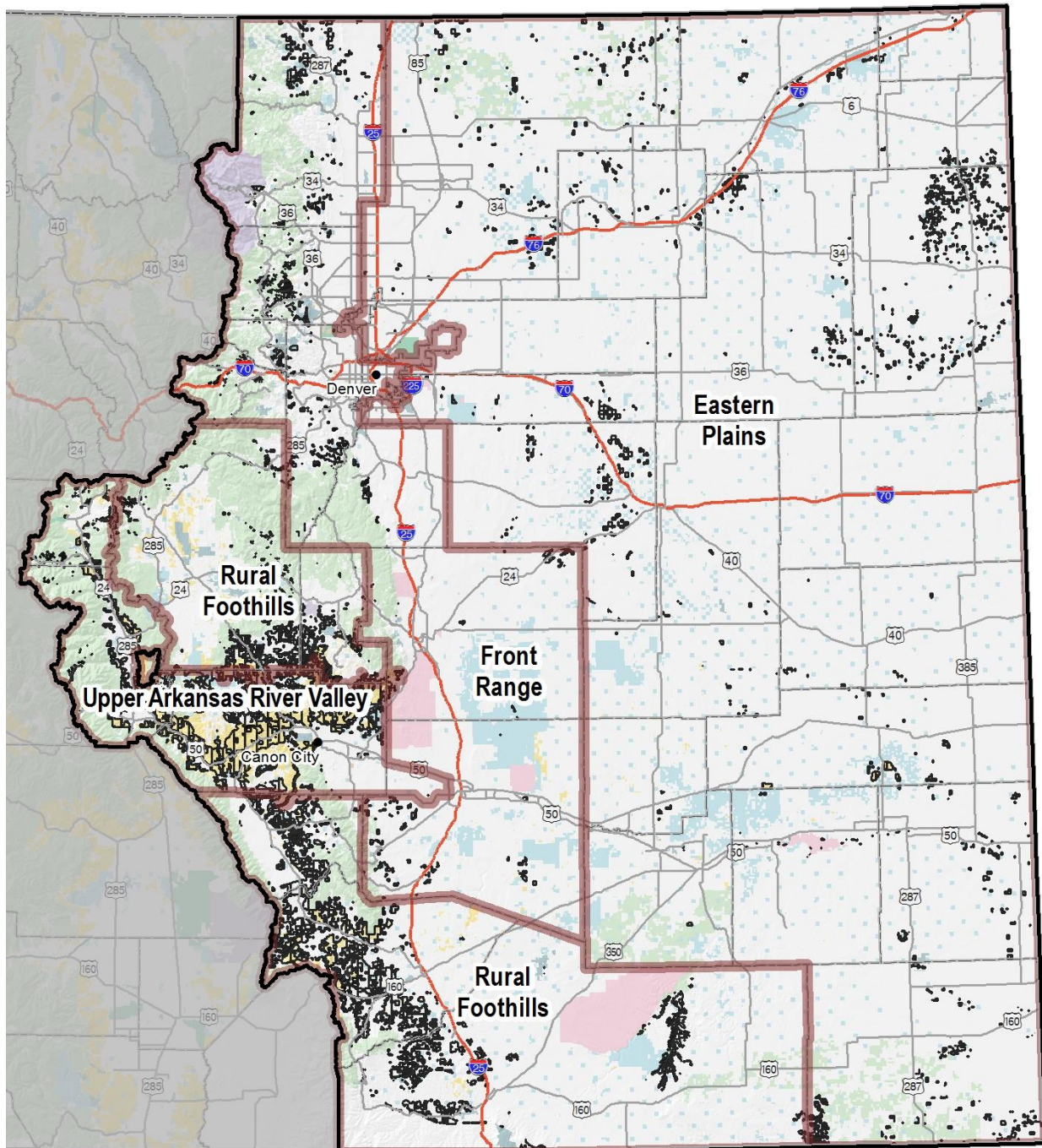
Alternative D

 Controlled Surface Use
on Federal Minerals



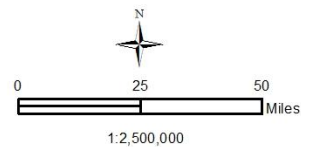
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map G-14. Alternative D – Federal Mineral Estate Timing Limitations for Fluid Mineral Leasing



Alternative D

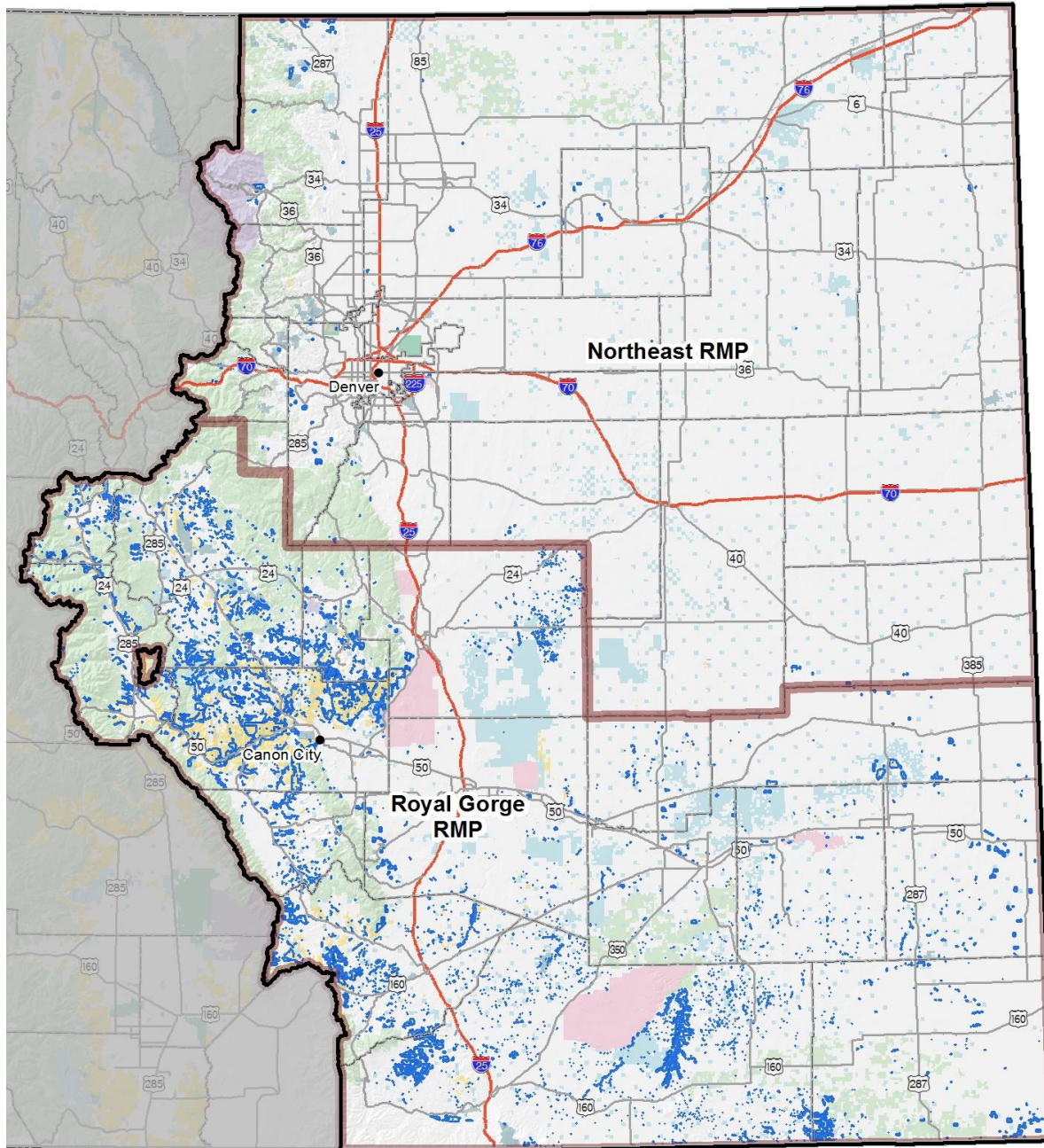
Timing Limitation
on Federal Minerals



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

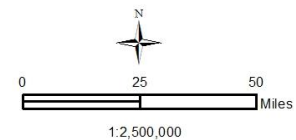
G.2 MINERAL WITHDRAWALS

Map G-15. Alternative A – Federal Mineral Estate Recommended for Withdrawal from Mineral Entry



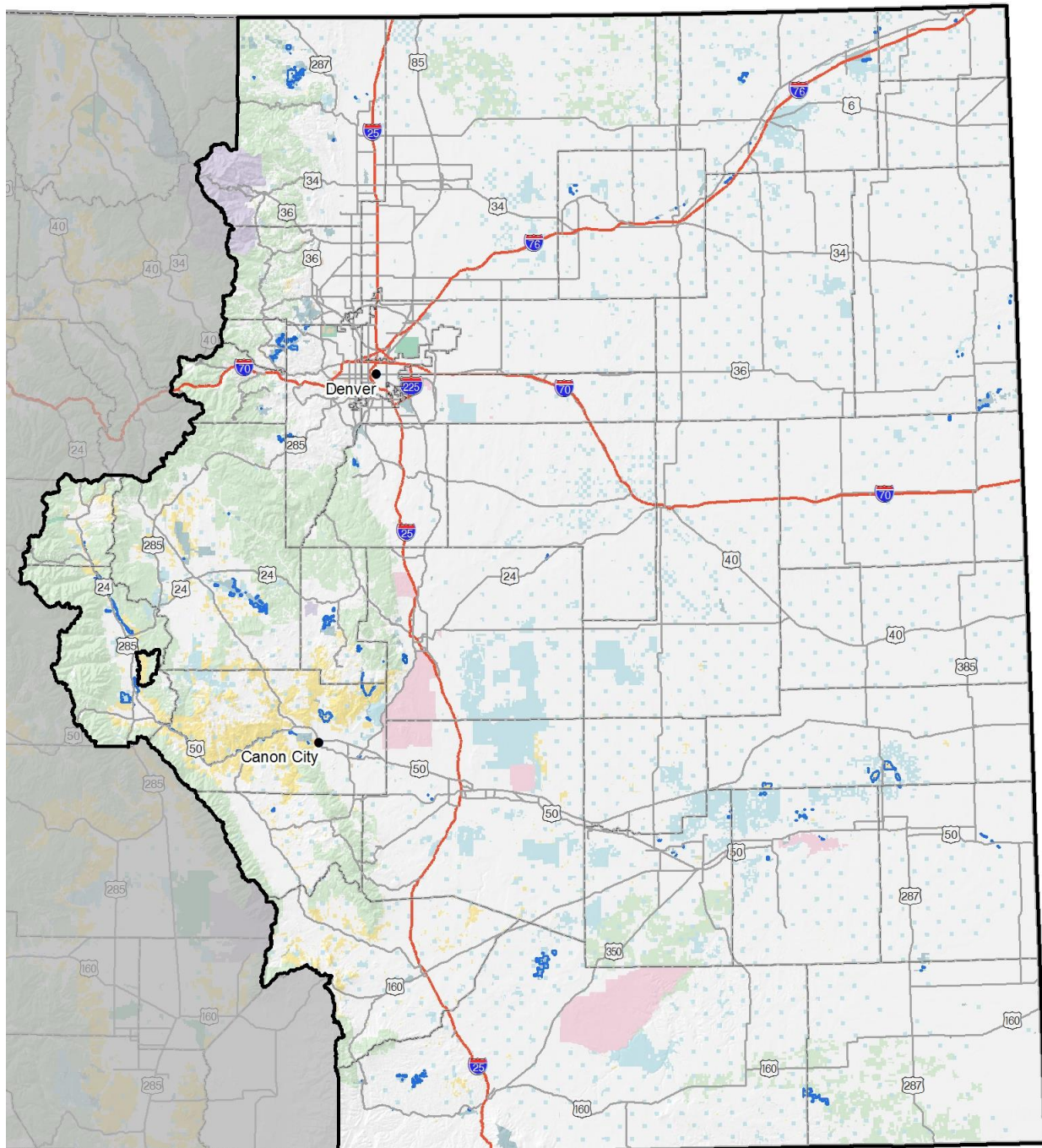
Alternative A

Recommended for Withdrawal from Mineral Entry




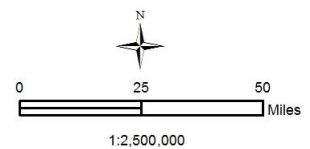
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map G-16. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate Recommended for Withdrawal from Mineral Entry



Alternative B

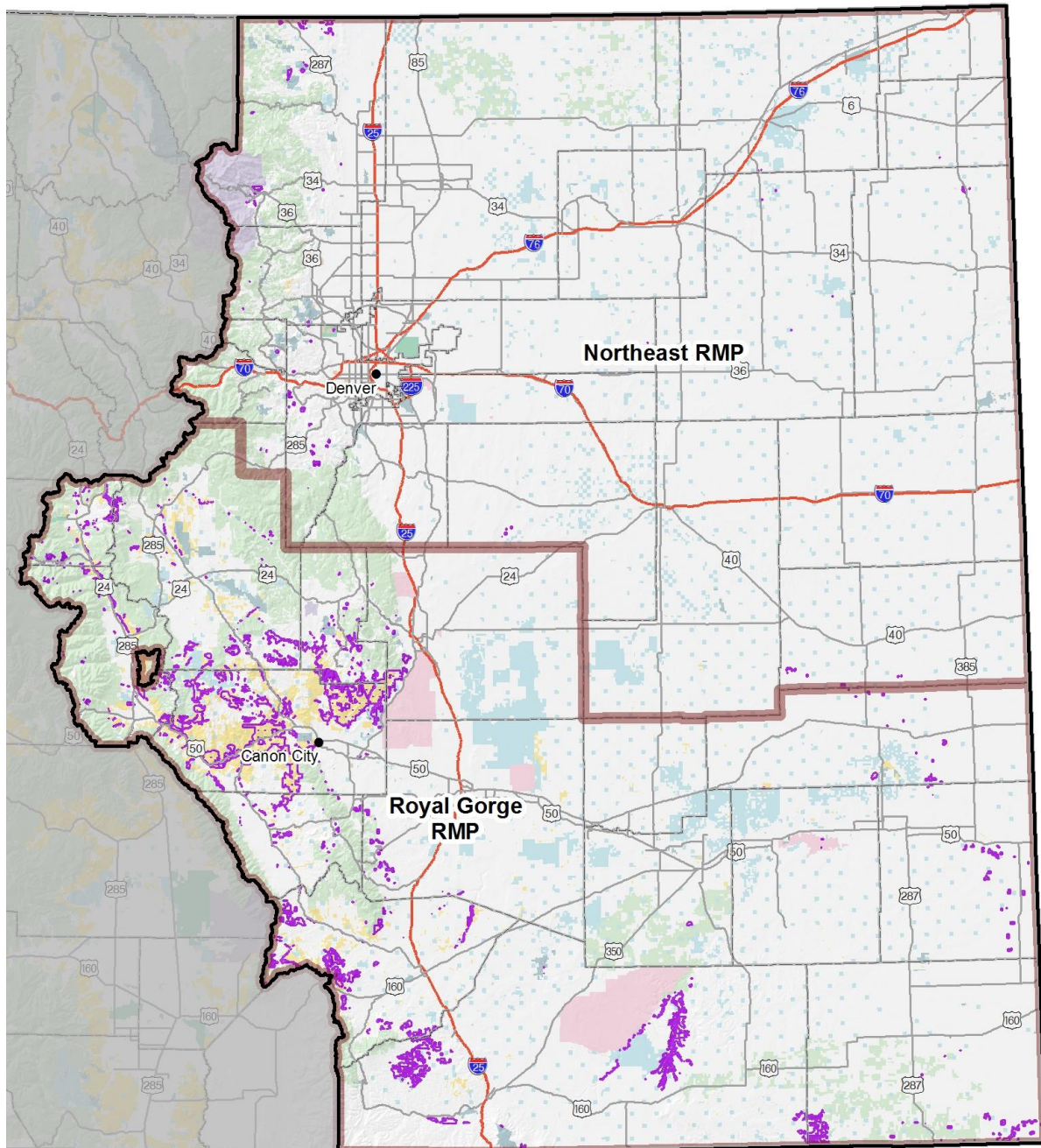
 Recommended for Withdrawal from Mineral Entry




No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

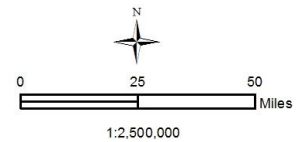
G.3 MINERAL MATERIALS DISPOSAL

Map G-17. Alternative A – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Mineral Materials Disposal



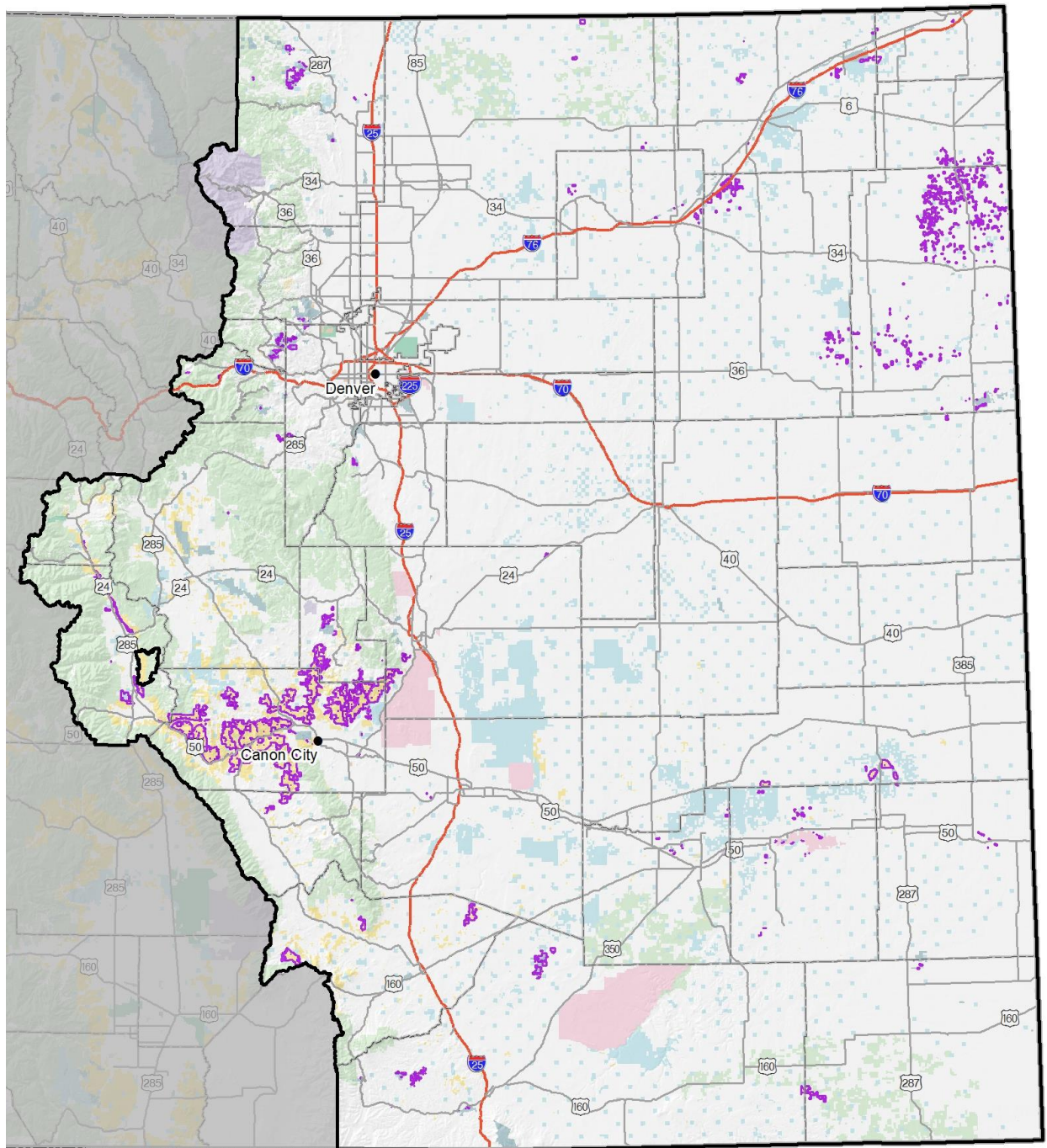
Alternative A

 Closed to Mineral Material Disposal for Federal Minerals




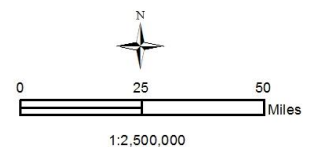
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map G-18. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Mineral Materials Disposal



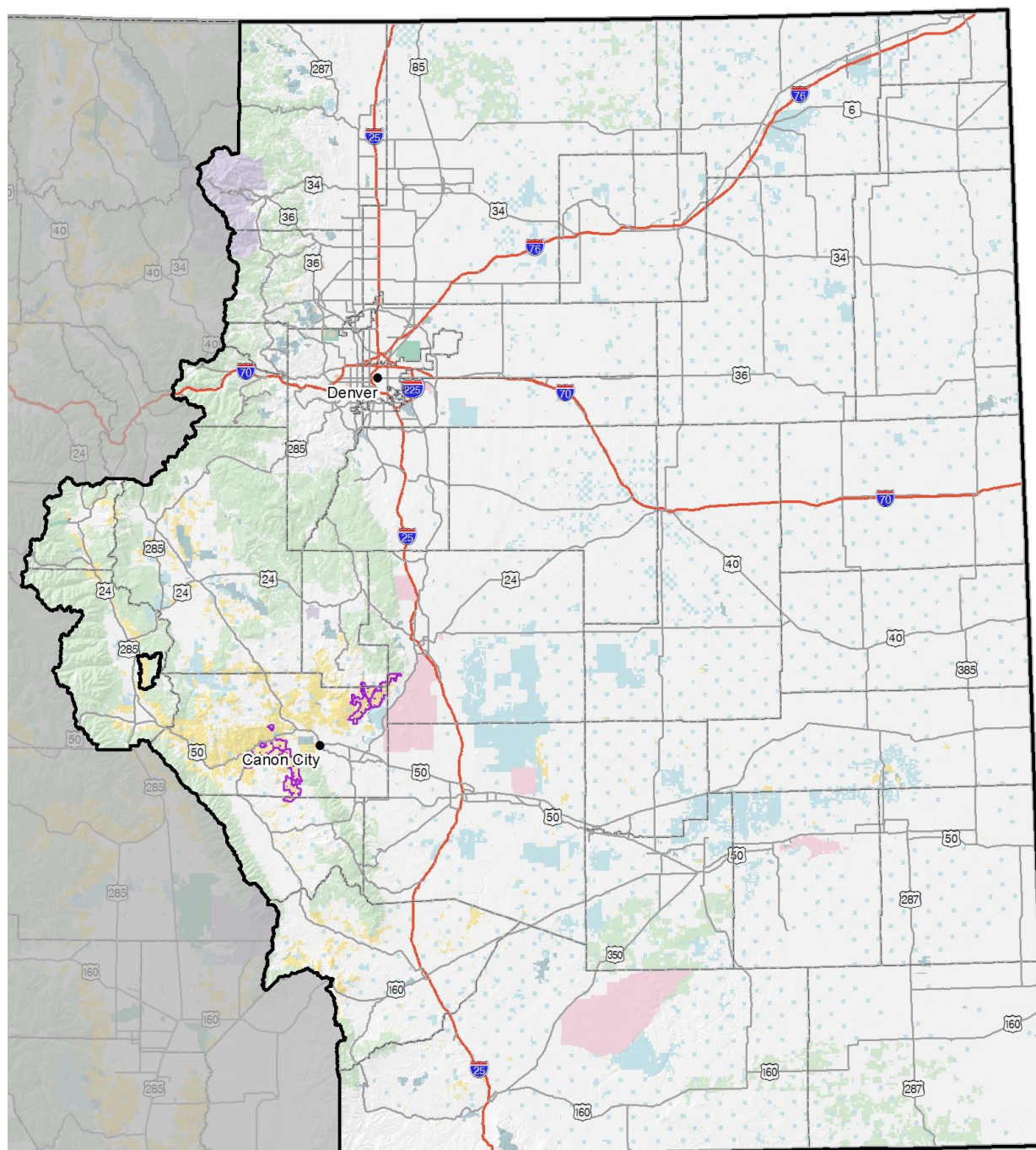
Alternative B

 Closed to Mineral Material Disposal
on Federal Minerals




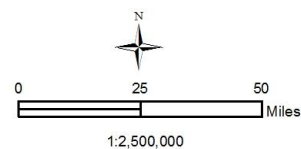
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map G-19. Alternative C – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Mineral Materials Disposal

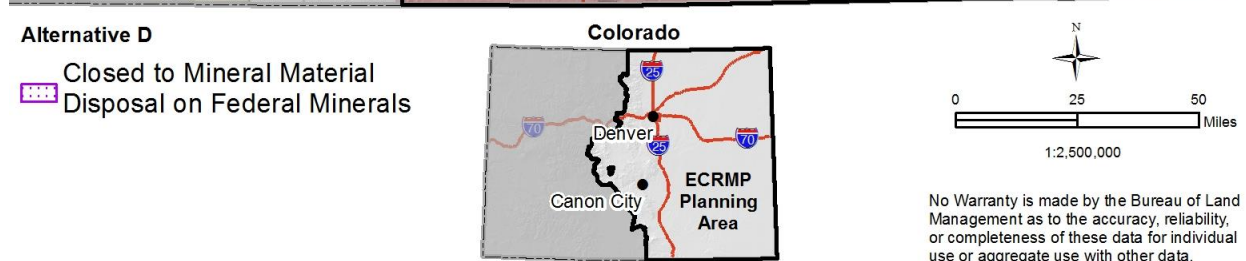


Alternative C

 Closed to Mineral Material Disposal for Federal Minerals

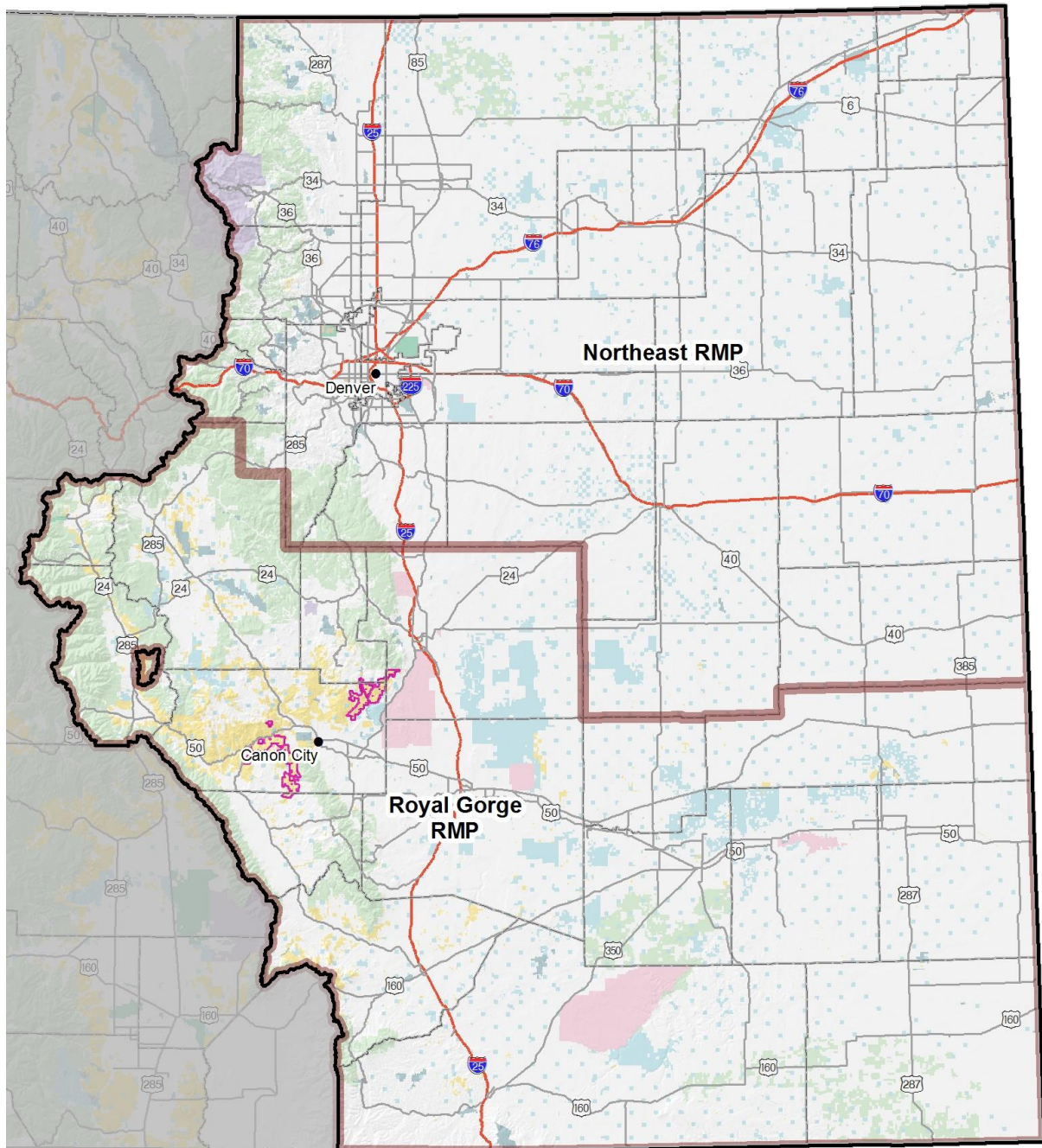


No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.




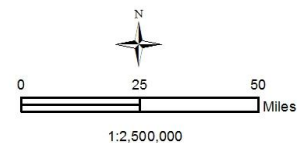
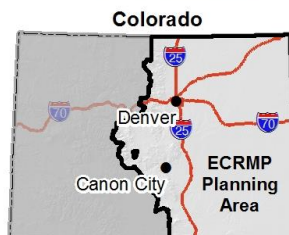
G.4 SOLID MINERALS

Map G-21. Alternative A – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Solid Mineral Leasing



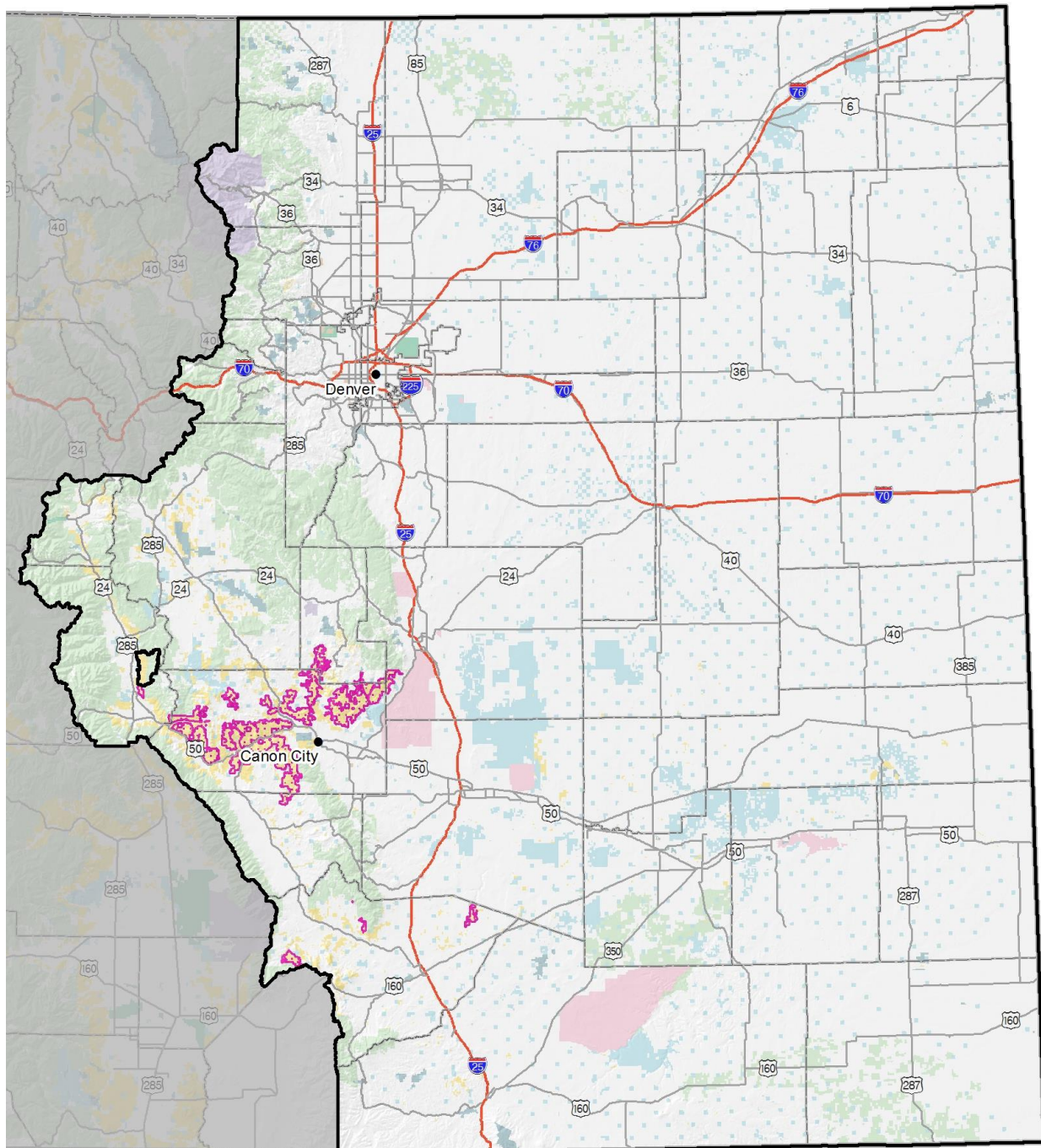
Alternative A

 Closed to Solid Mineral Leasing for Federal Minerals



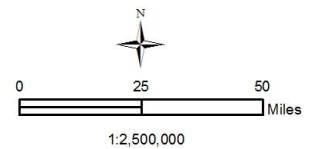
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map G-22. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Solid Mineral Leasing



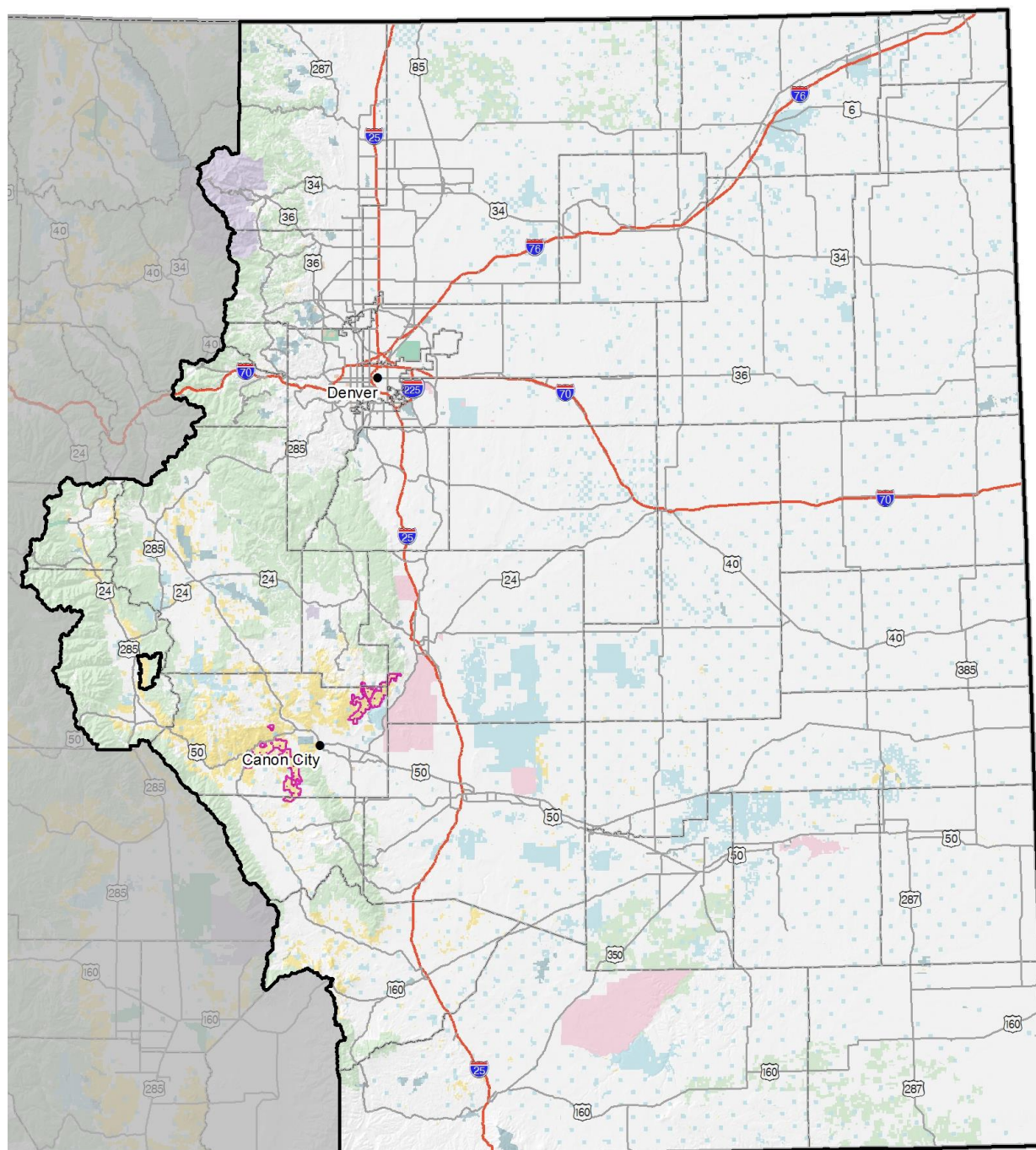
Alternative B

 Closed to Solid Mineral Leasing
on Federal Minerals



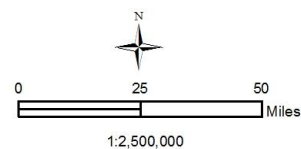
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map G-23. Alternative C – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Solid Mineral Leasing



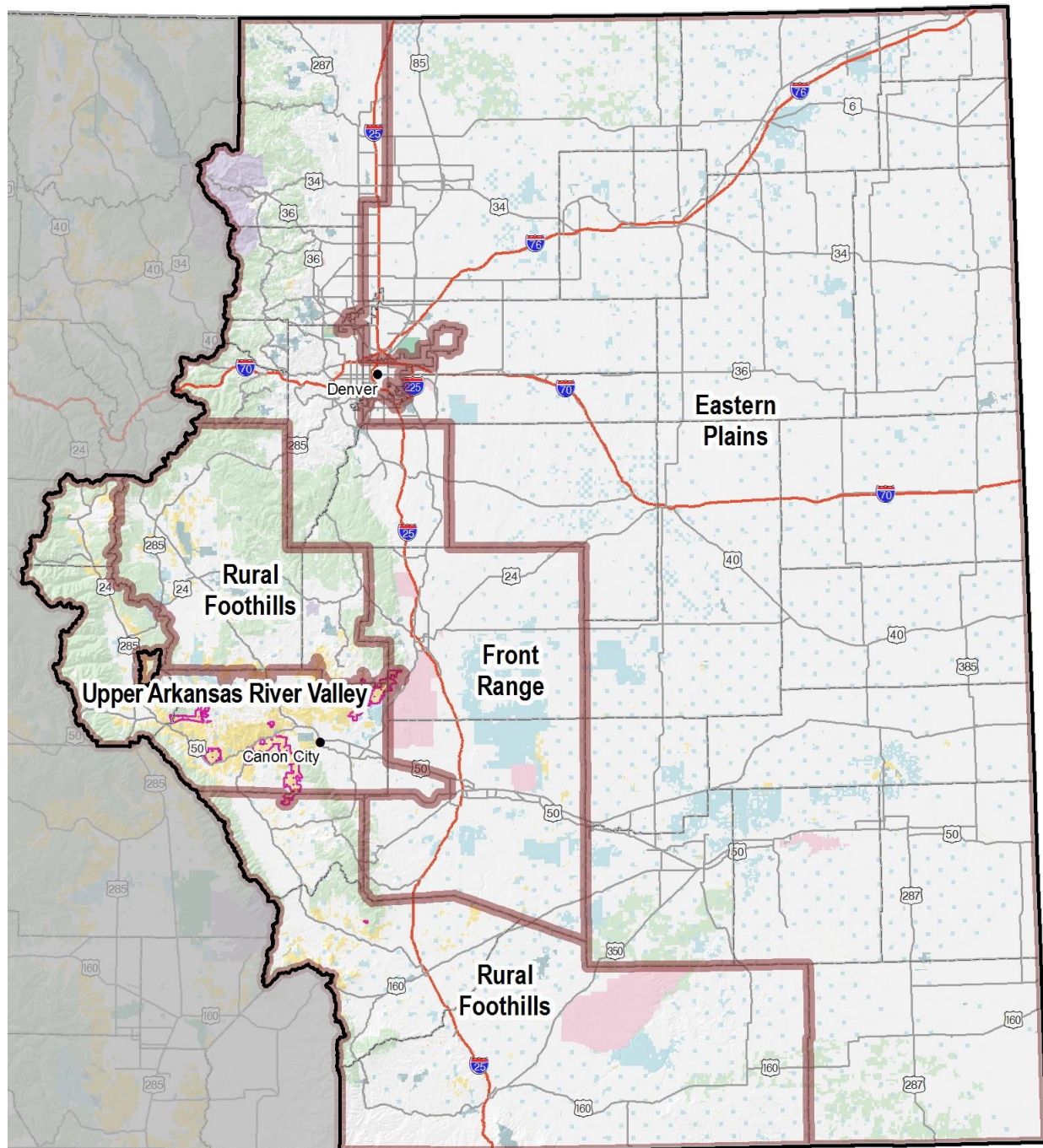
Alternative C

 Closed to Solid Mineral Leasing
for Federal Minerals



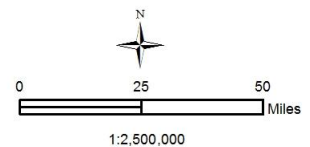
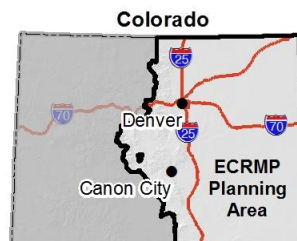
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map G-24. Alternative D – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Solid Mineral Leasing



Alternative D

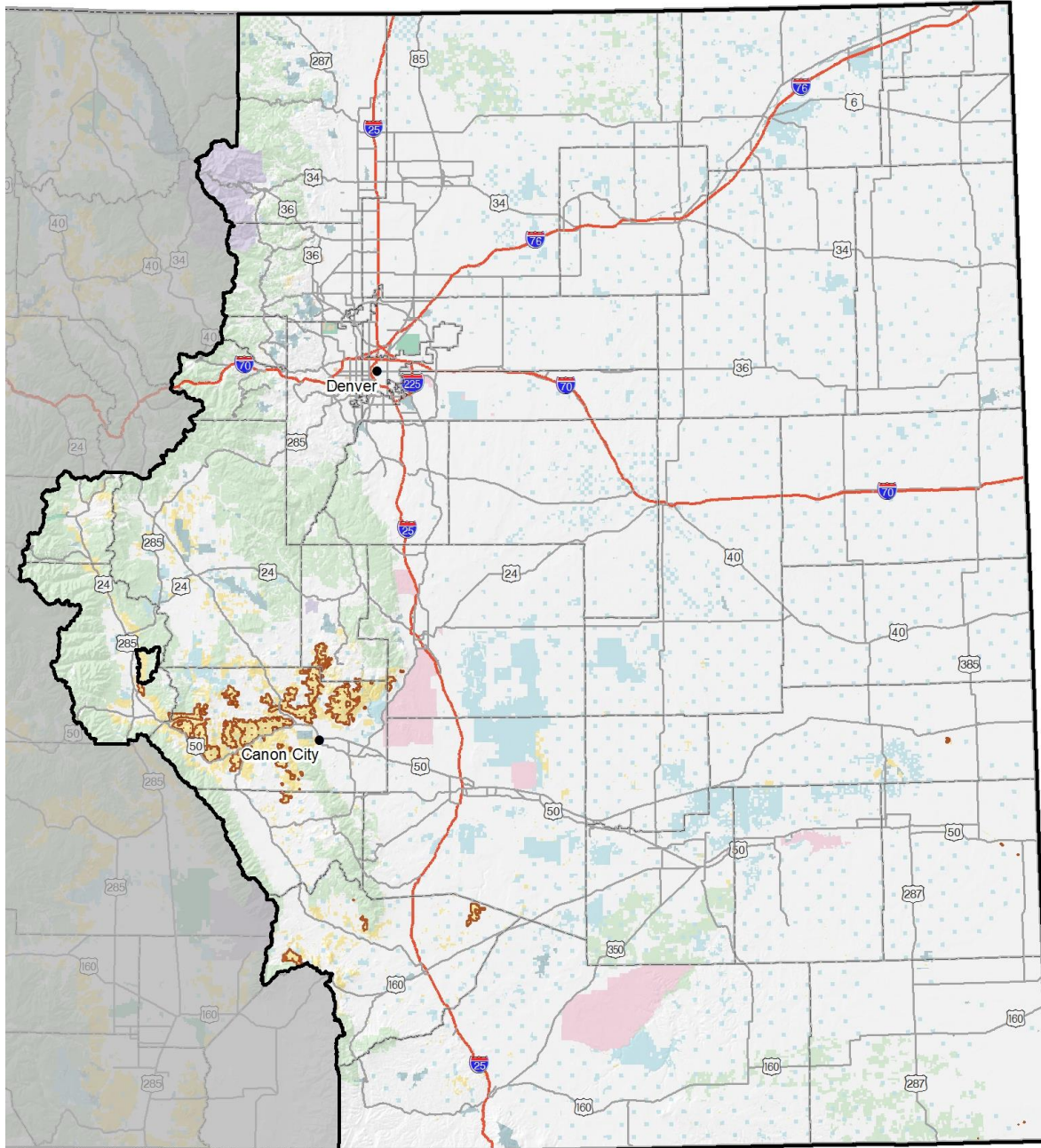
 Closed to Solid Mineral Leasing
for Federal Minerals




No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

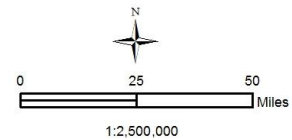
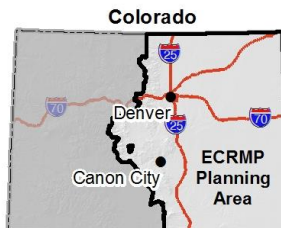
G.5 GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION

Map G-25. Alternative B – BLM-Administered Surface Land Closed to Geophysical Exploration



Alternative B

 Closed to Geophysical Exploration
on BLM Surface



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

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Preliminary Alternatives Report

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan

Appendix H – Coal Screening Criteria in the Royal Gorge Field Office

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H.1 INTRODUCTION

The Federal government provides for leasing of coal under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (the Act) (30 U.S.C. 181), as amended. Regulations established under the Act outline procedures for considering development of coal deposits through a leasing system involving land use planning and environmental analysis. This document summarizes the Federal coal management decisions for the United States (U.S.) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) planning area and documents the unsuitability criteria applied to potential coal lands for future development. The identification of areas acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing is a major land use planning decision in the BLM's Resource Management Plan (RMP), which guides the Secretary of the Interior on making coal leasing decisions. Planning decisions outlined in this document will guide the development of the Federal coal resource in the planning area.

Lands suitable for further consideration for coal leasing in the RGFO planning area were identified using the first three of the four screening procedures outlined in 43 CFR 3420.1-4:

1. Identify only lands that have coal development potential;
2. Review Federal lands during land use planning using the unsuitability criteria set forth in 43 CFR 3461 to determine which areas are unsuitable for all or stipulated methods of coal mining involving surface coal mining operations;
3. Evaluate multiple land use decisions (trade-offs) that could eliminate lands from leasing that contain resources presently deemed more important than coal; and
4. Consult with the surface owner for private surface lands overlying Federal coal. (This screen was not applied to this planning process.)

H.2 COAL PLANNING PROCESS

The following section describes the screening procedures and criteria used to determine lands suitable for further consideration for coal leasing in the RGFO planning area.

H.2.1 Screen 1: Identification of Coal Development Potential

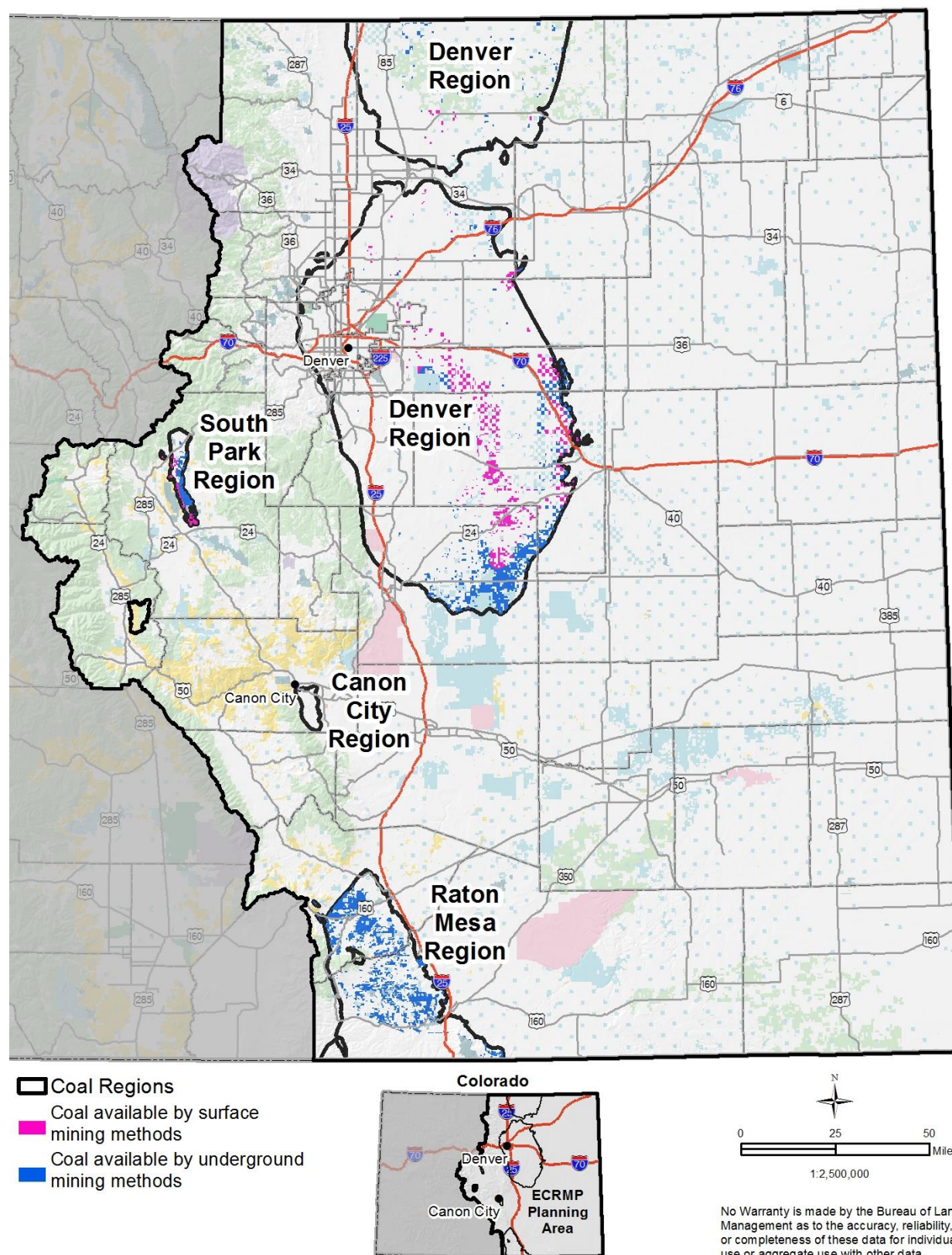
The four designated coal regions within the RGFO planning area (Carroll 2006) where coal development is most likely to occur are as follows (Figure H-1 shows Federal acres of coal in each of the coal regions):

1. **Denver Coal Region** – lies in the Colorado Piedmont section of the Great Plains physiographic province, east of the Front Range. It extends from near Colorado Springs on the south, north to the Wyoming border, and east to near the Town of Limon. The Denver Coal Region consists of the Cheyenne and Denver basins and is the largest coal region in the RGFO, covering about 7,500 square miles. This coal region is not currently

mined. There is one active coal permit in this coal region (i.e., Keenesburg strip mine), but it is in a state of reclamation. The Denver Coal Region has a low potential for development and contains 275,805 acres of Federal coal.

2. **Raton Mesa Coal Region** – is in the Raton section of the Great Plains physiographic province and lies east of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, straddling the Colorado-New Mexico state line and covering about 1,250 square miles, which makes it the second largest coal region in the RGFO. This region has both steam and coking coal potential and, of the four coal regions managed by the RGFO, it has the only recently active coal mine. However, this mine is under “Temporary Cessation” status at this time. There are two major coal fields in this region, Walsenburg Field has low development potential; Trinidad Field has moderate development potential. The Raton Mesa Region contains 153,685 acres of Federal coal.
3. **Cañon City Coal Region** – is in the Colorado Piedmont section of the Great Plains province. It occupies a relatively small area (roughly 50 square miles) in the Cañon City Embayment in the vicinity of Cañon City. The Wet Mountains are to the south and west and the Great Plains are to the east. There is no Federal coal in the Canon City Coal Region.
4. **South Park Coal Region** – is the smallest and historically least-productive coal region, located in an intermontane basin in the Southern Rocky Mountains province between the Mosquito Range and Front Range. This coal region extends across an estimated 86 square miles, based on the boundaries shown by Carroll (2006), but may be as small as 20 square miles according to Hornbaker et al. (1976). This coal region is not currently mined and has not been mined since the late 1800s. The South Park Coal Region has low potential for development and contains 19,035 acres of Federal coal.

Figure H-1. Federal Acres of Coal in each of the Coal Regions



Coal has not been produced from the Denver, South Park, and Cañon City Coal Regions for at least 30 years, but mining in the Trinidad Coal Field within the Raton Mesa Coal Region has been active with the Lorencito Canyon surface mine in 2001-2002 (producing 168,124 tons) and the New Elk underground mine in 2011-2014, producing 367,214 tons of coal (Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mining Safety [CDRMS] 2015). Both mines are located in the Purgatoire River valley near Las Animas County Road 12, roughly 20 to 25 miles west of Trinidad. The Lorencito Canyon Mine has not produced coal since 2002, is in the final stages of reclamation, and is under “Permanent Cessation” status with the CDRMS. The New Elk Mine produced coal from 2011 to October 2014, with a hiatus in 2013, and is currently idle with a “Temporary Cessation” permit status with the CDRMS (2015). Both the Lorencito Canyon and the New Elk mines are located in areas with private mineral estate. The RGFO currently does not manage any Federal coal leases in any of the four coal regions. The New Elk Coal Company (a subsidiary of Cline Mining Corporation), submitted a Federal coal lease application in December 2007, but the BLM is waiting for information from the Company to complete the application. The RGFO also received an application for a Federal coal exploration license called “Left Fork” in August 2012 by the Texas & Oklahoma Coal Company.

Coal Development Potential in the RGFO Planning Area

Improving costs and networks of transporting coal from the RGFO planning area would be necessary to improve competitiveness of coal from this region. Rail transport has high fuel surcharges and development of a coal slurry pipeline would have high capital costs that the coal industry could not likely bear in the immediate future. The high costs of the underground mining of relatively thin and lenticular coal beds and the abundance of natural gas are also limiting factors that make coal from these four coal regions not as competitive with other coal and gas production regions in the Western U.S. Until metallurgical coal prices improve significantly, fuel for local power plants and gasification plants have the greatest potential for the Raton Basin as well as for the Denver and Cañon City coal regions. The low sulfur coal in all three basins increases its potential use as a clean and compliant to super-compliant coal in the near future.

H.2.2 Screen 2: Unsuitability Review

As required by 43 CFR 3461, the BLM assessed the coal development potential areas (identified in Screen 1) in relation to twenty unsuitability criteria to determine suitability for surface mining. The criteria focus on significant resource values that could be impacted by surface operations. ***Surface coal mining operations*** are defined in 43 CFR 3400.0-5 as “activities conducted on the surface of lands in connection with a surface coal mine or surface operations and surface impacts incident to an underground mine” (such as vent holes, portals, load out facilities, roads, and other surface disturbances).

Federal regulation 43 CFR 3461.1(a) outlines exemptions and exceptions from the criteria, stating that “[F]ederal lands with coal deposits that would be mined by underground mining

methods shall not be assessed as unsuitable where there would be no surface coal mining operations.” The unsuitability criteria were not applied to the coal fields in the planning area that have deep coal deposits and no clearly defined areas where surface operations would occur. The criteria will be applied to surface facilities and operations during the exploration and leasing stages, as allowed by 43 CFR 3461.2-1(b)(1) and 3461.3-1. In the Denver Basin Coal Region, criteria were applied to 119,083 acres of Federal coal. In the South Park Coal Region, 6,131 acres of Federal coal resources were assessed for suitability for surface coal mining.

H.2.2.1 Criterion 1 – Special Systems of Federal Lands

Federal surface lands included in the following land systems or categories shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations:

- National Park System
- National Wildlife Refuge System
- National System of Trails
- National Wilderness Preservation System
- National Recreation Areas
- land acquired with money derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- National Forests (not applicable to underground mining)
- Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns, and villages

Analysis

In the Denver Basin, 2,419 acres are unsuitable due to Federal surface lands in the Pawnee National Grassland, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, and Federal lands within incorporated cities of Ault, Aurora, Bennett, Boulder, Brighton, Calhan, Colorado Springs, Commerce City, Deer Trail, Denver, Erie, Firestone, Fort Lupton, Frederick, Hudson, Lafayette, Lochbuie, Louisville, Nunn, Pierce, Platteville, Ramah, and Simla.

H.2.2.2 Criterion 2 – Rights-of-Way and Easements

Federal lands that are within rights-of-way or easements, or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial, or other public purposes on federally owned surface, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

Due to presence of right-of-ways or easements, 463 acres are unsuitable (263 acres in South Park, 200 acres in the Denver Basin). Any rights-of-way that are present within the potential coal development areas are unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.

H.2.2.3 Criterion 3 – Public Roads, Buildings, Cemeteries, and Parks and Occupied Dwellings

Federal lands affected by sections 522(e) (4) and (5) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations, including:

- within 100 feet of a cemetery or the outside line of a public highway right-of-way
- within 300 feet of an occupied building
- within 350 feet of an occupied public building, school, church, community, or institutional building or public park

Analysis

Due to the presence of public roads and facilities, 3,779 acres are unsuitable (404 acres in South Park, 3,375 acres in the Denver Basin). Public roads and facilities are considered unsuitable for coal mining operations. An evaluation of public roads and facilities will be conducted when a coal lease is nominated and determined unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.

H.2.2.4 Criterion 4 – Wilderness Study Areas

Federal lands designated as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) shall be considered unsuitable while under review by the Administration and the Congress for possible wilderness designation.

Analysis

Areas that are designated as WSAs will be determined unsuitable for surface coal mining operations (0 acres).

H.2.2.5 Criterion 5 – Class I Visual Resources

Federal lands designated as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I (signifying an area of outstanding scenic quality or high visual sensitivity) and not currently on the National Register of Natural Landmarks shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

Areas that are designated as VRM Class I will be determined unsuitable for surface coal mining operations (0 acres).

H.2.2.6 Criterion 6 – Scientific Studies, Demonstrations, and Experiments

Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, or natural resources or technology demonstrations and experiments, shall be considered unsuitable for the duration of the study, demonstration, or

experiment, except where mining could be conducted in such a way as to enhance or not jeopardize the purposes of the study, as determined by the surface management agency, or where the principal scientific user or agency give written concurrence to all or certain methods of mining.

Analysis

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed Federal lands and identify areas with scientific studies, demonstrations, and experiments listed under Criterion 6 as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

H.2.2.7 Criterion 7 – National Register of Historic Places Sites

Federal lands containing publicly owned sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations. The BLM shall consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Office and apply Criterion 7 to properties within coal development potential areas determined to be necessary in order to protect the inherent values that made the property eligible for National Register listing.

Analysis

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed Federal lands, consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Office, and identify National Register of Historic Places sites as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

H.2.2.8 Criterion 8 – National Natural Landmarks

Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmark sites (containing outstanding biological and geological resources regardless of land ownership) shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed Federal lands and identify natural areas and National Natural Landmarks listed under Criterion 8 as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

H.2.2.9 Criterion 9 – Federally Designated Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species

Federally designated critical habitat for listed threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and habitat proposed to be designated as critical habitat, which is determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the surface management agency to be of essential value, and where the presence of threatened or endangered species has been scientifically documented, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed surface coal operations and facilities in relation to Criterion 9.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for critical habitat that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or structures. Mine plans will identify known federally designated and proposed critical habitat for threatened and endangered plant and animal species as unsuitable, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures for habitat discovered during mining operations.

H.2.2.10 Criterion 10 – Critical Habitat for State-listed Threatened and Endangered Species

Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed as threatened or endangered by the State of Colorado pursuant to state law shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

This criterion is not applicable; no data set is currently available. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed surface coal operations and facilities in relation to Criterion 10.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for critical and essential habitat for State-listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface mining or surface operations. Mine plans will identify known critical and essential habitat for State-listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species as unsuitable, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures for critical or essential habitat discovered during mining operations.

H.2.2.11 Criterion 11 – Bald and Golden Eagle Active Nest Sites

Federal lands containing an active bald or golden eagle nest site, along with an appropriate buffer zone around the nest site, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface

operations. The BLM will consult with the USFWS and will consider terrain and availability of habitat for prey species when defining buffer zones.

Terminology Used: According to the USFWS 2007 National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (USFWS 2007), a *nest* is defined as a structure built, maintained, or used by eagles for the purpose of reproduction. An *active nest* is attended (built, maintained, or used) by a pair of eagles during a given breeding season, whether or not eggs are laid.

Analysis

Federal lands within an appropriate buffer zone of known active bald or golden eagle nesting sites (established through consultation with the USFWS) will be identified as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface operations and facilities in relation to Criterion 11. Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for bald and golden eagle nests and nesting activity that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or facilities. Mine plans will identify known golden and bald eagle active nest sites and associated buffer zones as unsuitable and will outline measures to comply with current USFWS Bald Eagle Management Guidelines & Conservation Measures for active nest sites discovered during mining operations.

H.2.2.12 Criterion 12 – Bald and Golden Eagle Roosts

Federal lands containing bald and golden eagle roosts and concentration areas used during migration and wintering shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Terminology Used: According to the USFWS 2007 National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (USFWS 2007), *roosts* are areas where eagles gather and perch overnight (and sometimes during the day in the event of inclement weather). Communal roost sites are usually in large trees (live or dead) that are relatively sheltered from wind and are generally in close proximity to foraging areas. Roosts may also serve a social purpose for pair bond formation and communication among eagles. Many roost sites are used year after year.

Analysis

Federal lands within 0.25 mile of known bald or golden eagle roosts and concentration areas will be identified as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations (0 acres). There is no known habitat existing in a coal field where surface mining could take place.

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine surface operations and facilities in relation to Criterion 12. Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for bald and golden eagle roosts and concentration areas that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or facilities. Mine plans

will identify known bald and golden eagle roosts and concentration areas as unsuitable, and will outline measures to comply with current USFWS Bald Eagle Management Guidelines & Conservation Measures for roosts and concentration areas discovered during mining operations.

H.2.2.13 Criterion 13 – Falcon Cliff Nest Sites

Federal lands containing falcon cliff nest sites with active nests (excluding kestrel), along with a buffer zone of Federal land around the nest site, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations. The BLM will consult with the USFWS and will consider terrain and availability of habitat for prey species when defining buffer zones.

Analysis

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 13.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for falcon cliff nest sites that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or structures. Mine plans will identify Federal lands within an appropriate buffer zone of known active falcon cliff nest sites (established in consultation with the USFWS) as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures for nest sites discovered during mining operations.

H.2.2.14 Criterion 14 – Migratory Bird Habitat

Federal lands considered high-priority habitat for migratory bird species of high Federal interest on a regional or national basis, as determined jointly by the surface management agency and USFWS, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

This criterion is not applicable; no data set is currently available. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM (in consultation with the USFWS) will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 14.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for high-priority migratory bird habitat that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or facilities. Mine plans will identify known high-priority migratory bird habitat as unsuitable, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures for habitat discovered during mining operations. During periods when a high-priority habitat is in use by a migratory bird species, underground coal mining may occur in areas where the BLM (in consultation with the USFWS) determines that all or certain stipulated mining methods will not adversely affect the habitat.

H.2.2.15 Criterion 15 – Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife and Plants

Federal lands that the BLM and State of Colorado jointly identify as essential habitat for maintaining resident fish, wildlife, and plant species of high interest to the State shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Examples of lands that serve a critical function for a particular species include:

- active dancing and strutting grounds for sage-grouse
- crucial winter range for deer and elk
- migration corridors for elk
- extremes of range for plant species

Analysis

Due to the presence of habitat for State high-interest wildlife and plants, (14,841 total acres consisting of 14,691 acres in the Denver Basin and 150 acres in South Park are unsuitable. Much of the planning area consists of crucial winter range for deer and elk. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 15.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for crucial deer and elk winter range that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or facilities. Mine plans will identify known crucial winter range for deer and elk as unsuitable, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures.

H.2.2.16 Criterion 16 – Riverine, Coastal, and 100-Year Recurrence Interval Floodplains

Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and 100-year recurrence interval flood plains, on which the BLM determines that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property, shall be considered unsuitable for all or certain stipulated methods of mining.

Analysis

Due to the presence of riverine, coastal, and 100-year recurrence interval floodplains, 941 total acres consisting of 821 acres in the Denver Basin and 120 acres in the South Park, are unsuitable. Coastal and riverine flood plains do not occur within the planning area. One hundred-year floodplains have been mapped along some of the drainages in the Denver Basin and South Park and are considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 16. Mine plans will identify potential effects of mine operations on adjacent flood plains and outline mitigation measures.

H.2.2.17 Criterion 17 – Municipal Watersheds

Federal lands that have been classified by the BLM as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

Due to the presence of municipal watersheds, 6,587 total acres consisting of 5,890 acres in the Denver Basin and 697 acres in South Park, are unsuitable. Municipal watersheds are mapped by the State of Colorado as part of the Source Water Protection Plan; several municipal water sources are located in the Denver Basin and South Park and these areas are considered unsuitable for surface mining.

Because designation of municipal watersheds is likely to increase over time, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 17 at the time of exploration and leasing.

H.2.2.18 Criterion 18 – National Resource Waters

Federal lands with national resource waters identified in state water quality management plans, and a buffer zone of Federal lands 0.25 mile from the outer edge of the far banks of the water, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

The State of Colorado has not identified any national resource waters that within coal development potential areas in the planning area. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 18.

H.2.2.19 Criterion 19 – Alluvial Valley Floors

Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state in which they are located, as alluvial valley floors according to the definition in 43 CFR 3400.0-5(a), standards in 30 CFR 822, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Alluvial Valley Floor Identification and Study Guidelines (U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement 1983), and approved state programs under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.), where mining would interrupt, discontinue, or preclude farming, shall be considered unsuitable. Additionally, when mining Federal land outside an alluvial valley floor would materially damage the quantity or quality of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply alluvial valley floors, the land shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

Alluvial valley floors will be identified at the time of coal exploration and leasing. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement guidelines will be followed. Surface coal mining operations may occur along alluvial valley floors if no reasonable alternative sites exist outside these areas. Lease stipulations and conditions of approval would be required in order to minimize disturbance and impacts to water supplies within these areas.

H.2.2.20 Criterion 20 – State and Indian Tribe Proposed Criteria

Within the State of Colorado, Federal lands in the planning area to which an applicable criterion (i) proposed by the State or an Indian tribe located in the planning area, and (ii) adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis

At the time of this report, no Federal lands within coal development potential areas in the planning area have been proposed by the State of Colorado or an Indian tribe as unsuitable. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 20.

Summary of unsuitability review:

| Coal Region | Total Acres Analyzed | Suitable Acres | Unsuitable Acres |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Denver Basin | 119,083 | 95,415 | 23,668 |
| South Park | 6,131 | 4,753 | 1,377 |

H.2.3 Screen 3: Identification of Multiple Land Use Conflicts

Screen 3 requires evaluating multiple land use decisions that could eliminate from surface or underground coal exploration and leasing consideration, Federal lands containing resource values and uses that are considered locally, regionally, or nationally unique or more important than coal. Such values and uses include, but are not limited to, those identified in Section 522(a)(3) of the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act of 1977 and the Criteria for Designating Areas as Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining Operations (30 CFR 762).

The following areas within coal development potential areas have been identified as containing resource values or uses deemed of greater value than coal, for which potential impacts could not be mitigated. The conflict areas differ within each draft RMP alternative and have been identified as unsuitable for further coal exploration and leasing consideration.

Common to All Alternatives

Section 308 of the Fiscal Year 1984 Interior Appropriations Act prohibits leasing within WSAs. There are no WSAs within potential coal development areas.

Alternative A

No additional areas are unacceptable for further coal leasing and development under Screen 3.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, the following areas have been identified as unacceptable for further coal exploration and leasing consideration:

- Wetlands and riparian areas
- Lands within 0.25 mile of perennial streams
- Big game winter range (elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, and moose)
- Recreation sites

Alternative C

No additional areas are unacceptable for further coal leasing and development under Screen 3.

Alternative D

Under Alternative D, the following areas have been identified as unacceptable for further coal exploration and leasing consideration:

- South Park National Heritage Area
- Recreation sites

H.2.4 Screen 4: Consultation with Private Surface Owners

Both Section 714 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and 43 CFR 3420(e)(4) require the BLM to consult with qualified owners whose lands overlie Federal coal deposits proposed for development by surface mining methods. The BLM will consult with qualified surface owners prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area.

H.3 REFERENCES

- Carroll, C.J. 2006. Coal resource maps of Colorado: CGS Map Series 43, CD-ROM, scale 1:500,000.
- Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mining Safety (CDRMS). 2015. Monthly/yearly coal production reports and mine details. Available at: www.mining.state.co.us. Accessed November 2014 – March 2015.
- Hornbaker, A. L., R.D. Holt, and D.K. Murray. 1976. 1975 Summary of Coal Resources in Colorado: CGS Special Publication 9, 17 p.
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. 1983. Alluvial Valley Floor Identification and Study Guidelines. U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. August.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2007. National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines. May. Available at:
<https://www.fws.gov/southdakotafieldoffice/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>.

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Preliminary Alternatives Report

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan

Appendix I – Renewable Energy Maps

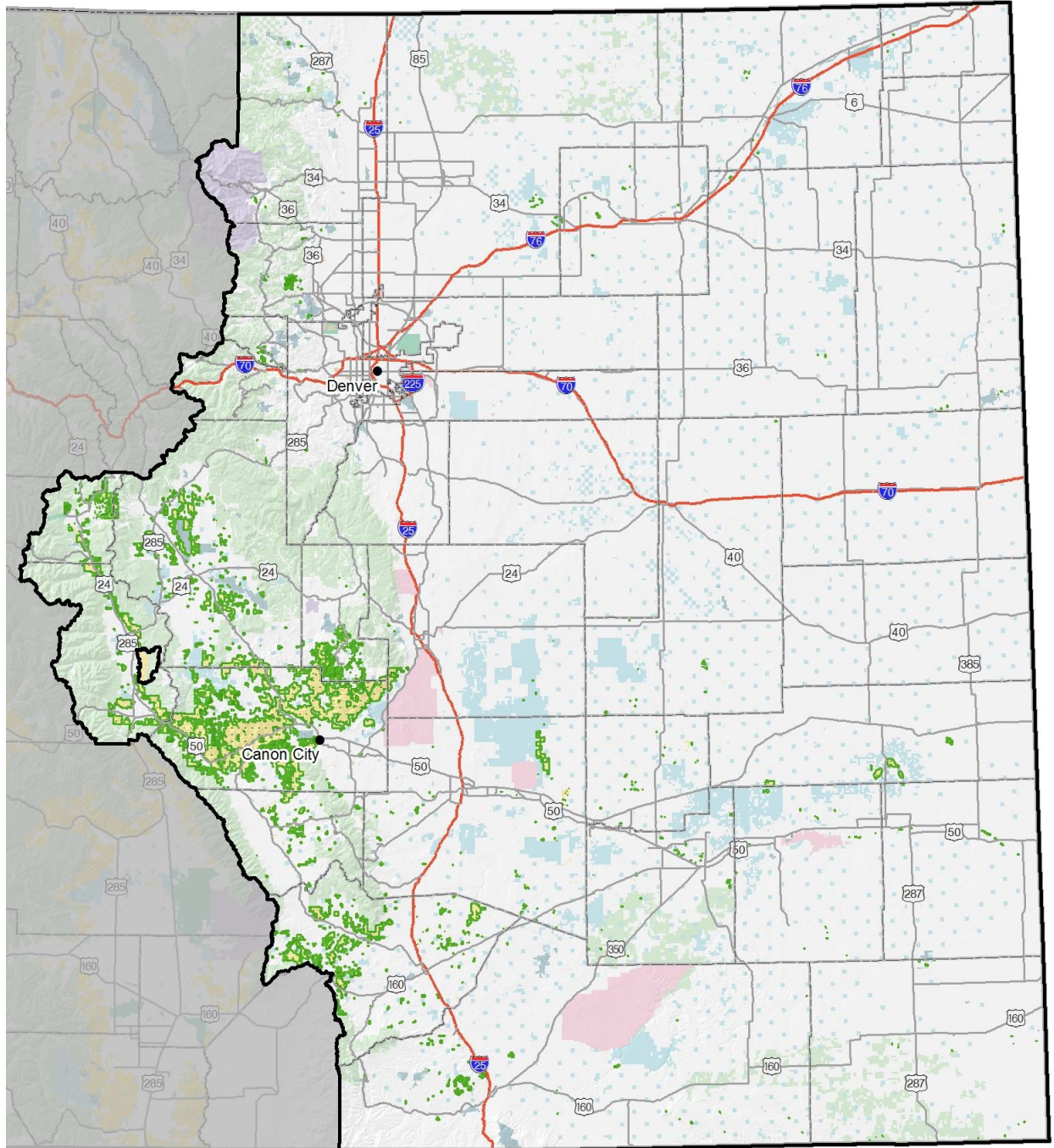
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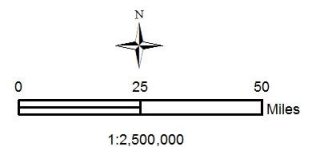
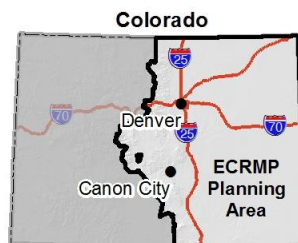
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Map I-1. Alternative B – Closed to Non-Utility Scale Renewable Energy Development



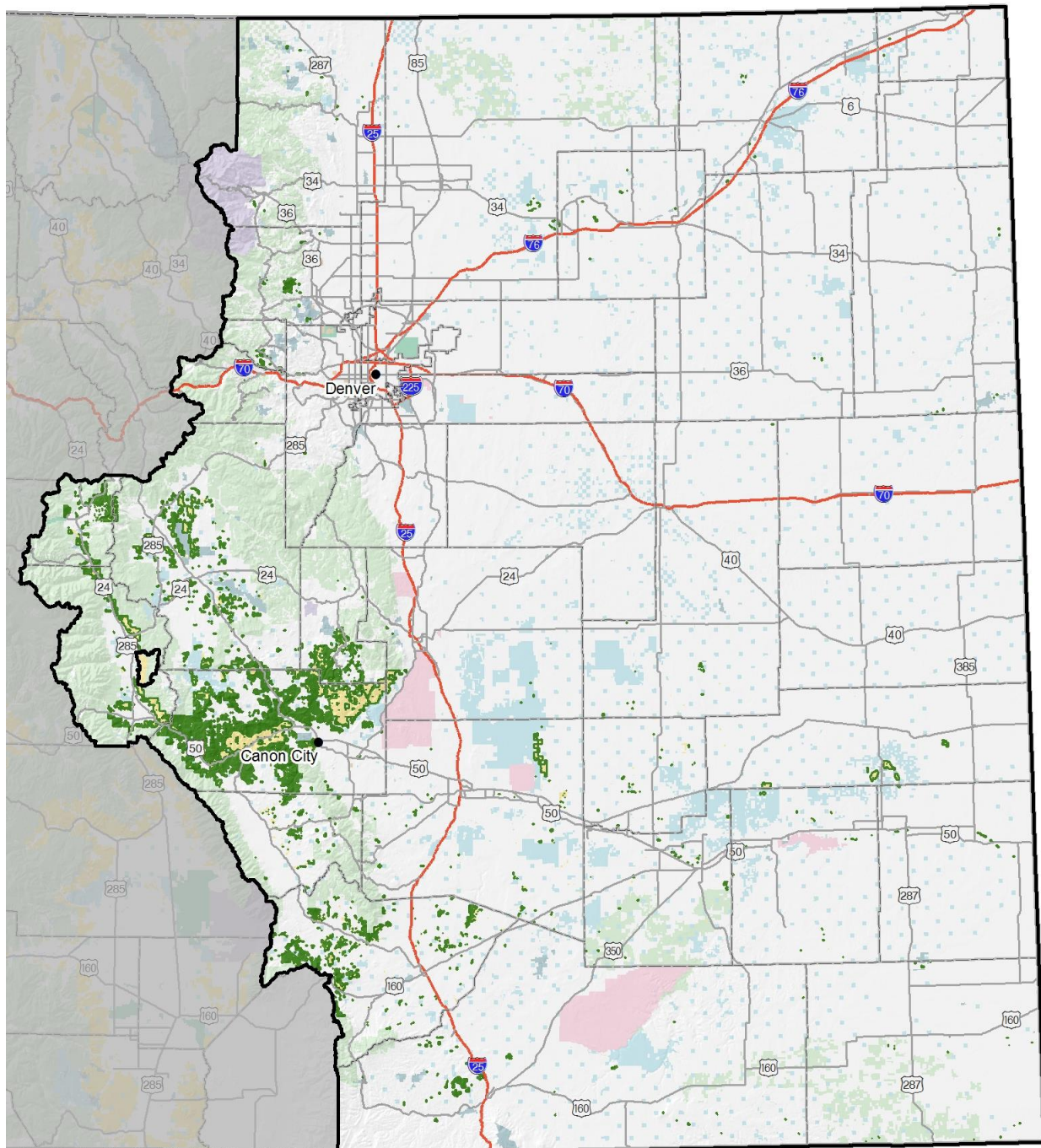
Alternative B

- Closed to Non-Utility Scale
- Renewable Energy Development on BLM Surface



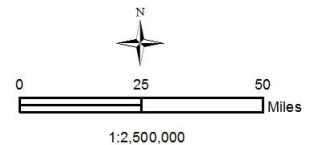
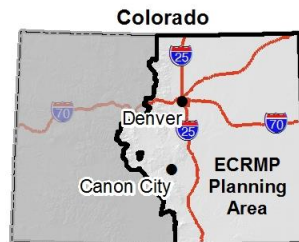
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map I-2. Alternative C – Closed to Utility Scale Renewable Energy Development



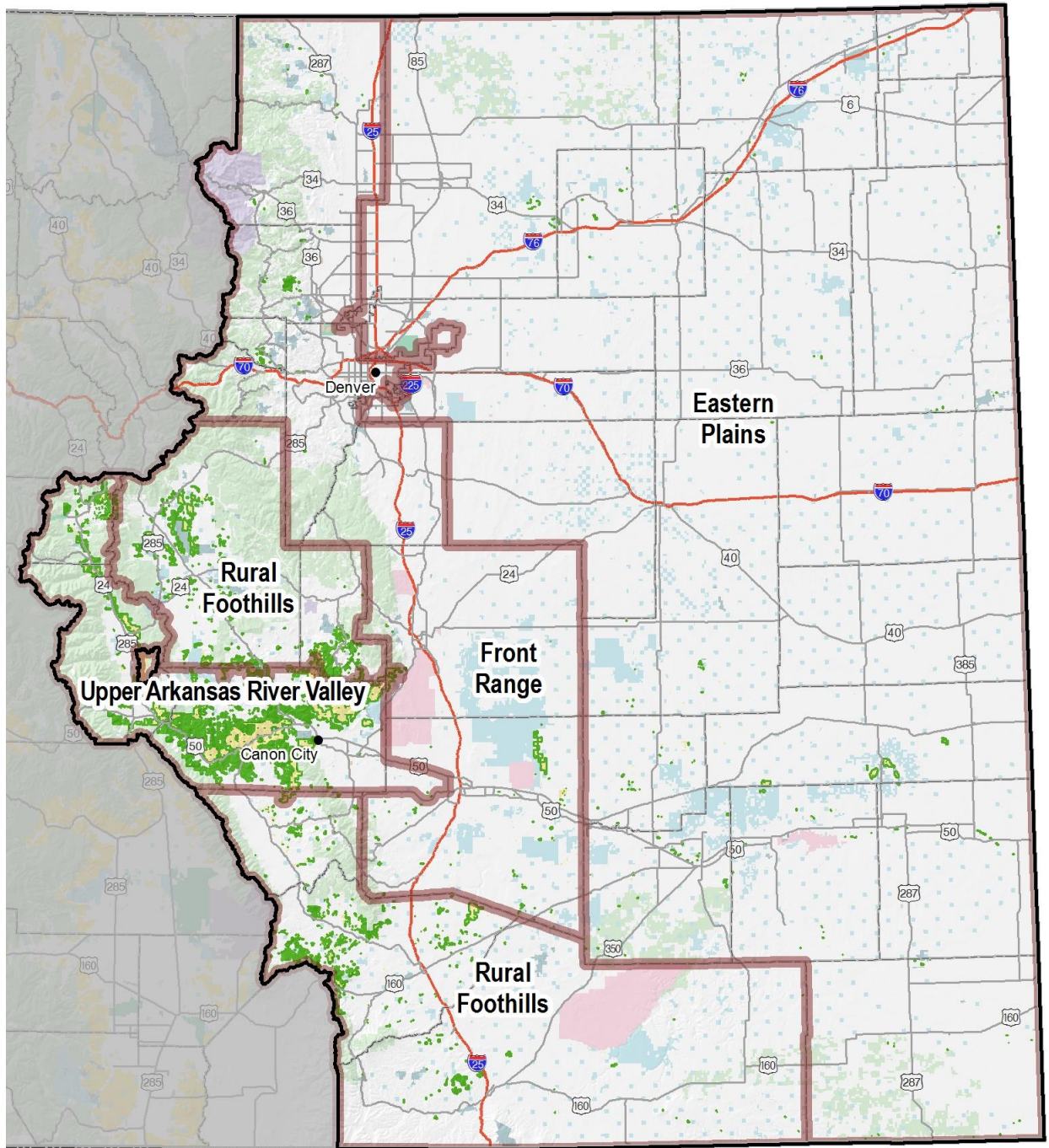
Alternative C

- Closed to Utility Scale
- Renewable Energy Development on BLM Surface



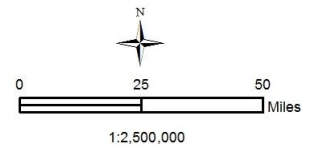
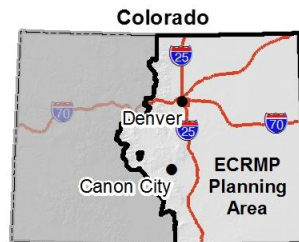
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map I-3. Alternative D – Closed to Non-Utility Scale Renewable Energy Development



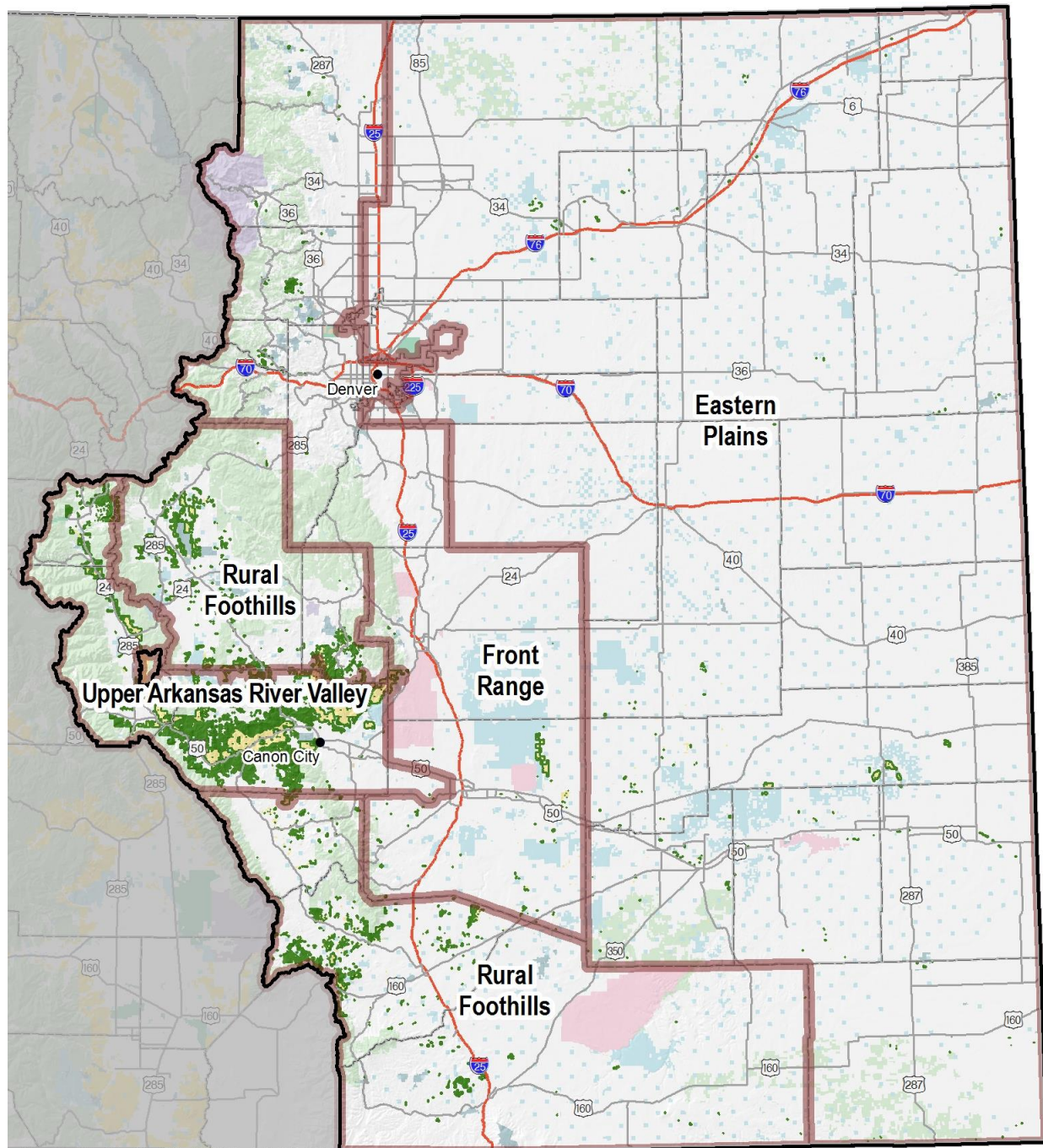
Alternative D

- Closed to Non-Utility Scale
- Renewable Energy Development for Federal Minerals



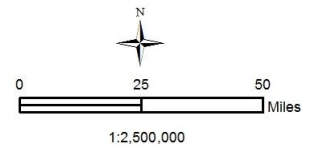
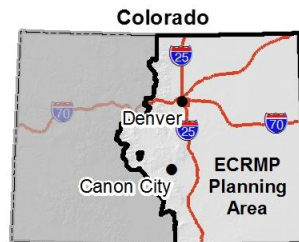
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Map I-4. Alternative D – Closed to Utility Scale Renewable Energy Development



Alternative D

- Closed to Utility Scale
- Renewable Energy Development on BLM Surface



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Preliminary Alternatives Report

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan

Appendix J – Lands and Realty Maps

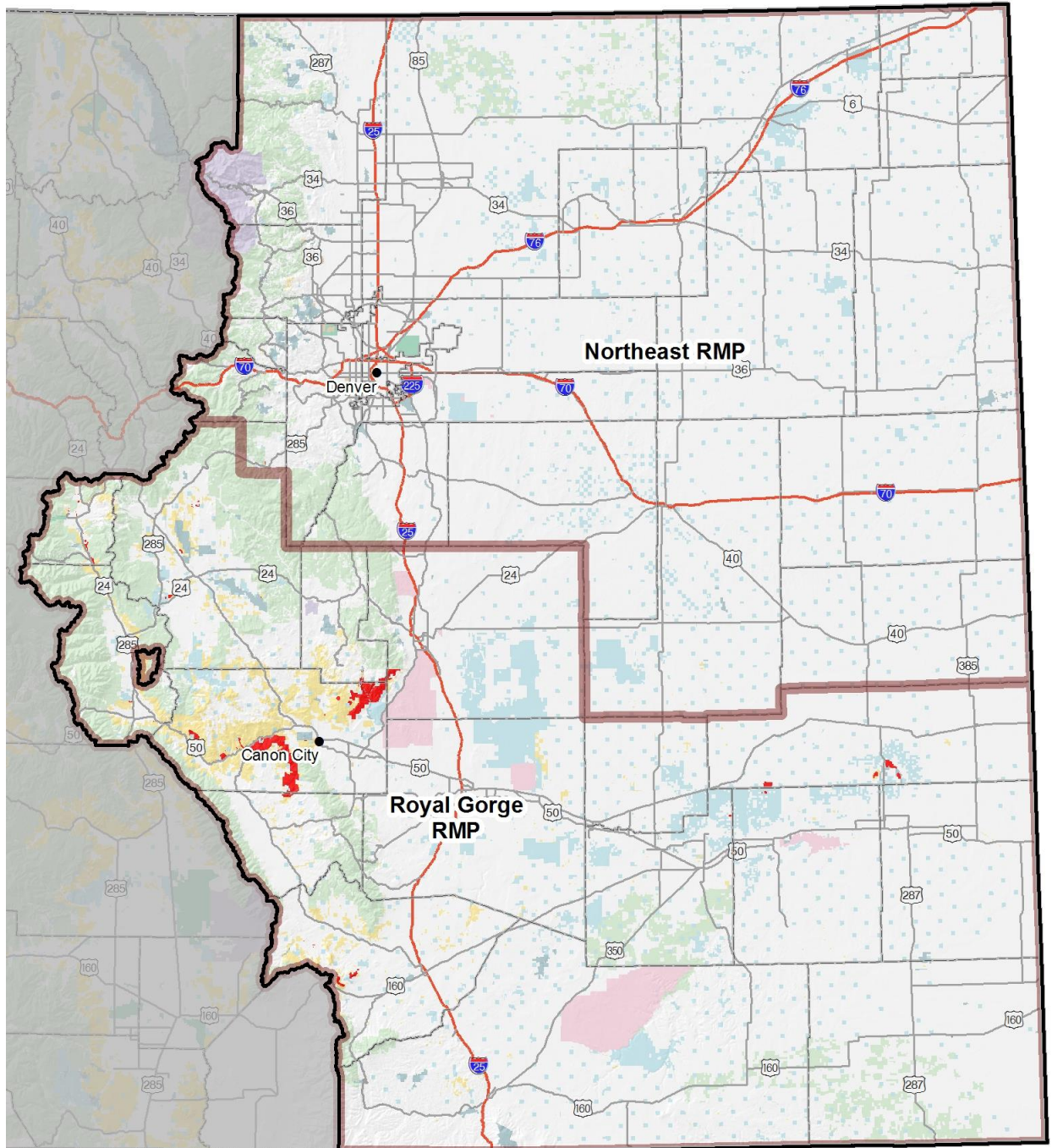
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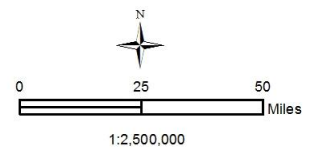
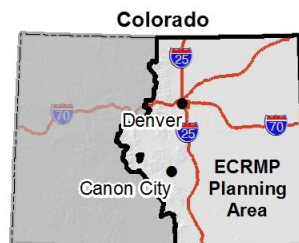
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| Map J-2. | Alternative A – Rights-of-Way Avoidance Areas | J-2 |
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Map J-1. Alternative A – Rights-of-Way Exclusion Areas

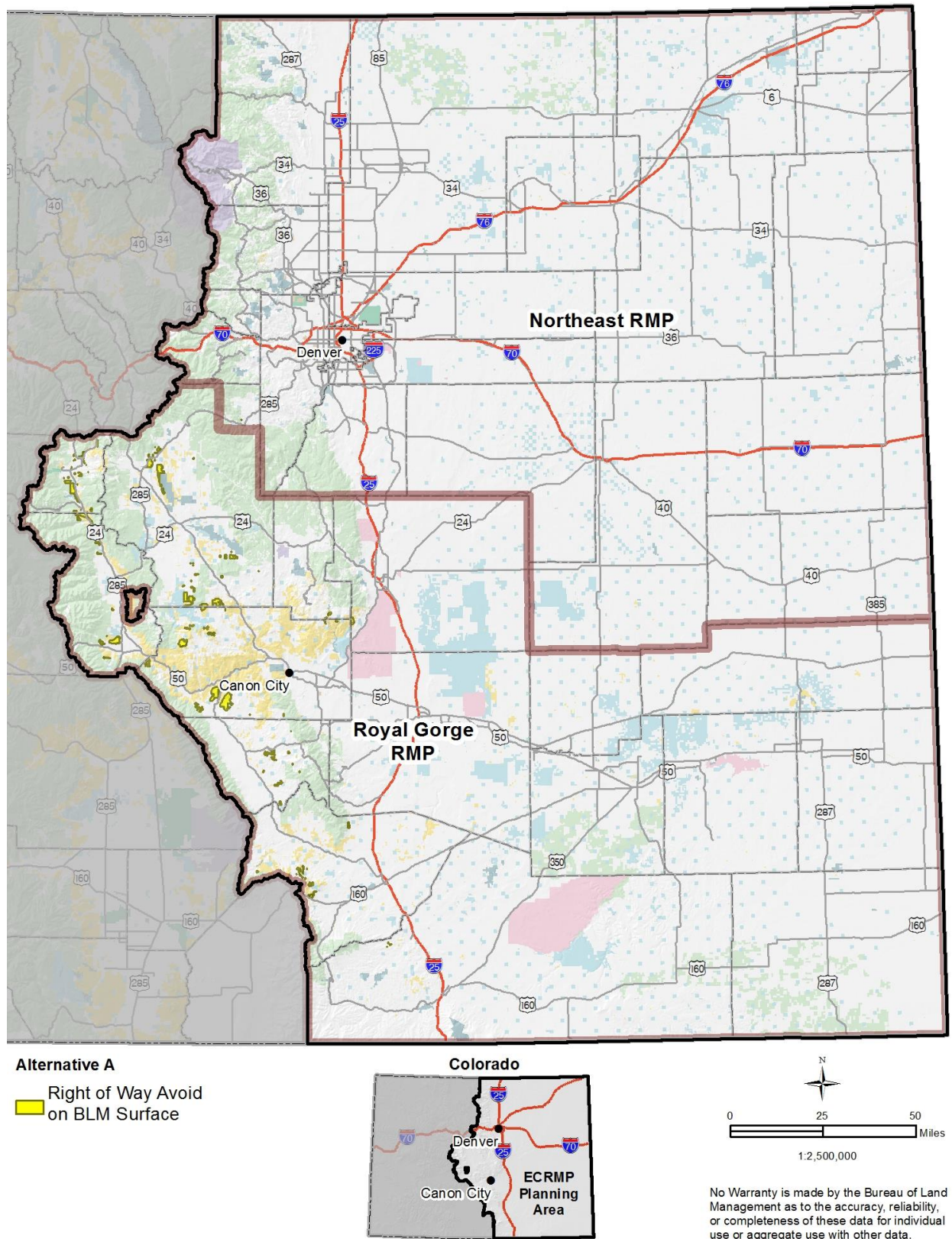


Alternative A
 Right of Way Exclude
 on BLM Surface

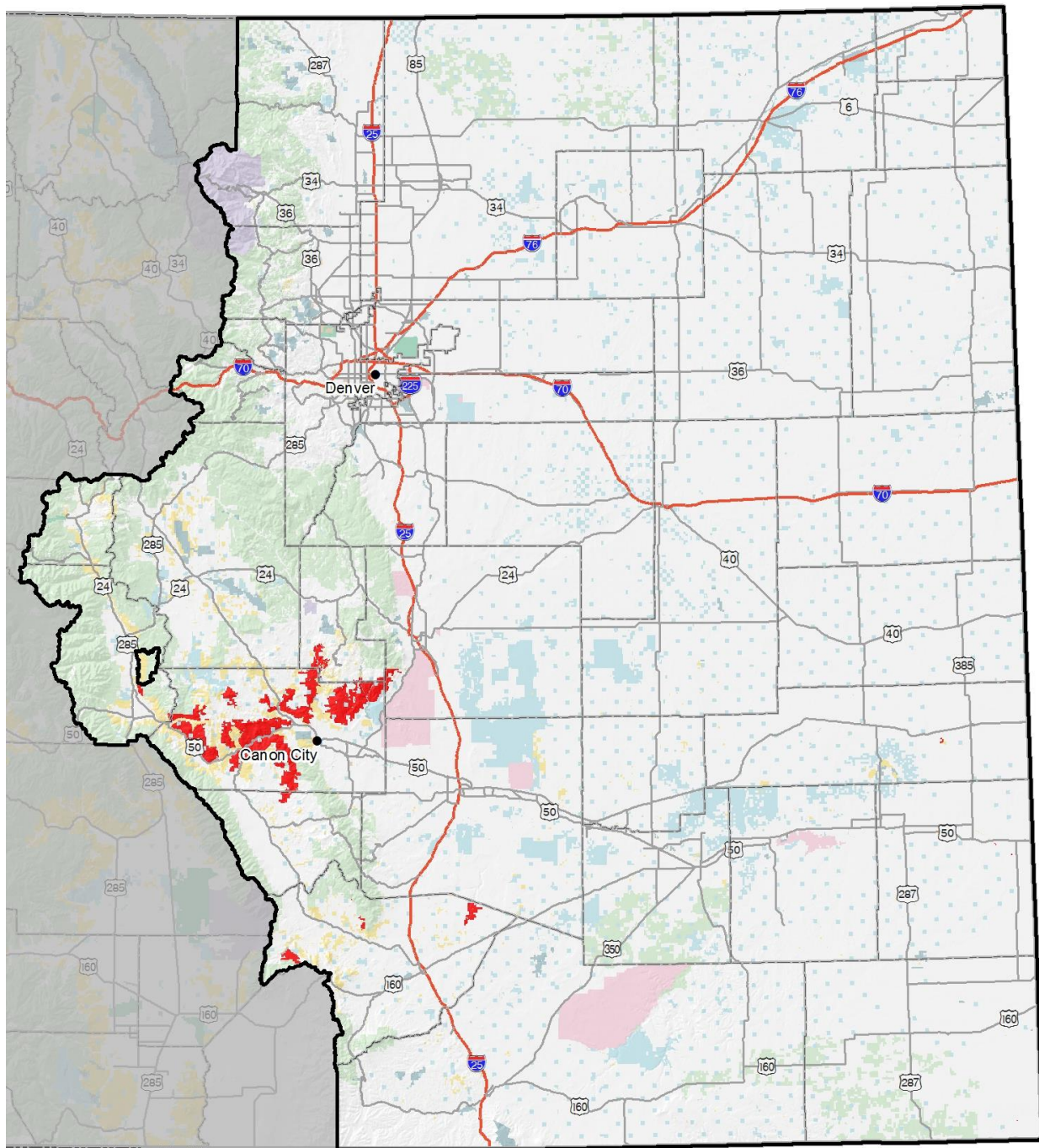



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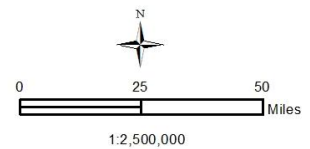
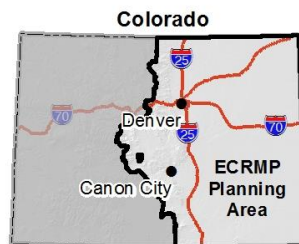
Map J-2. Alternative A – Rights-of-Way Avoidance Areas



Map J-3. Alternative B – Rights-of-Way Exclusion Areas

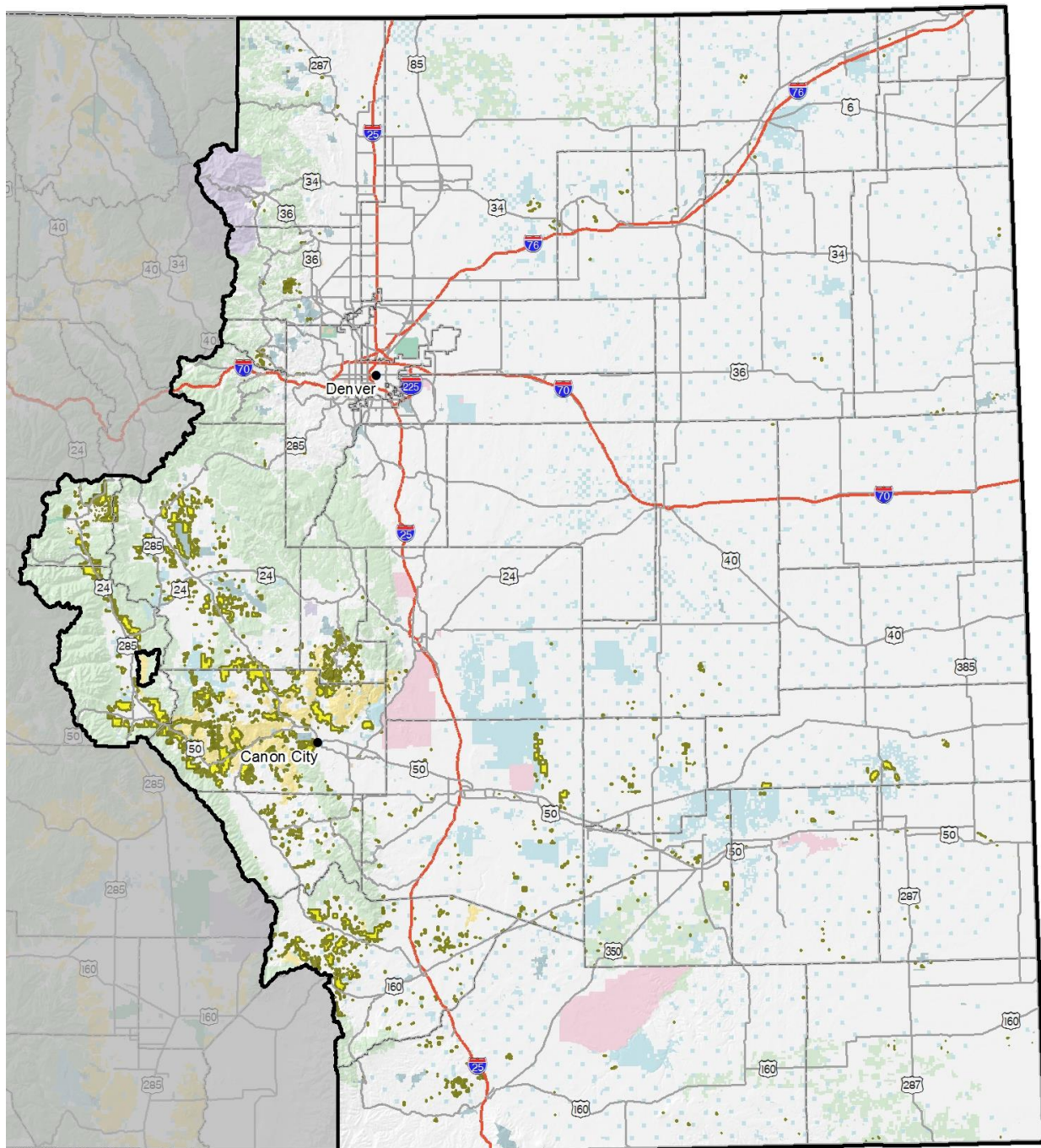



Alternative B
 Right of Way Exclude
 on BLM Surface

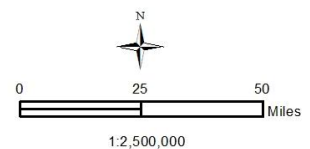
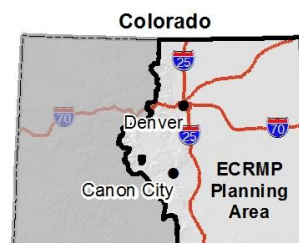


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Map J-4. Alternative B – Rights-of-Way Avoidance Areas

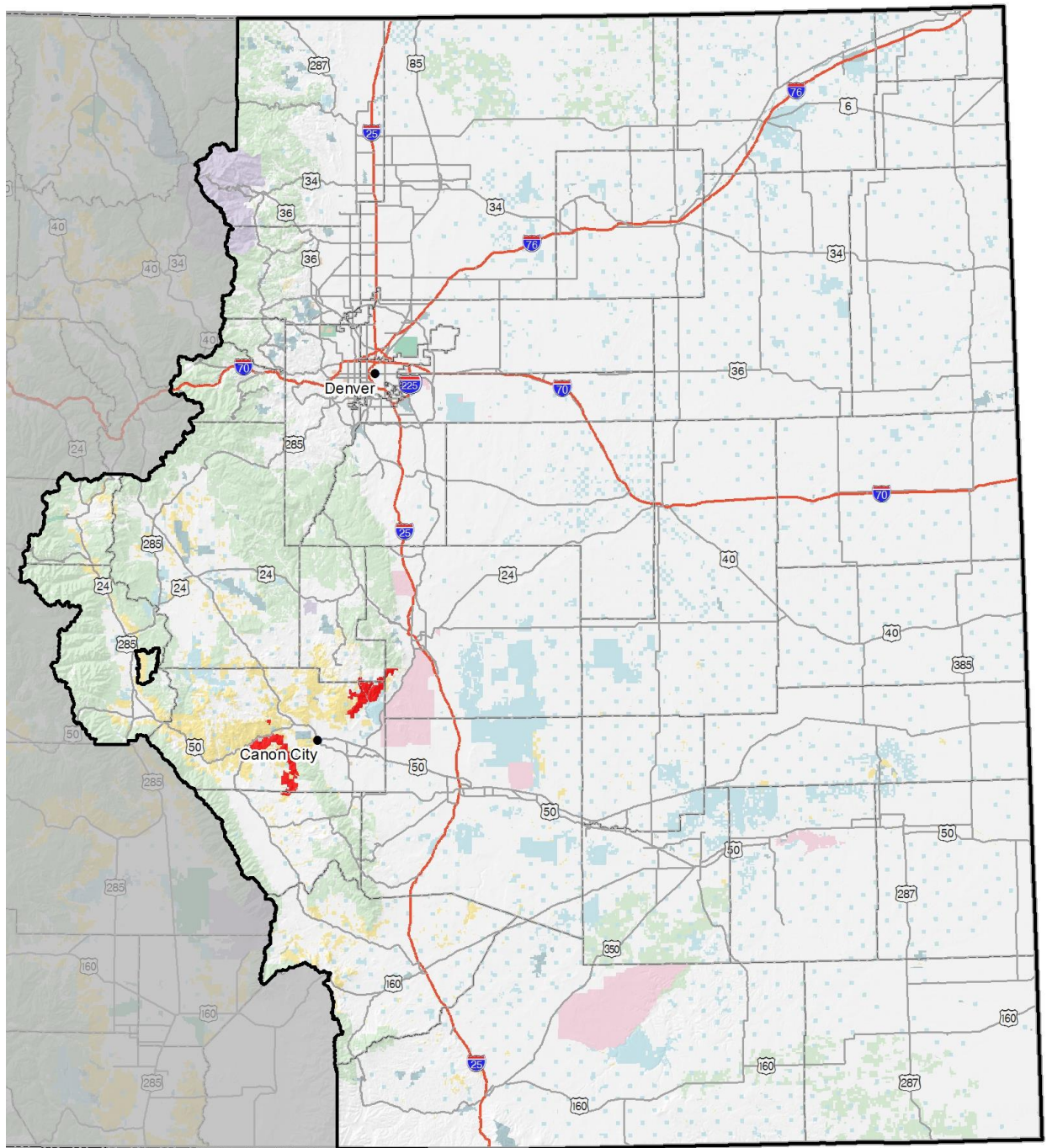


Alternative B
 Right of Way Avoid
on BLM Surface



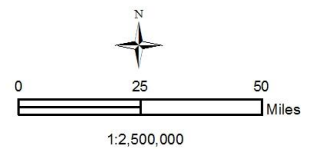
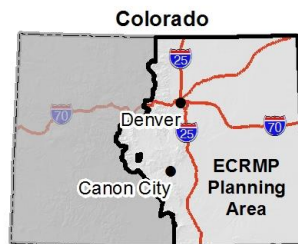
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Map J-5. Alternative C – Rights-of-Way Exclusion Areas



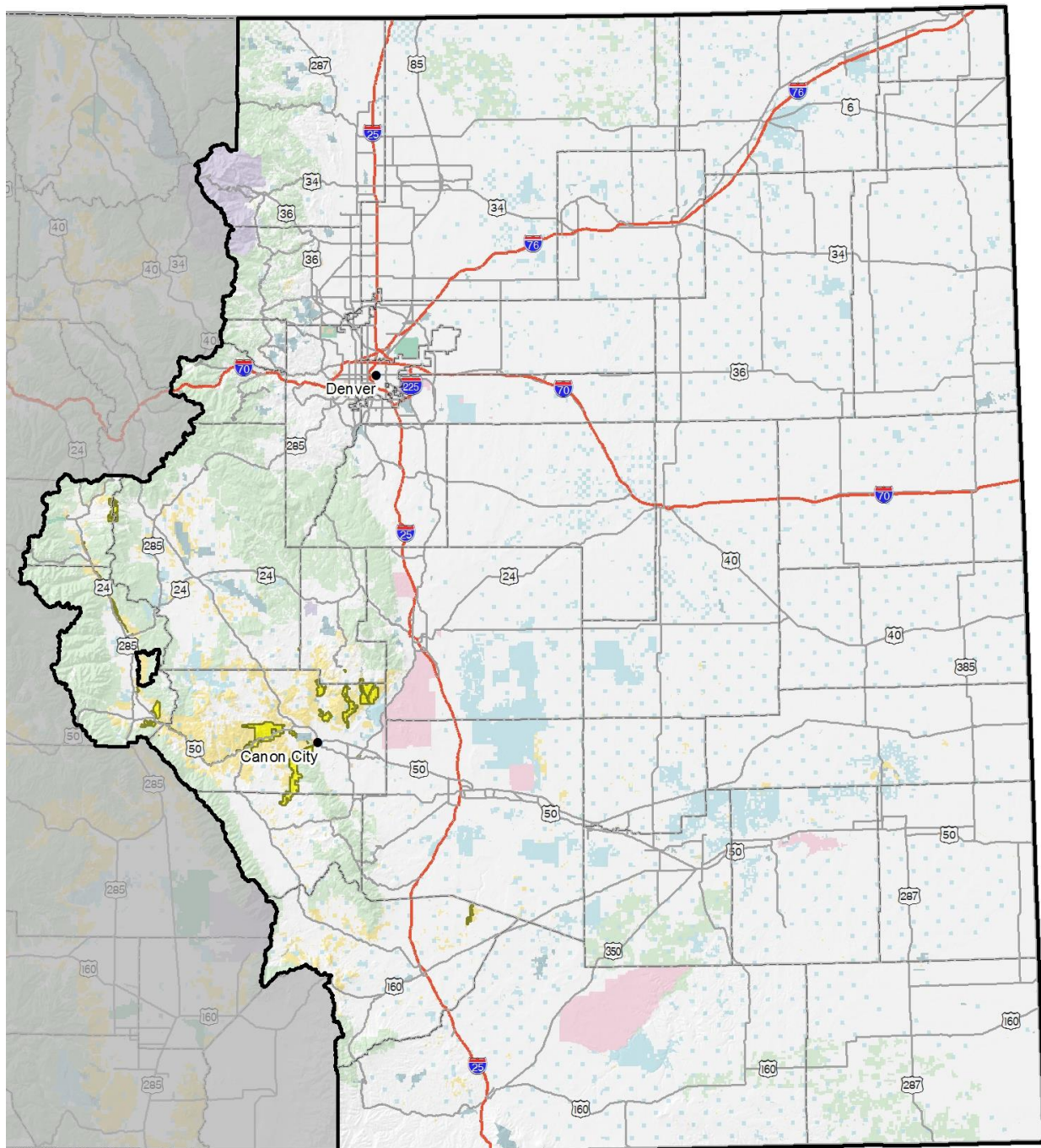
Alternative C


■ Right of Way Exclude
on BLM Surface

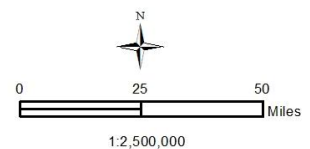
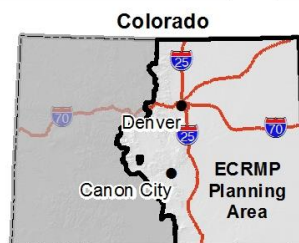


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Map J-6. Alternative C – Rights-of-Way Avoidance Areas

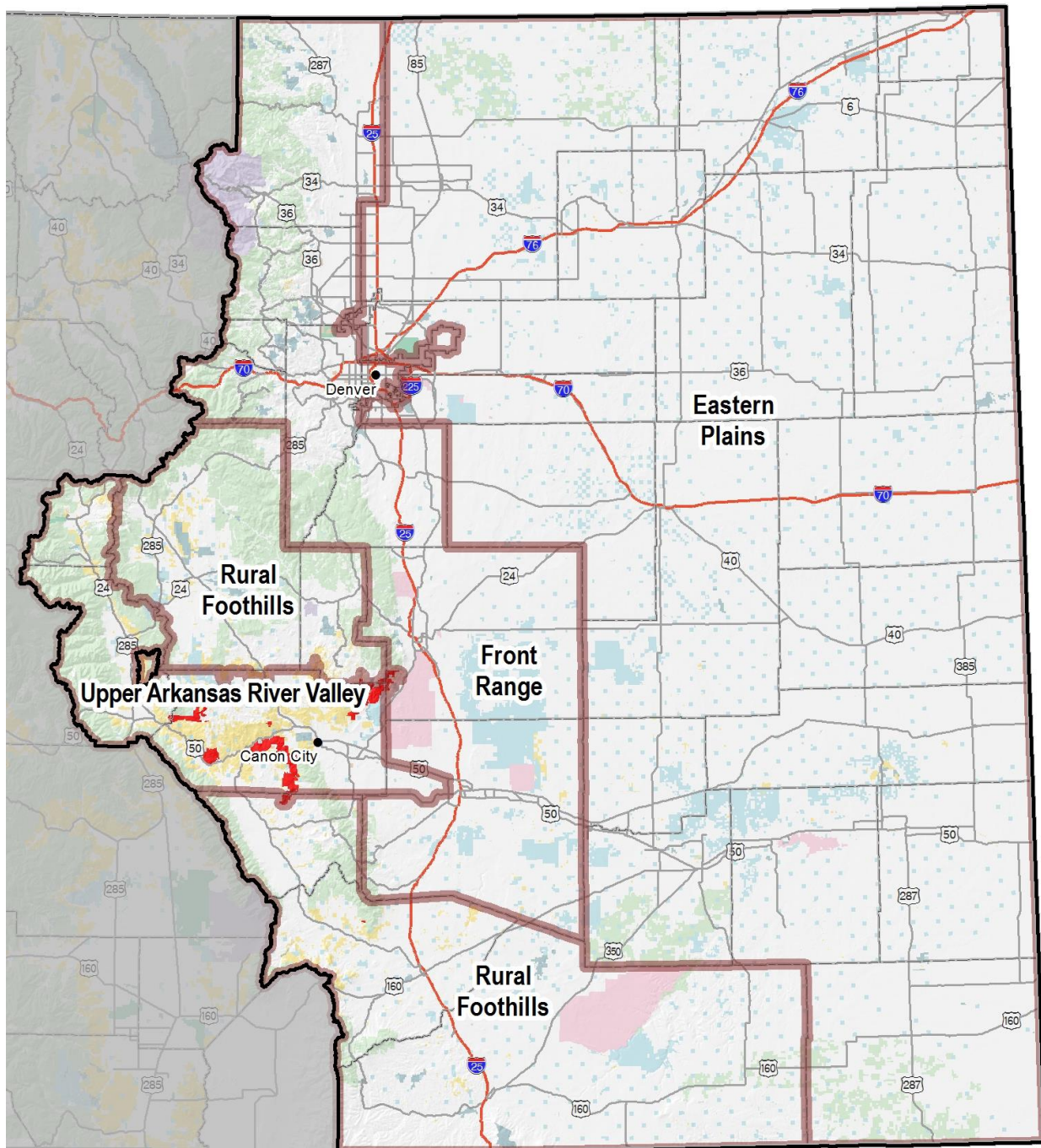


Alternative C
 Right of Way Avoid
 on BLM Surface




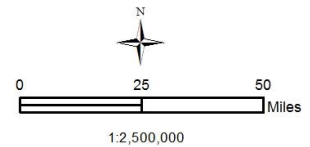
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Map J-7. Alternative D – Rights-of-Way Exclusion Areas



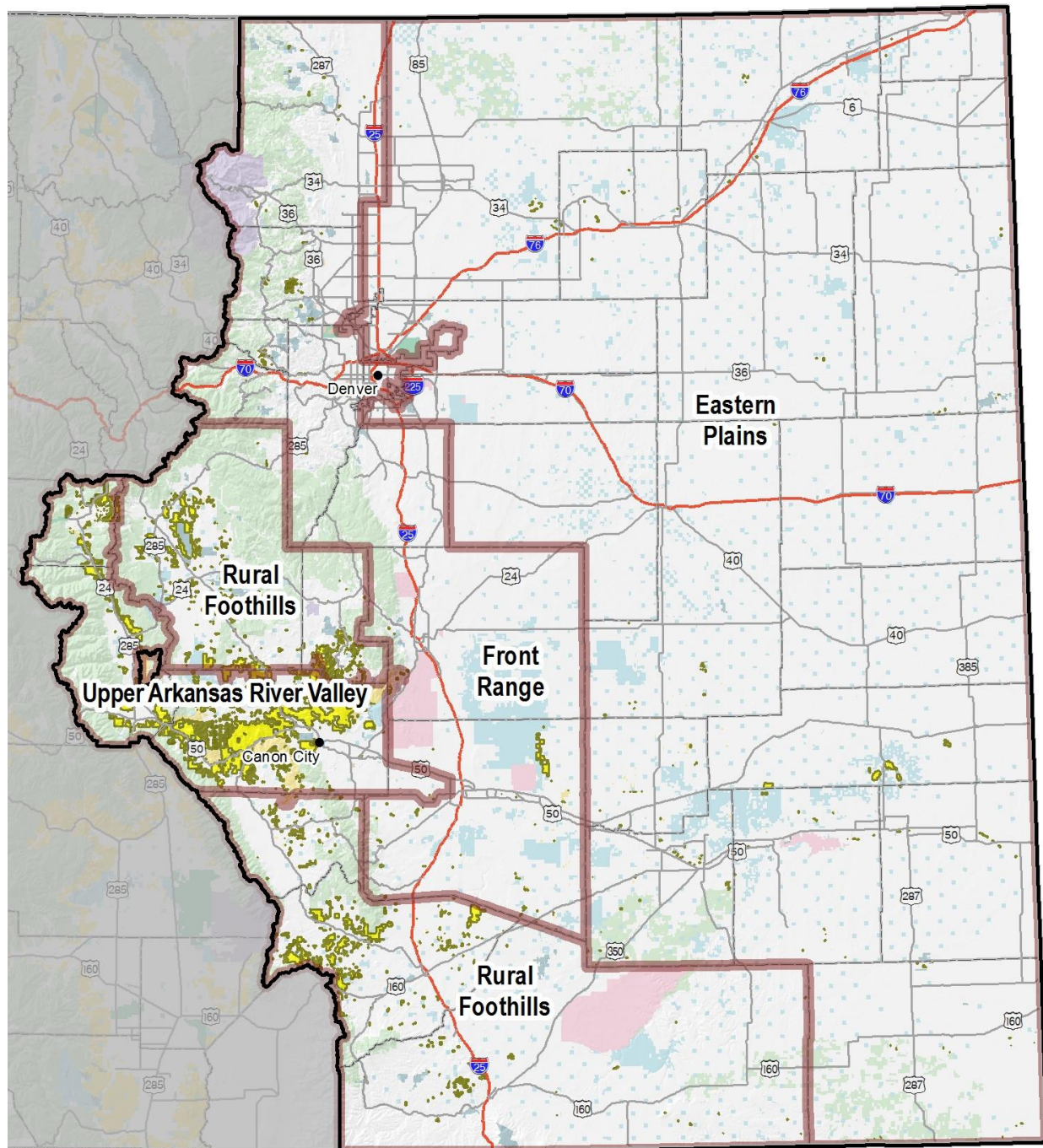
Alternative D

 Right of Way Exclude
on BLM Surface



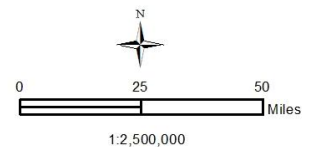
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Map J-8. Alternative D – Rights-of-Way Avoidance Areas



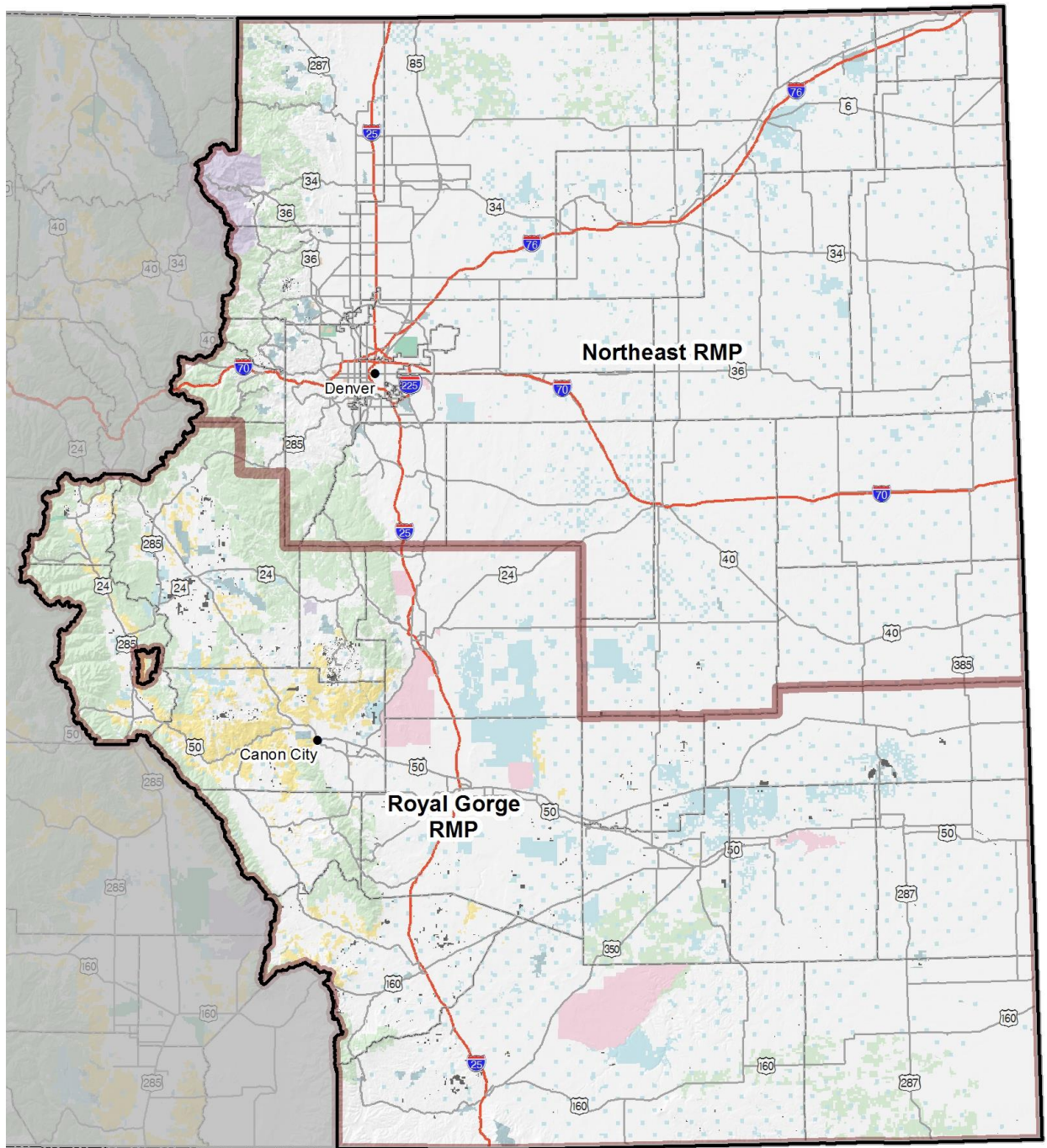
Alternative D

Right of Way Avoid
on BLM Surface

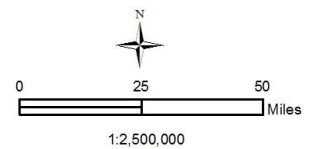


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Map J-9. Alternative A – Lands Identified for Disposal

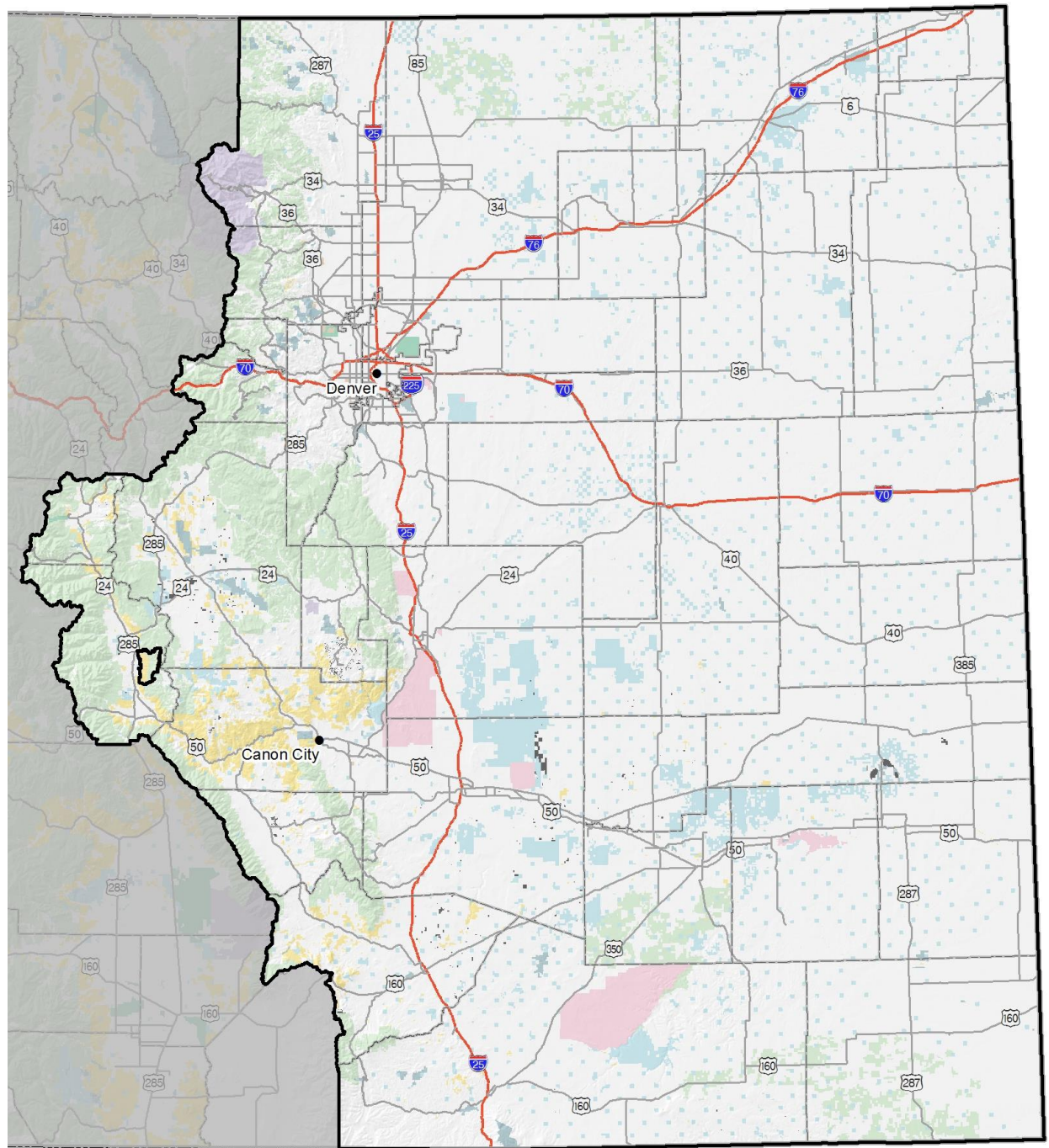



Alternative A
 Lands for Disposal

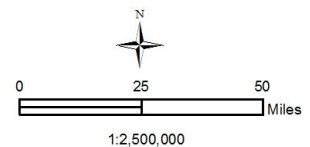
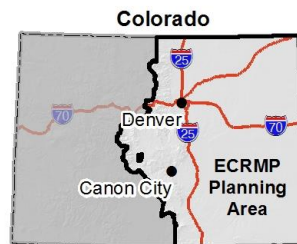


No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map J-10. Alternative B – Lands Identified for Disposal

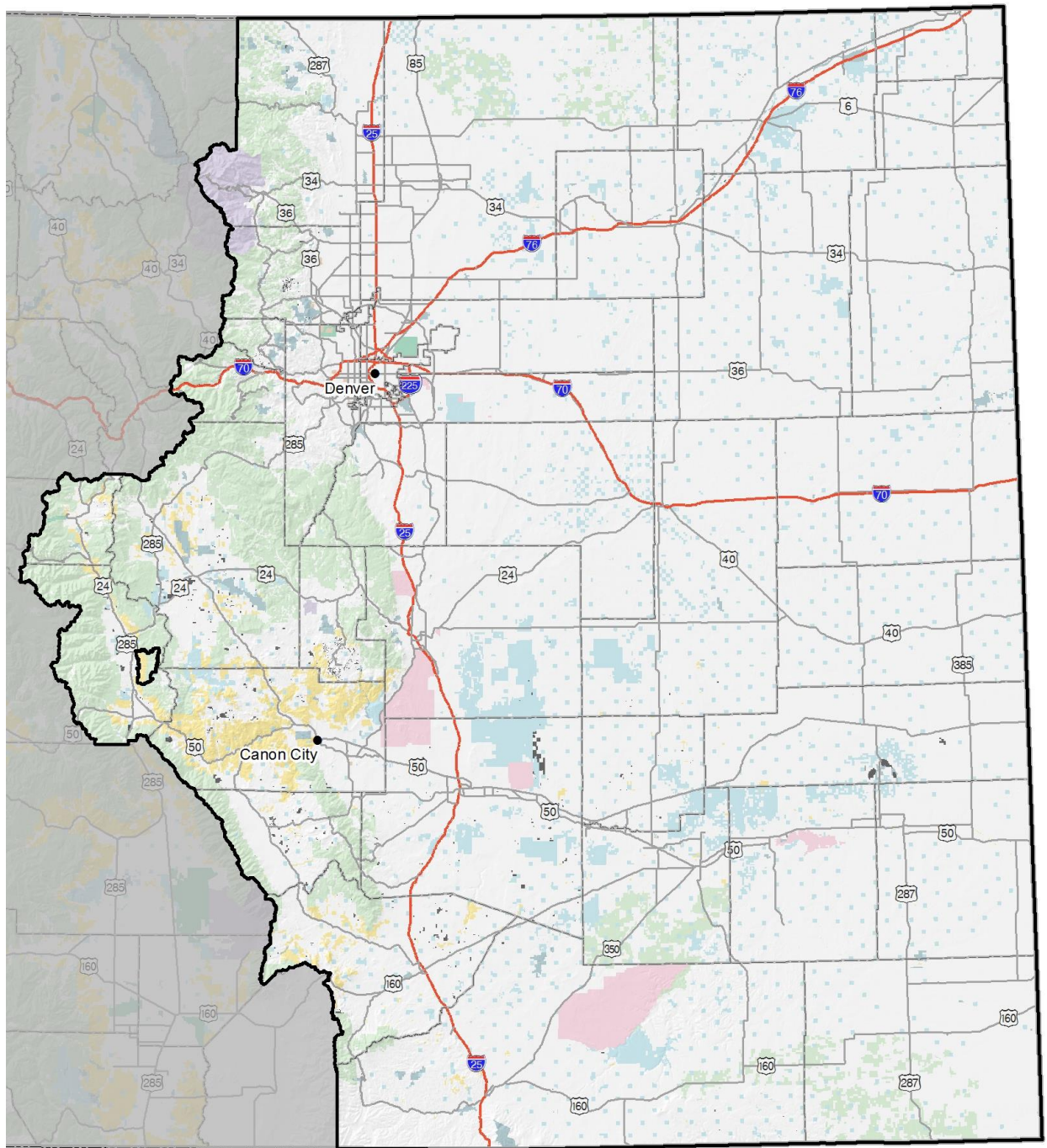



Alternative B
 Lands for Disposal

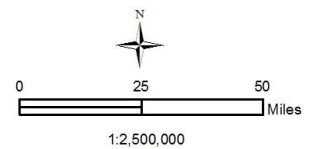


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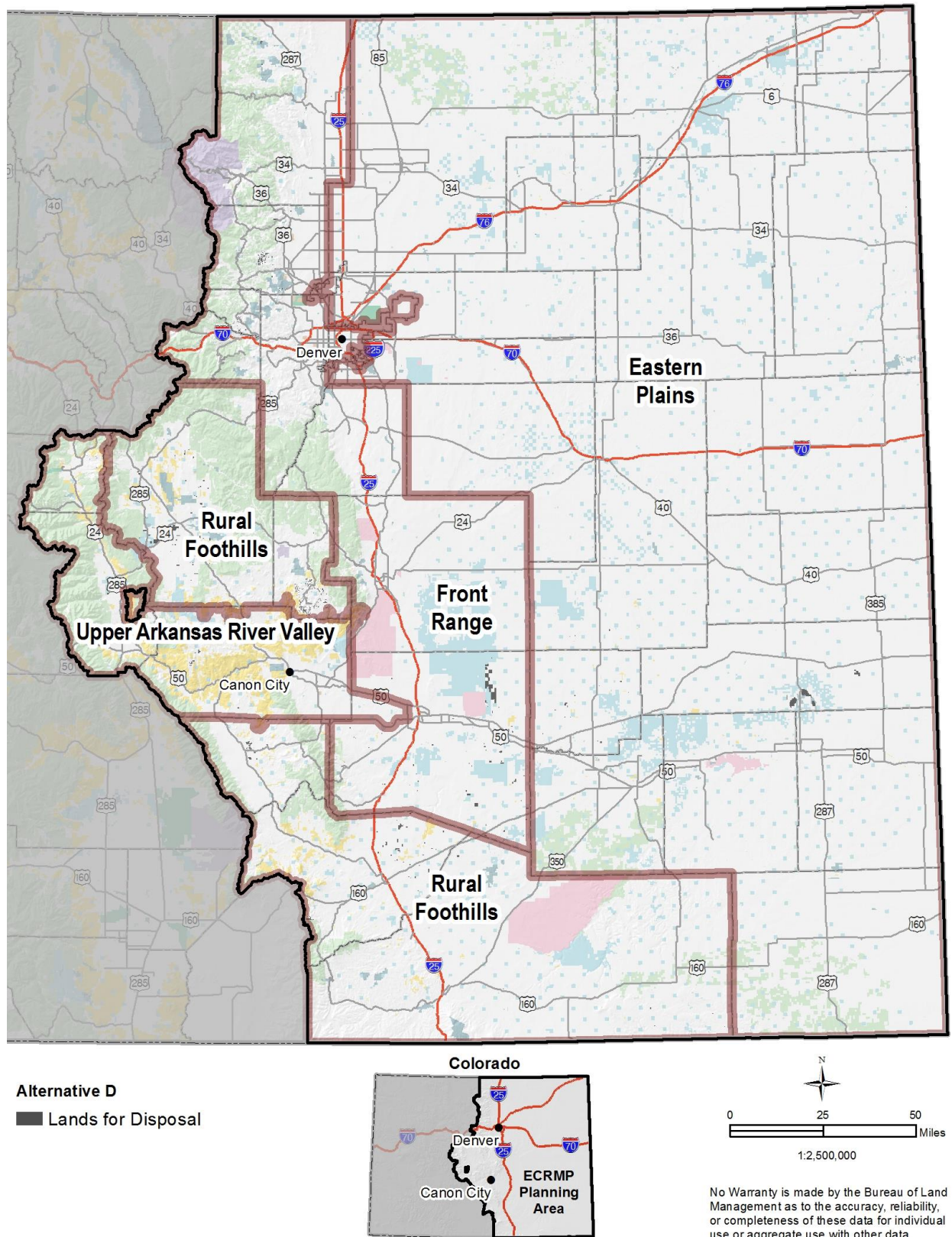
Map J-11. Alternative C – Lands Identified for Disposal



Alternative C
 Lands for Disposal



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



Preliminary Alternatives Report

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan

Appendix K – South Park Master Leasing Plan Maps

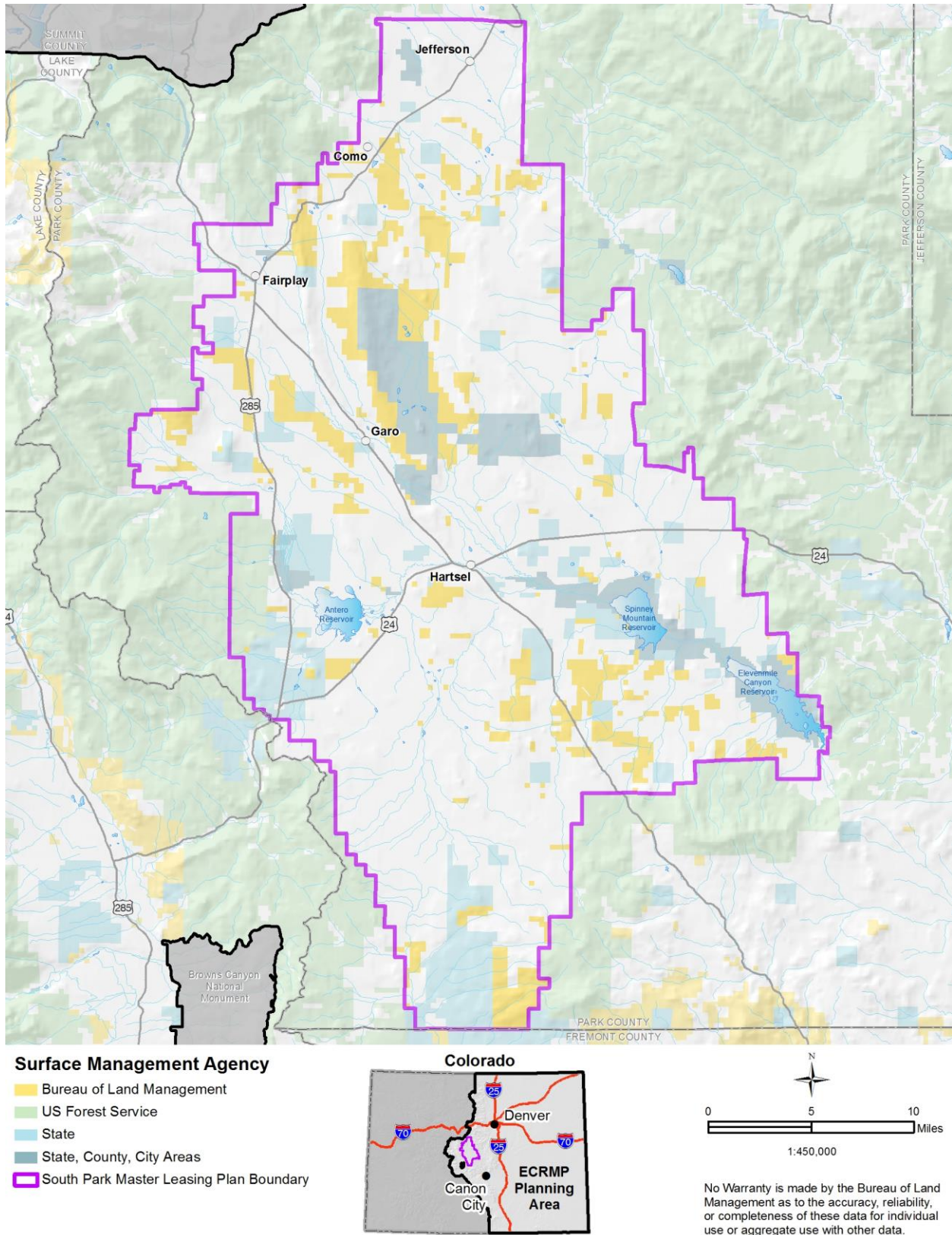
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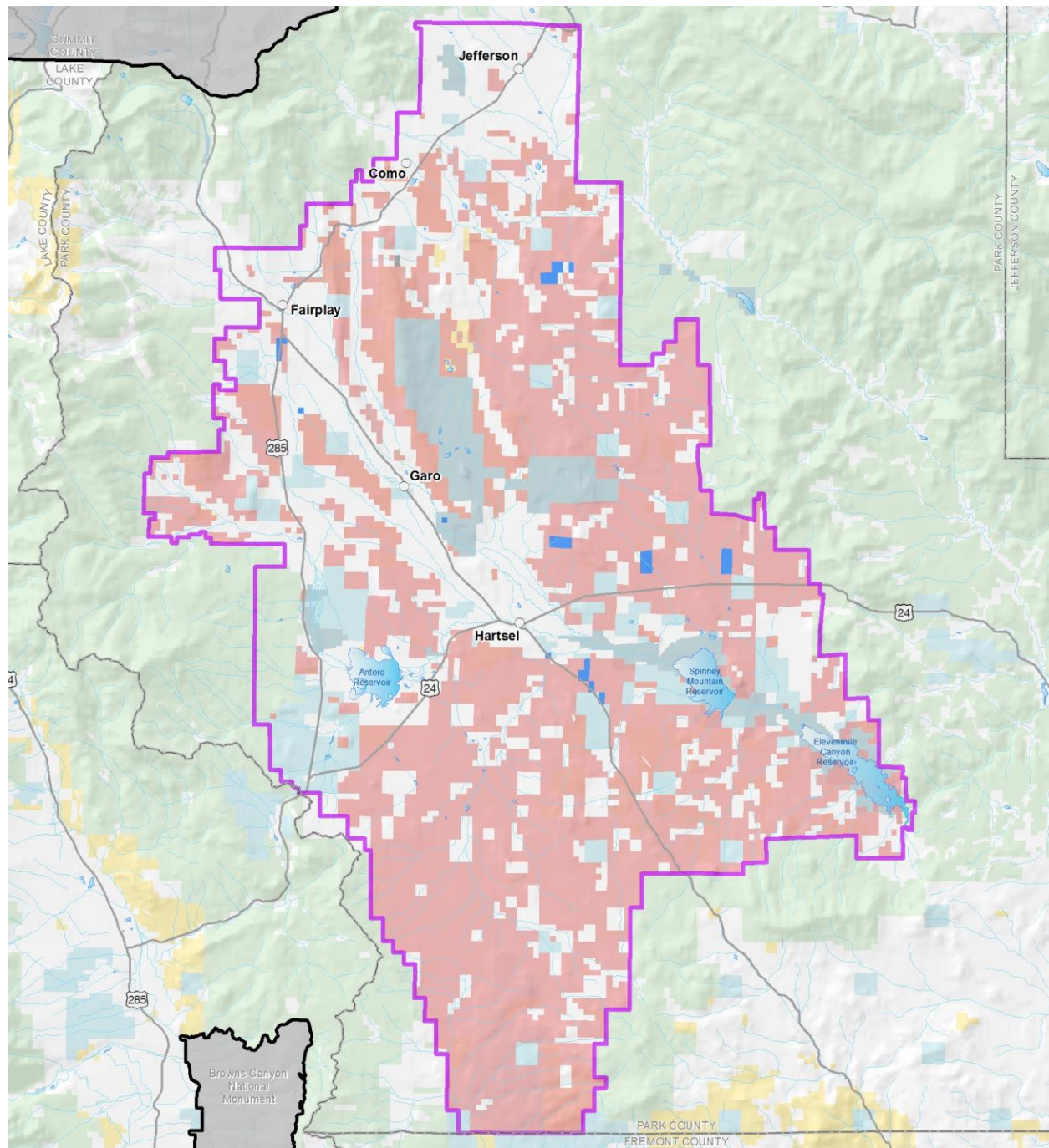
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Map K-1. BLM-Administered Surface Land in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area

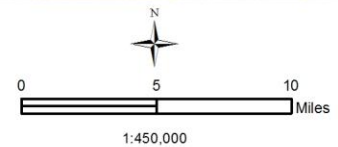


Map K-2. Federal Mineral Estate Decision Area in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area



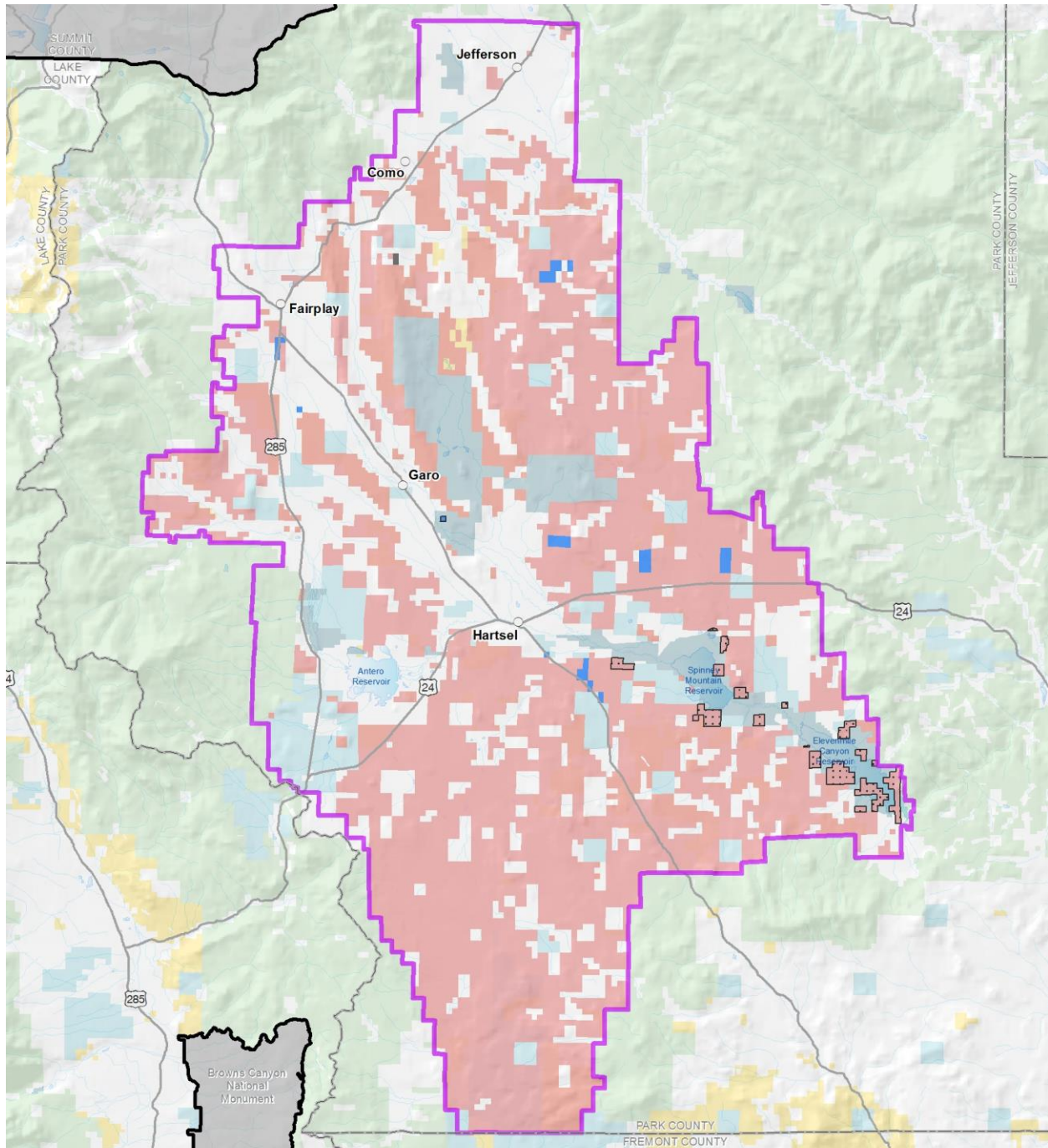
ECRMP Federal Mineral Estate Decision Area within SPMLP Area

- All Minerals
- Coal Only
- Oil and Gas Only
- South Park Master Leasing Plan Boundary



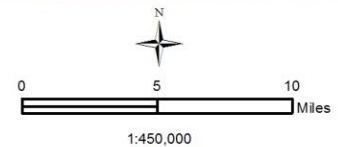
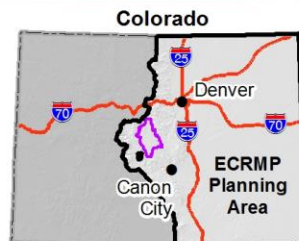
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map K-3. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area



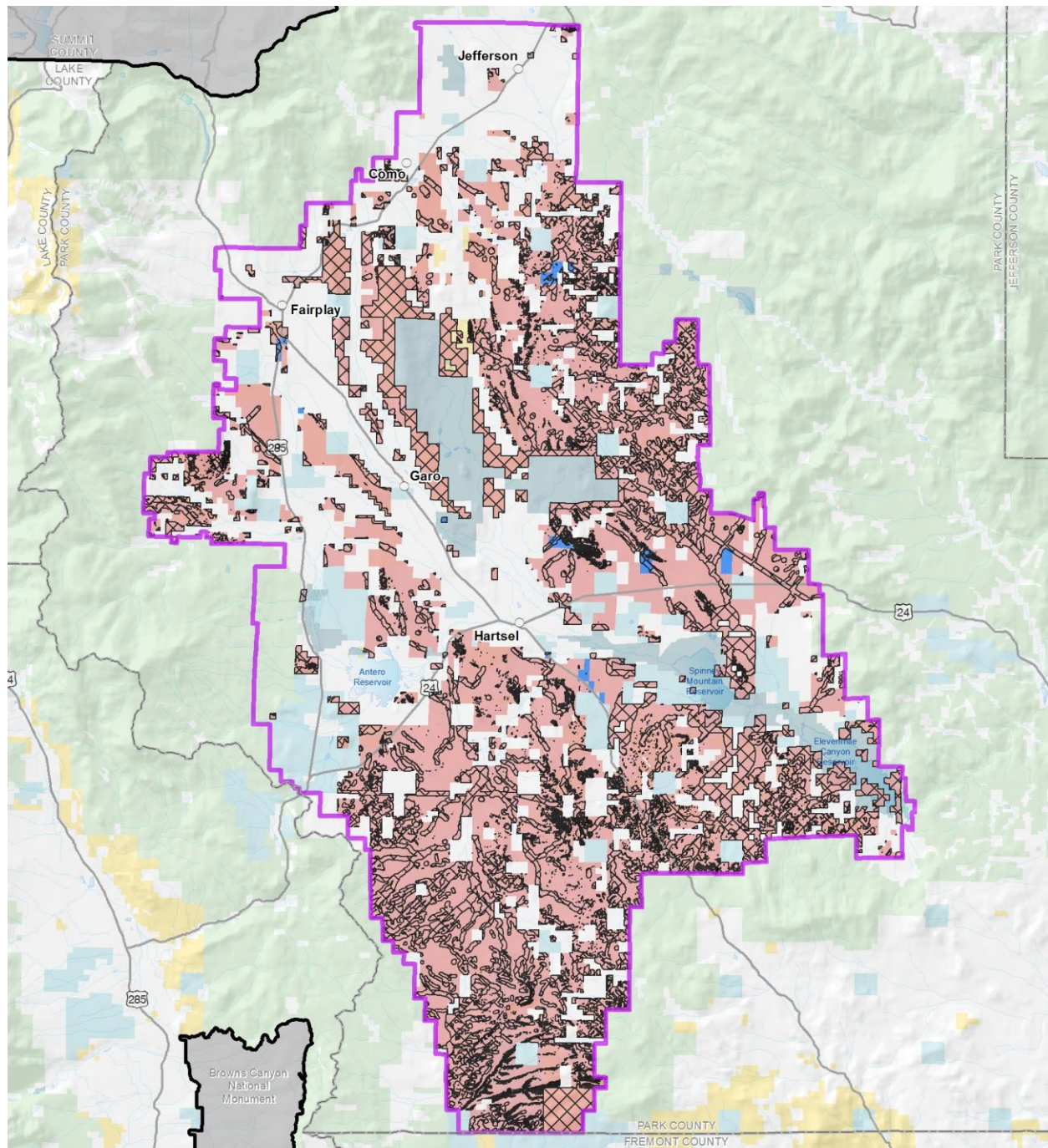
Alternative B

Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing within Federal Mineral Estate Decision Area



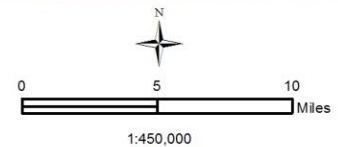
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map K-4. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate No Surface Occupancy in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area



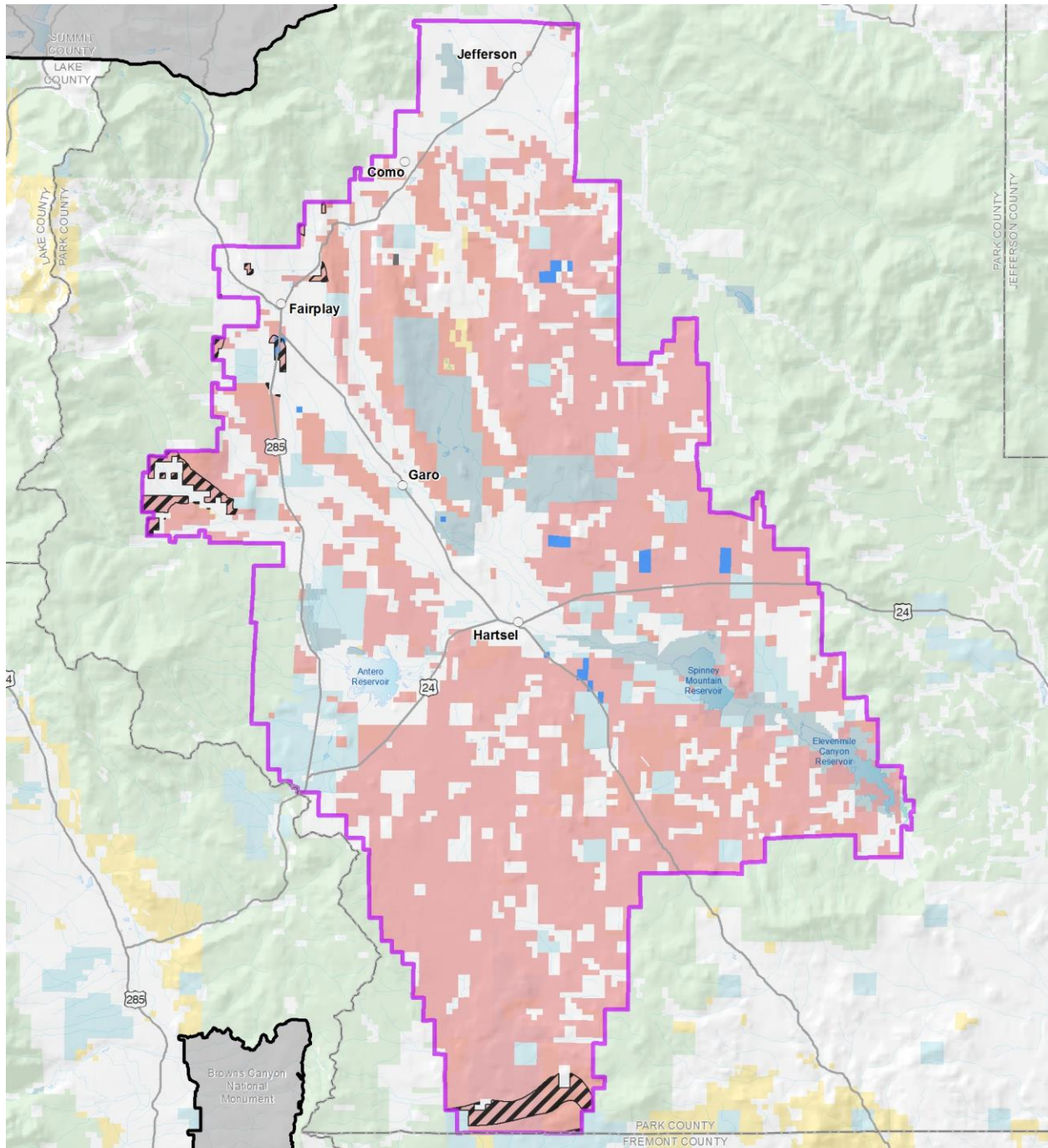
Alternative B

- No Surface Occupancy within
- ▨ Federal Mineral Estate Decision Area



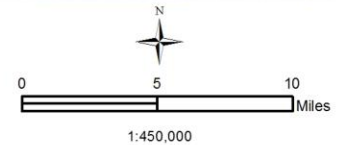
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map K-5. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate Controlled Surface Use in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area



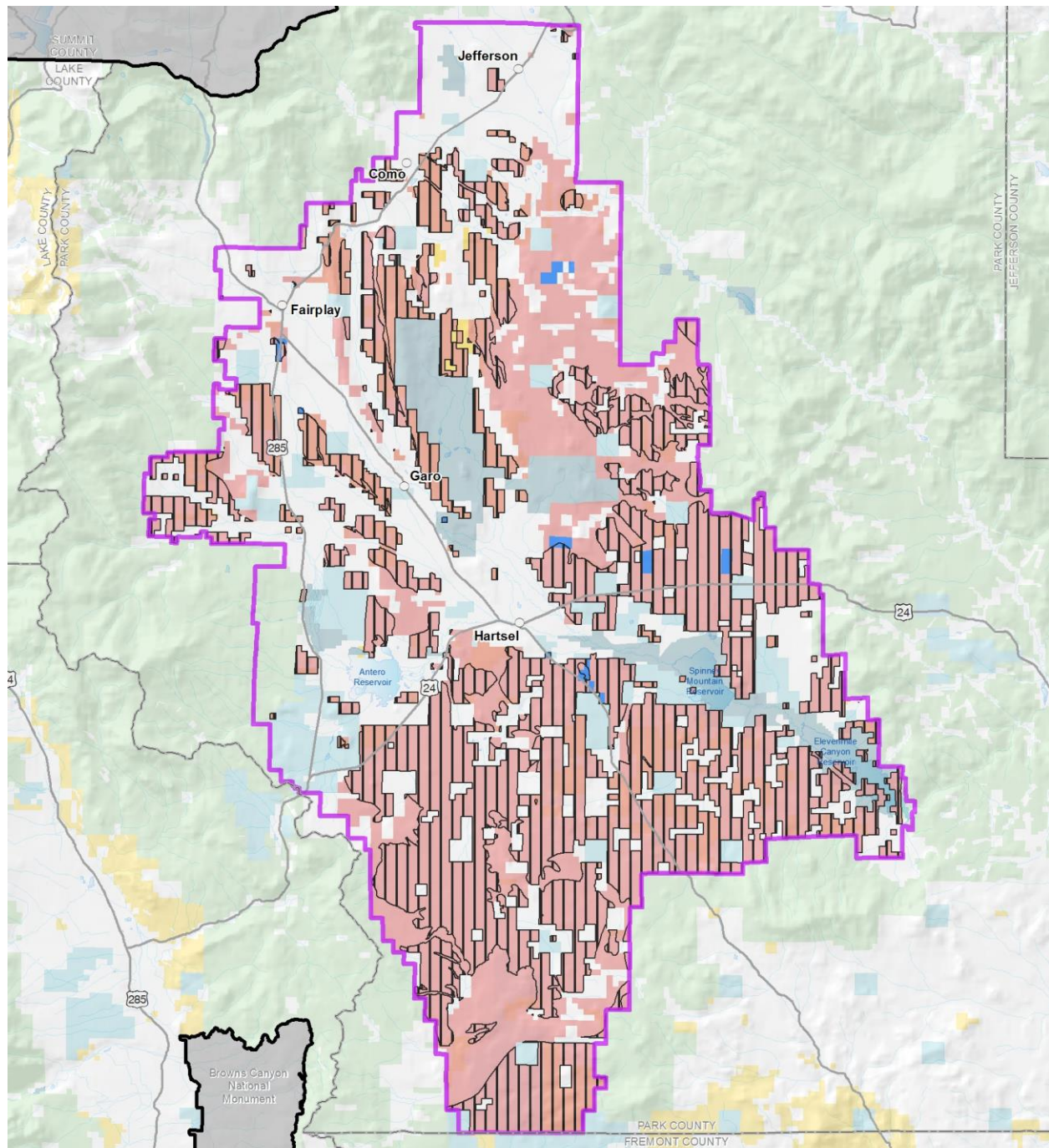
Alternative B

-  Controlled Surface use on Federal Minerals



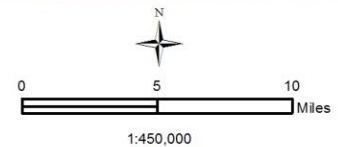
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map K-6. Alternative B – Federal Mineral Estate Timing Limitations in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area



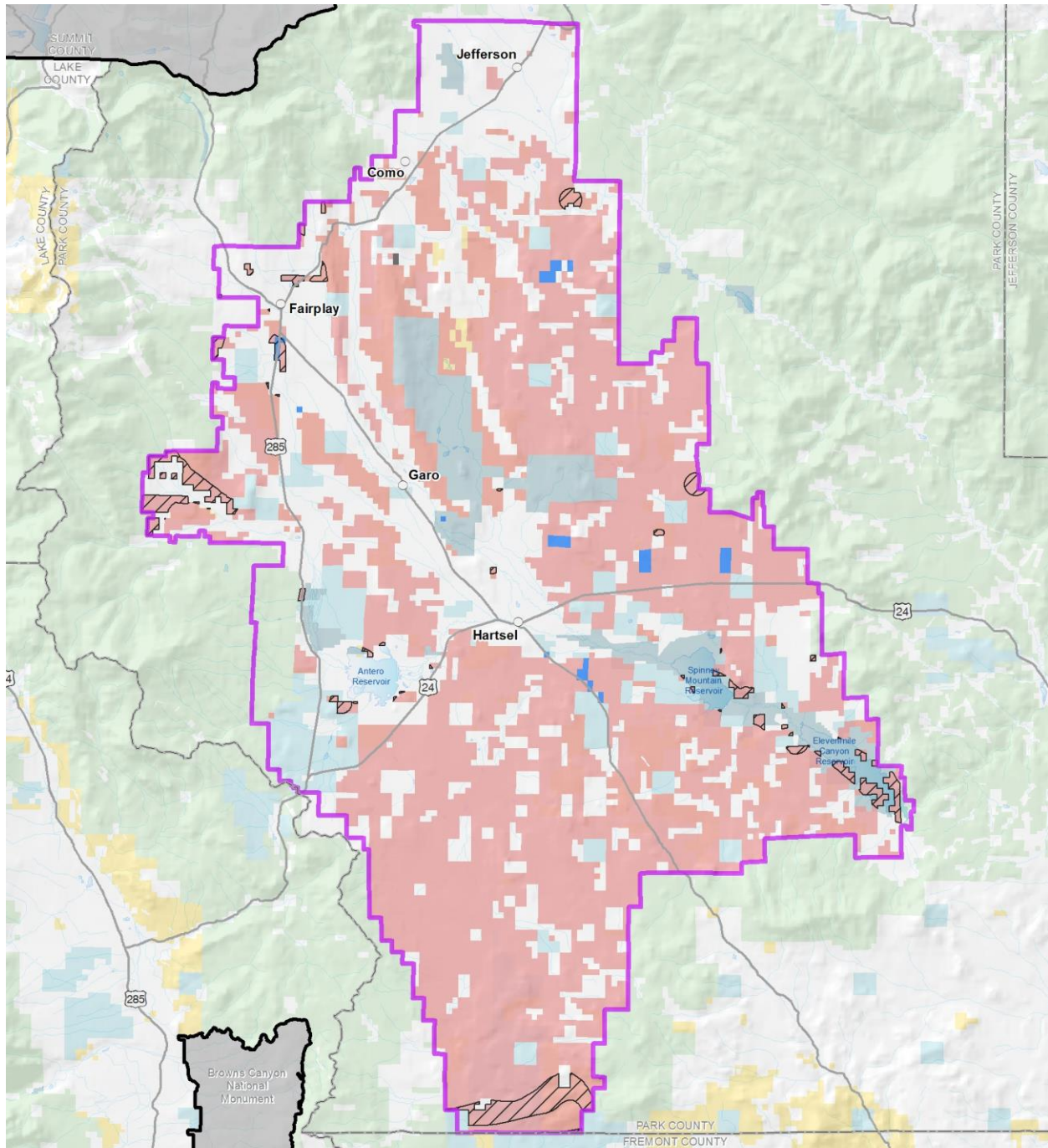
Alternative B

- Timing Limitation within Federal Mineral Estate Decision Area




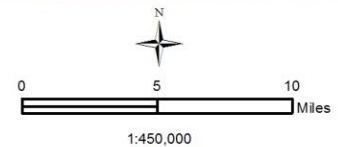
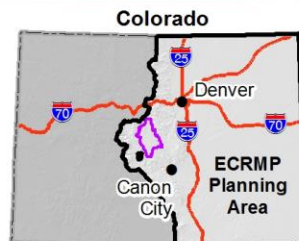
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map K-7. Alternative C – Federal Mineral Estate Controlled Surface Use in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area



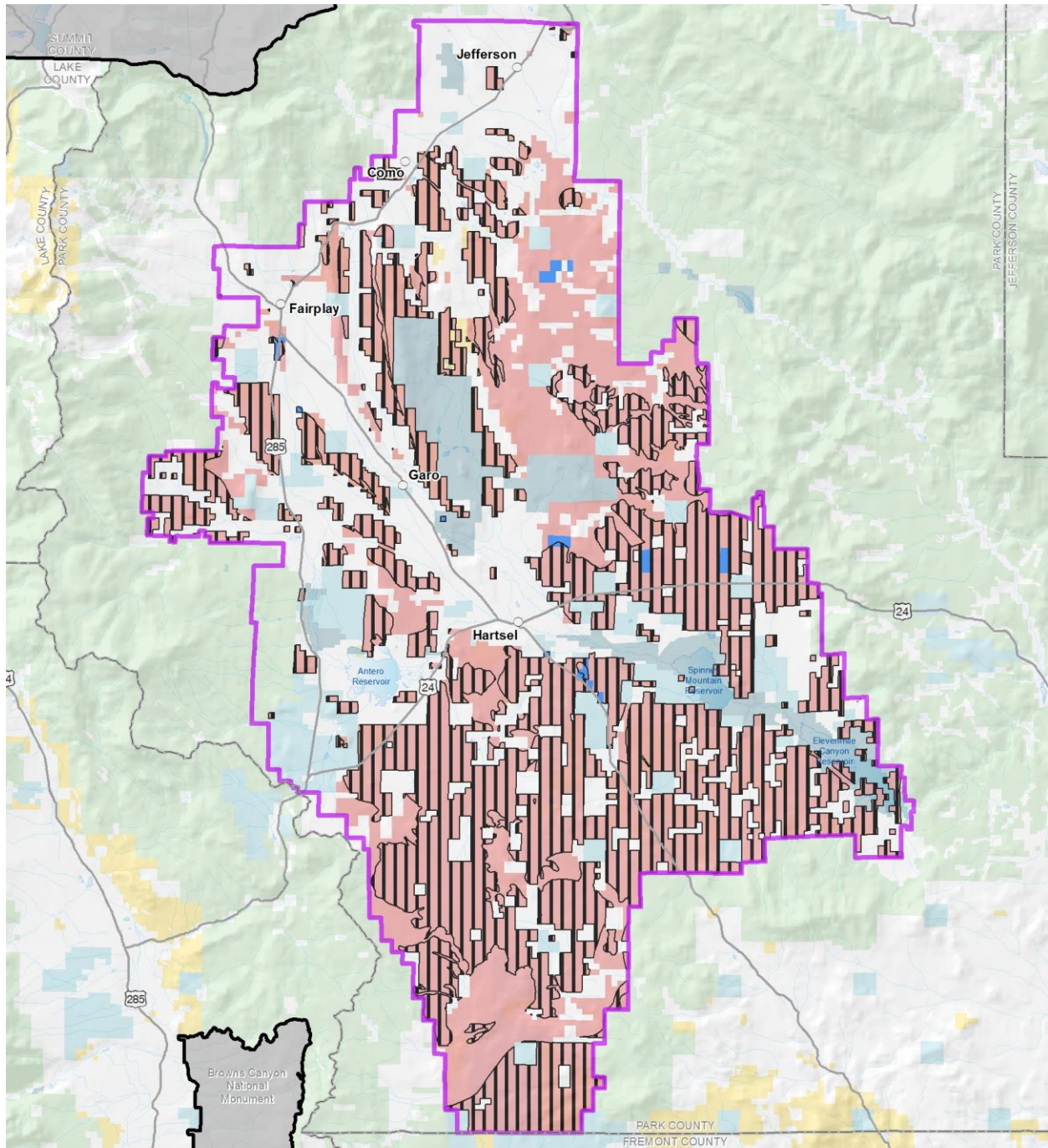
Alternative C

Controlled Surface Use within
 Federal Mineral Estate Decision
 Area




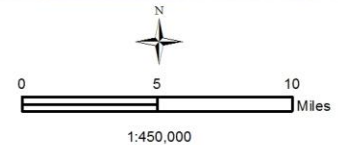
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map K-8. Alternative C – Federal Mineral Estate Timing Limitations in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area



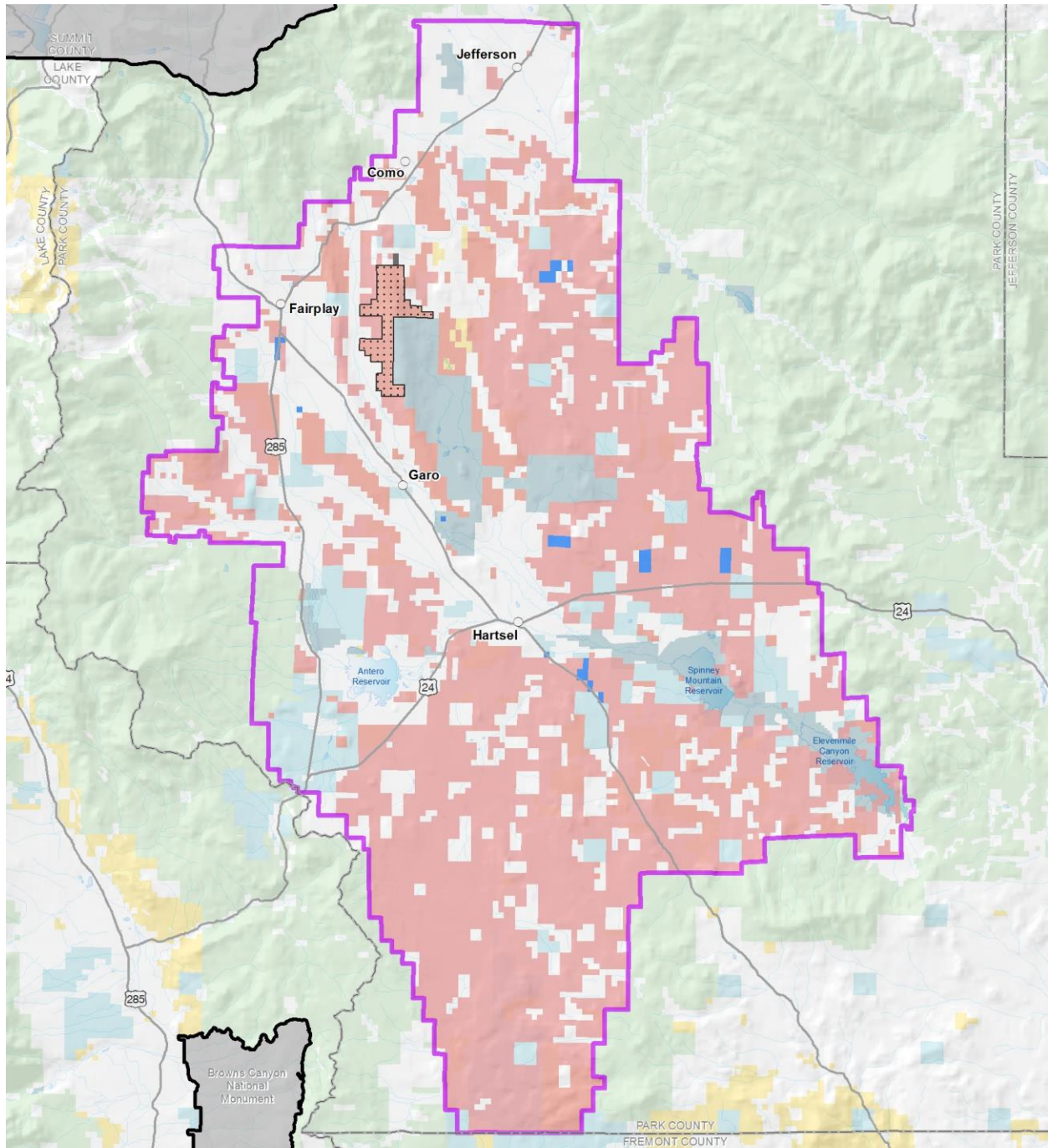
Alternative C

-  Timing Limitation within Federal Mineral Estate Decision Area



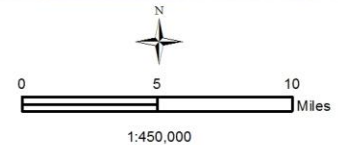
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map K-9. Alternative D – Federal Mineral Estate Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area



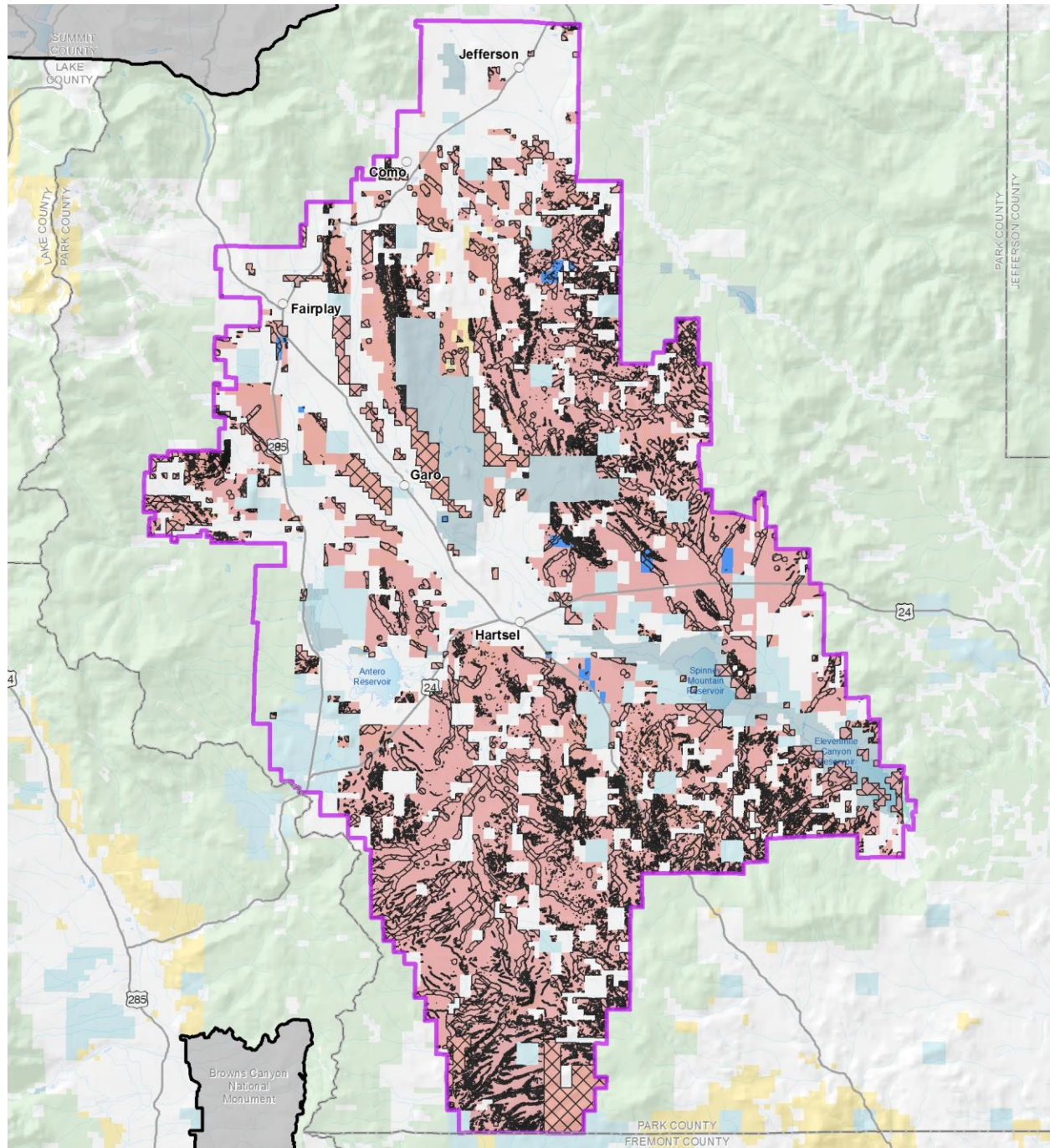
Alternative D

Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing
 within Federal Mineral Estate
 Decision Area



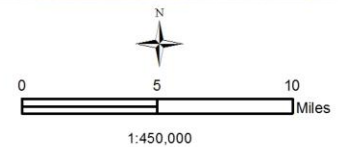
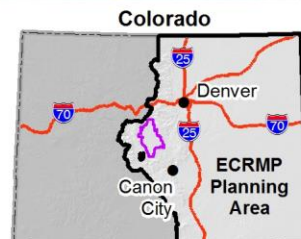
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map K-10. Alternative D – Federal Mineral Estate No Surface Occupancy in the South Park Master Leasing Plan Area



Alternative D

- No Surface Occupancy within
- ▨ Federal Mineral Estate Decision Area



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

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Appendix L – Backcountry Conservation Areas

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L.1 INTRODUCTION

This appendix provides supporting information to Backcountry Conservation Area (BCA) decisions in the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Based on public proposals in multiple land use planning efforts and consistent with the multiple use and sustained yield mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701–1785), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recognizes the value of protecting certain backcountry areas in order to preserve generally intact, undeveloped public lands that contain priority habitats for recreationally-important fish and wildlife species and that provide high-quality wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities afforded by those species.

For each geographic area being considered for backcountry conservation in a land use plan (LUP) revision or amendment, BLM offices must document the following components when describing the proposed action and range of alternatives of the LUP:

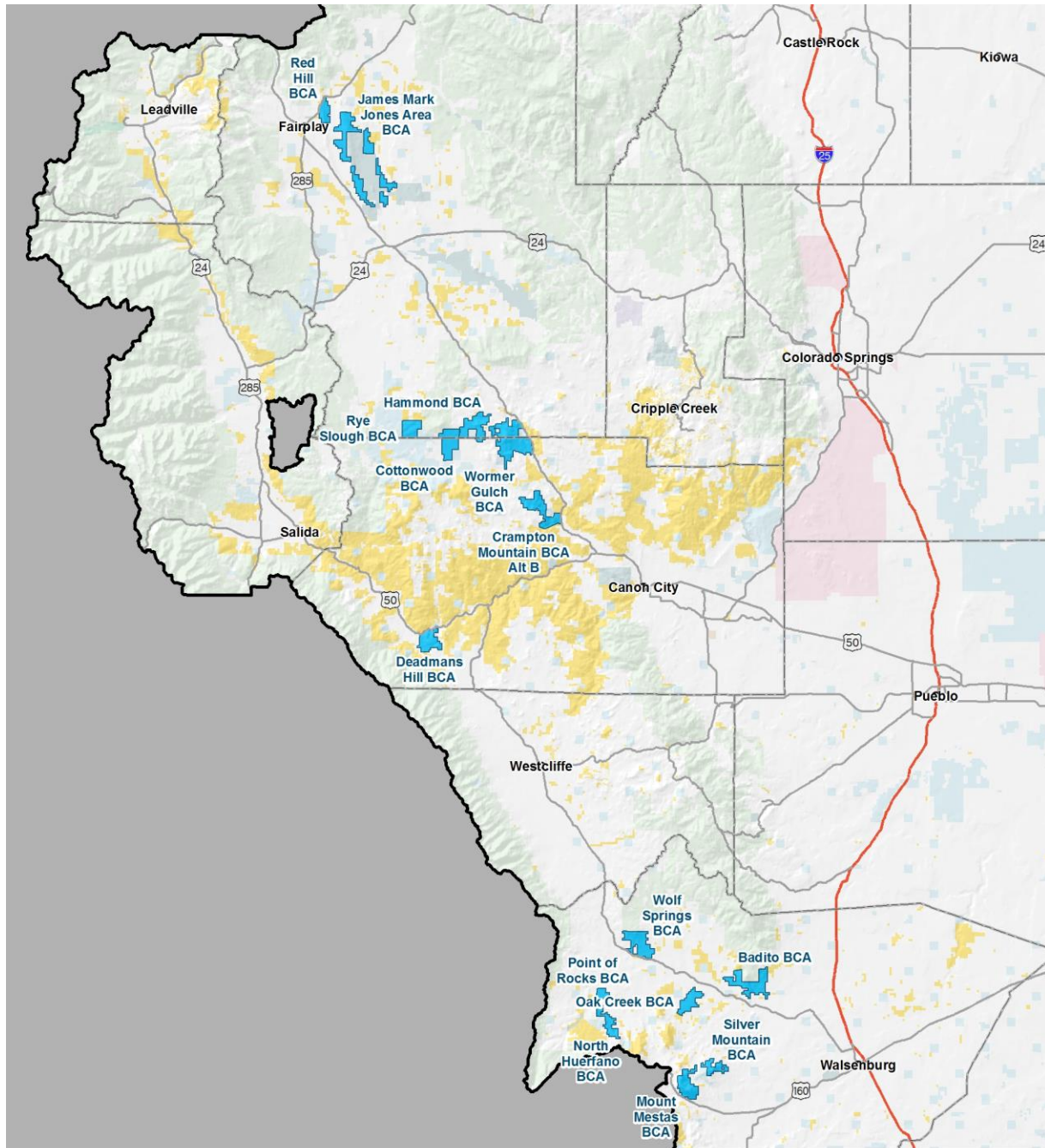
- **Goal(s):** For each geographic area, a goal or goals must be defined that describe(s) the desired outcome for the priority habitat that supports recreationally-important fish and/or wildlife species. In addition, a goal(s) must be described for the recreation opportunities associated with those species.
- **Fish/Wildlife Objective(s):** For each geographic area under consideration, specific, measurable, outcome-focused objectives that describe the desired habitat conditions for the recreationally-important fish and/or wildlife species must be defined. In developing these objectives, BLM should consider and, to the extent appropriate, incorporate the corresponding fish and wildlife objectives of the relevant state agencies.
- **Recreation Objective(s):** Within those portions of each geographic area under consideration that can be compatibly managed for wildlife-dependent recreation, specific, measurable, outcome-focused objectives that define the recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) must be defined. The objective(s) should focus on protecting and enhancing high-quality wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities. Since some portions of the habitat within the backcountry area may be sensitive to human disturbance (e.g., calving or fawning habitat or cultural sites), it may not be appropriate to manage all portions of an area for enhanced recreation opportunities using the BCA designation.
- **Designations:** Within those portions of each geographic area under consideration that can be compatibly-managed for wildlife dependent recreation and consistent with the related recreation and fish/wildlife objectives, use the Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) designation process to designate as BCAs those areas that will be managed to maintain or enhance high-quality wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities (see Appendix D – Recreation and Visitor Services Management for more information on the SRMA designation process).

- **Resource use determinations:** Identify the resource use determinations, subject to valid existing rights, that support the goal(s), objective(s), and designation(s) of the areas under consideration for backcountry conservation.
- **Land tenure decisions:** Identify land tenure decisions (retention, acquisition, exchange) that support the backcountry conservation goal(s), objective(s), and designation(s).
- **Monitoring and evaluation standards:** Identify indicators and intervals for monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the fish/wildlife and recreation objectives are being met.

See BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2017-036, *Considering Backcountry Conservation Management in Land Use Planning Efforts*, for additional information on criteria and guidance for establishing and managing BCAs.

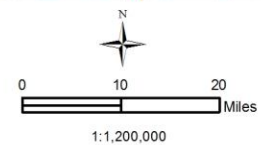
L.2 MAPS OF BACKCOUNTRY CONSERVATION AREAS

Map L-1. Alternative B – Backcountry Conservation Areas



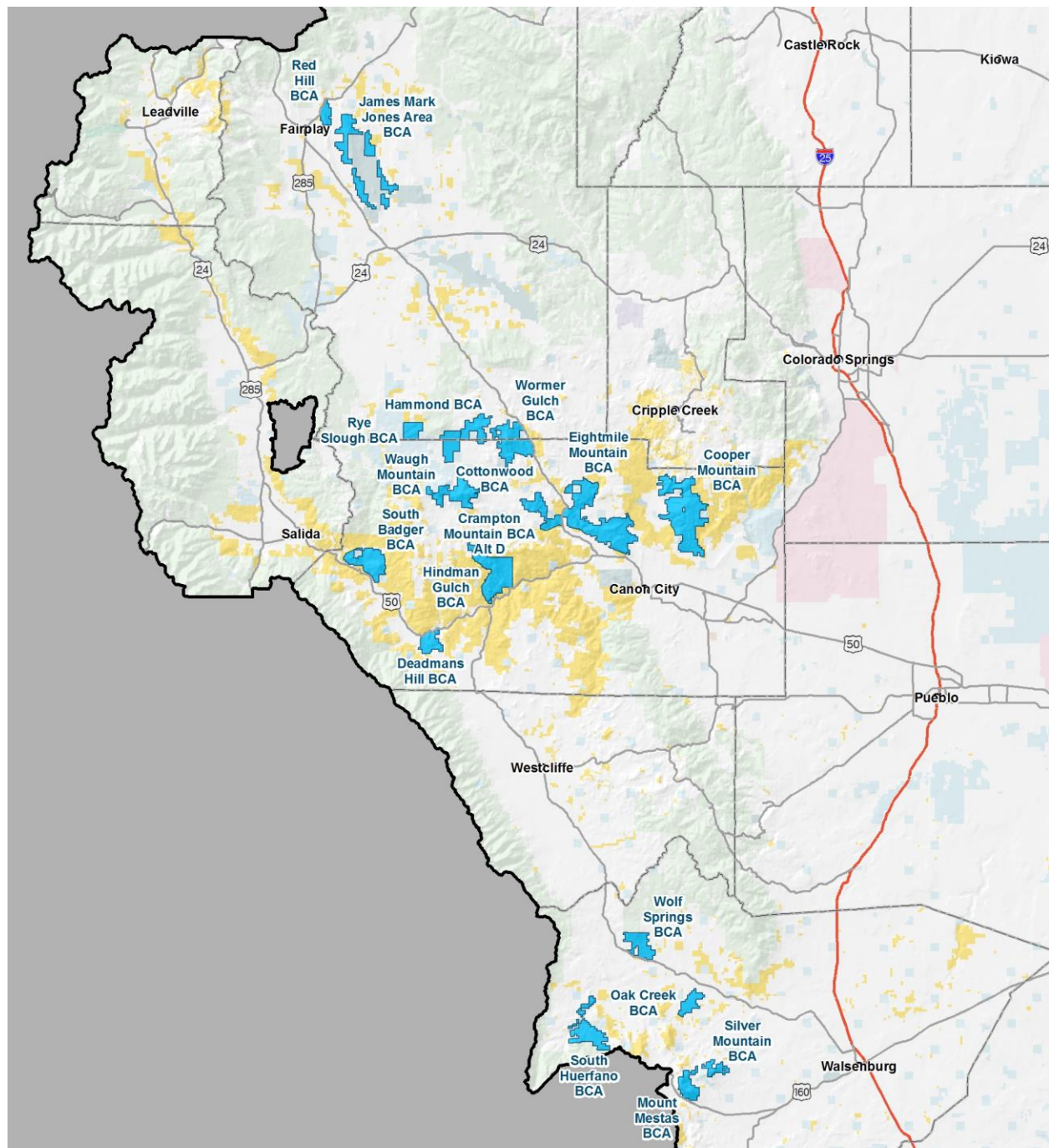
Alternative B

Backcountry Conservation Areas



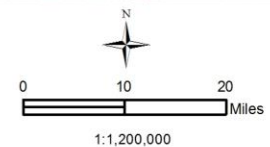
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Map L-2. Alternative D – Backcountry Conservation Areas



Alternative D

Backcountry Conservation Areas



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L.3 MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS FOR BACKCOUNTRY CONSERVATION AREAS

Goals, objectives, and recreation prescriptions would be the same for all BCAs and across all alternatives under which a BCA is designated.

L.3.1. Goal

Within all BCAs, maintain healthy and diverse vegetation communities through active and ongoing project-based management to support healthy wildlife populations while providing sufficient access and desired recreation settings to provide outstanding hunting/angling based recreation opportunities.

| Management Framework for All Backcountry Conservation Areas | | |
|---|--|--|
| Management Objectives: | Fish and Wildlife Objective: Manage BLM lands within the BCAs to meet Standard 3 of the Colorado Public Land Health Standards (BLM 1997). The objective is for 100% of BLM-administered lands to meet this Standard. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Standard 3: Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes. | |
| | Recreation Objective: The objective is that participants in visitor assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below (4.0 on a probability scale from 1 (not at all realized) to 5 (totally realized). Visitor assessments will be administered as funding allows. | |
| Recreation Outcomes | | |
| Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Big game hunting and/or angling | Experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing skills and abilitiesRelishing group affiliation and togethernessSavoring the total sensory experience of a natural landscapeContemplating human’s relationship with the land | Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Greater outdoor knowledge and self-relianceCloser relationship with the natural worldGreater ties with family and friendsCommunity/Social:<ul style="list-style-type: none">More well-rounded childhood developmentEnvironmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased awareness of caring for public lands and management of wildlife resourcesEconomic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">More positive contributions to local-regional economyGreater value-added local services/industry |

| Management Framework for All Backcountry Conservation Areas | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Setting Prescriptions | | | |
| Physical: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Social: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | |
| Implementation Decisions | | | |
| Management: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Administrative: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Information and Education: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. | Monitoring: To be developed after public review and included in the Draft EIS. |

L.4 REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 1997. Colorado Public Land Health Standards: Decision Record & Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. March 1997.
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

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Appendix M – Special Designations Maps

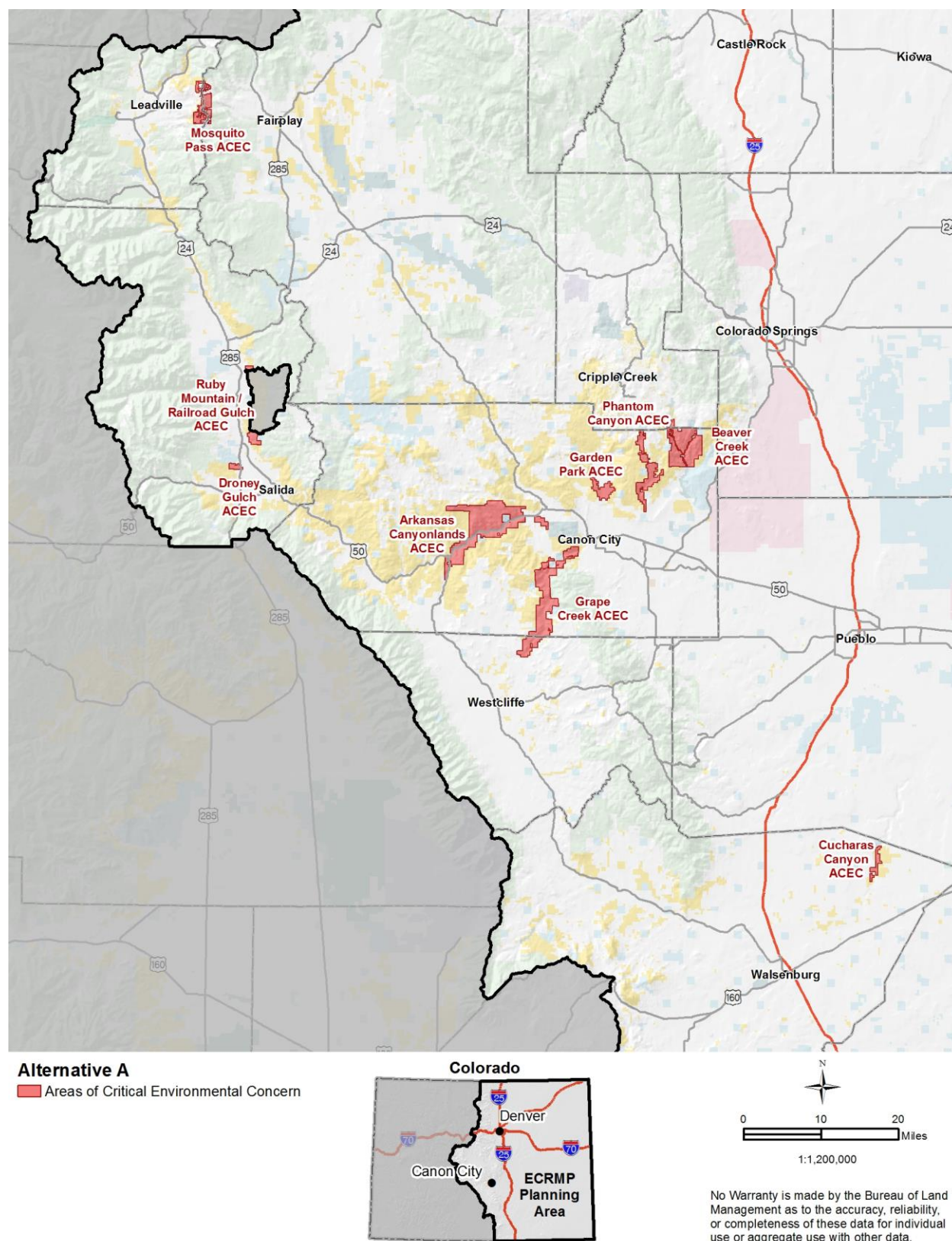
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LIST OF MAPS

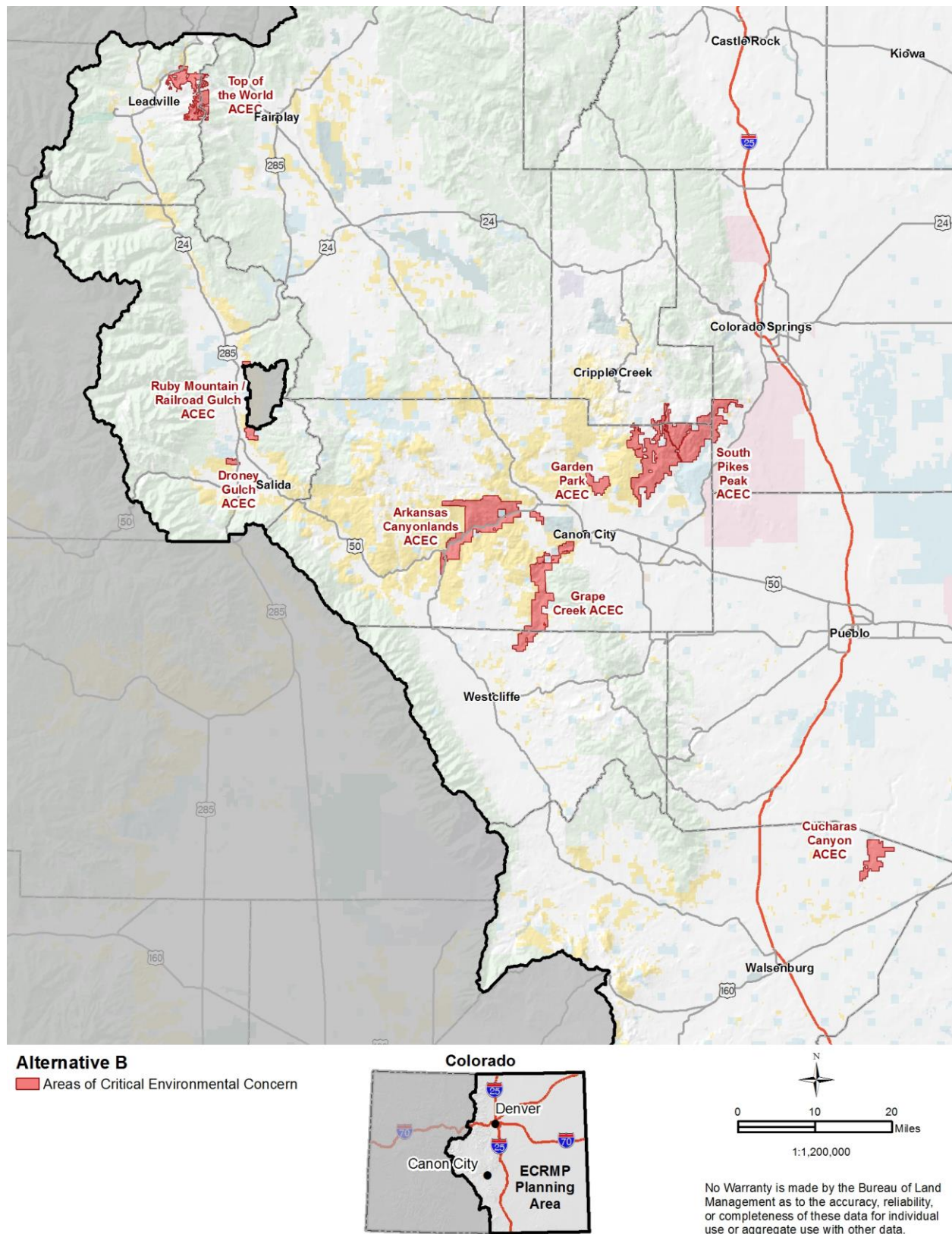
| | | |
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| Map M-1. | Alternative A – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern..... | M-1 |
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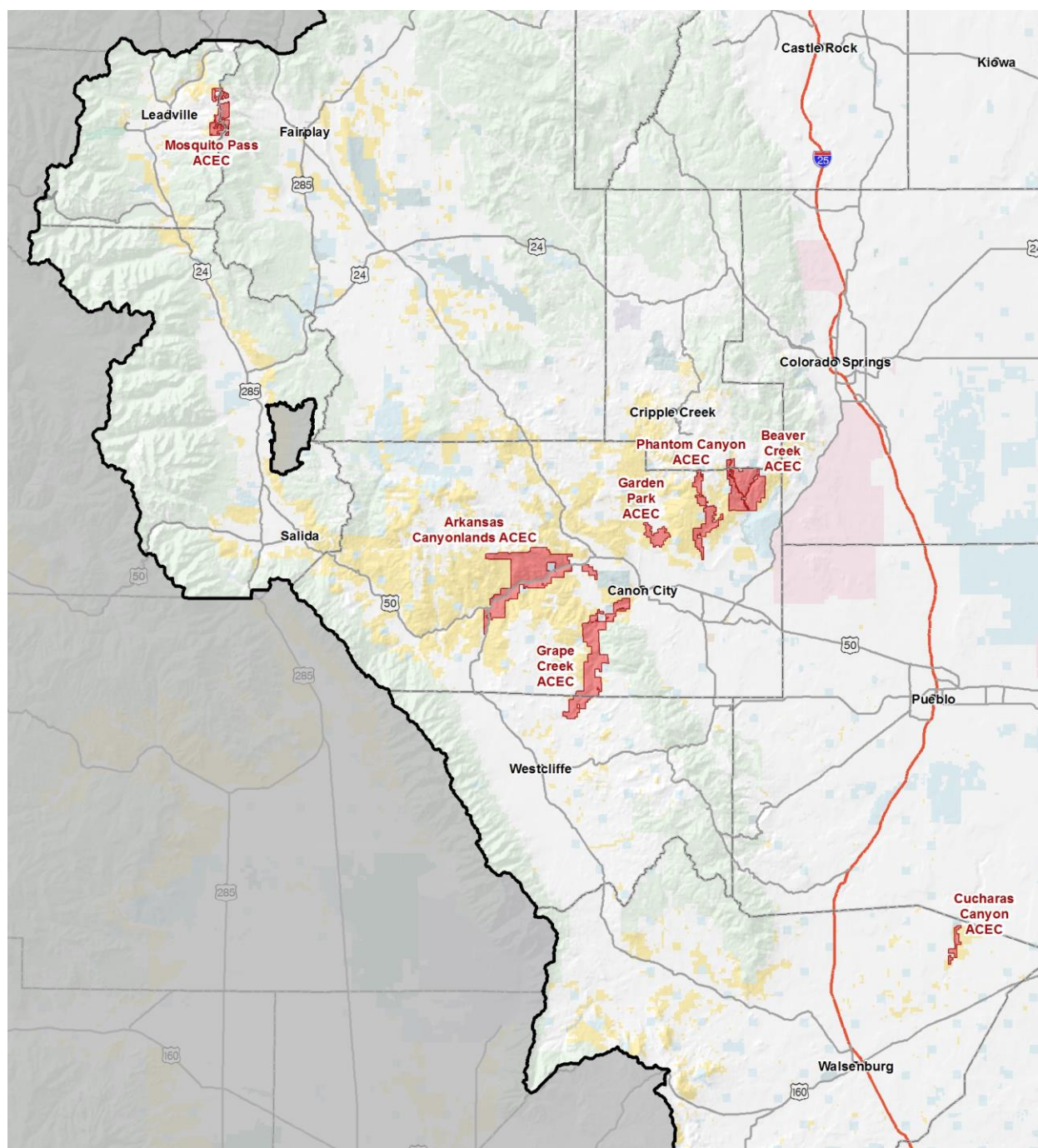
Map M-1. Alternative A – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



Map M-2. Alternative B – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

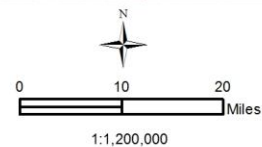


Map M-3. Alternative C – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



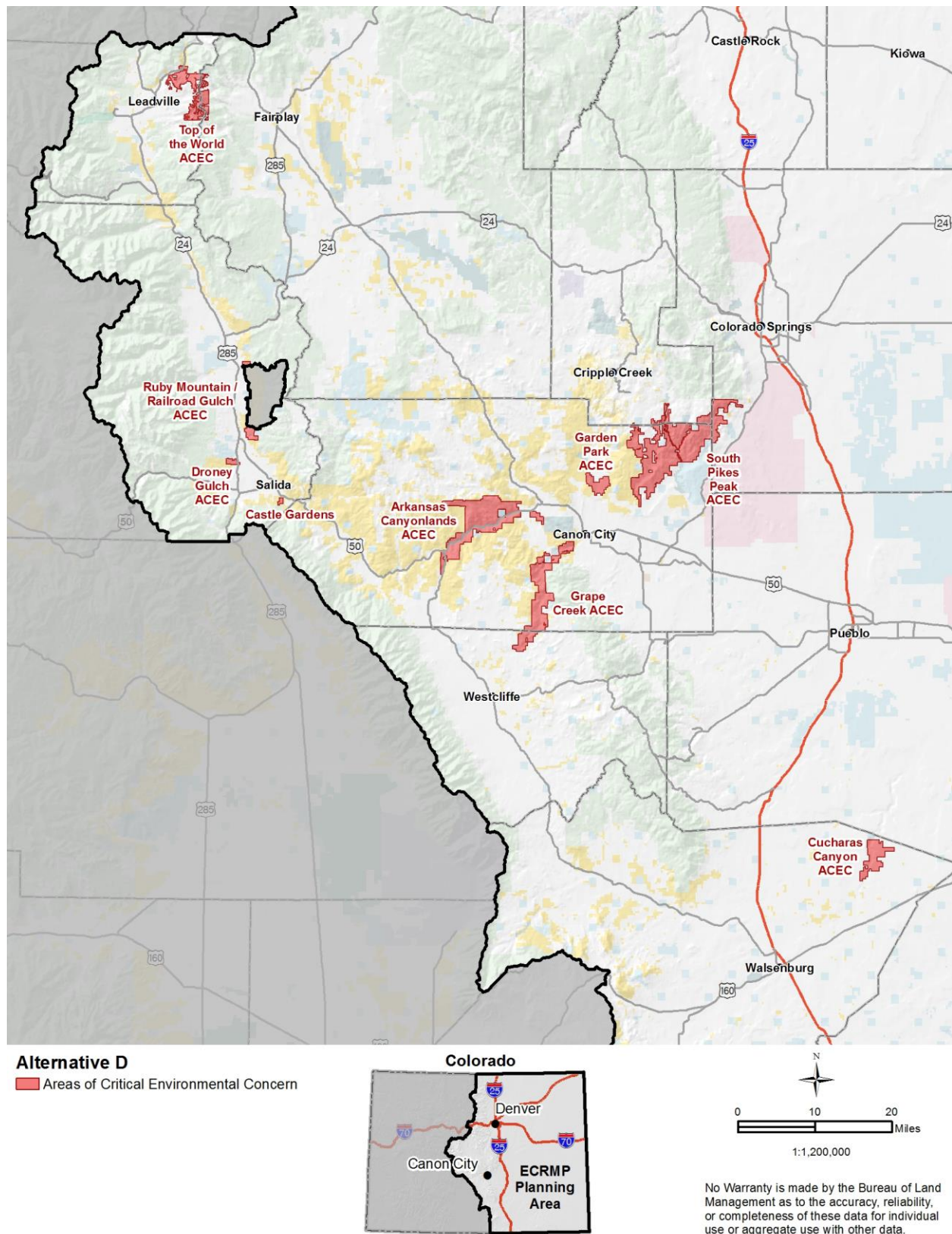
Alternative C

■ Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

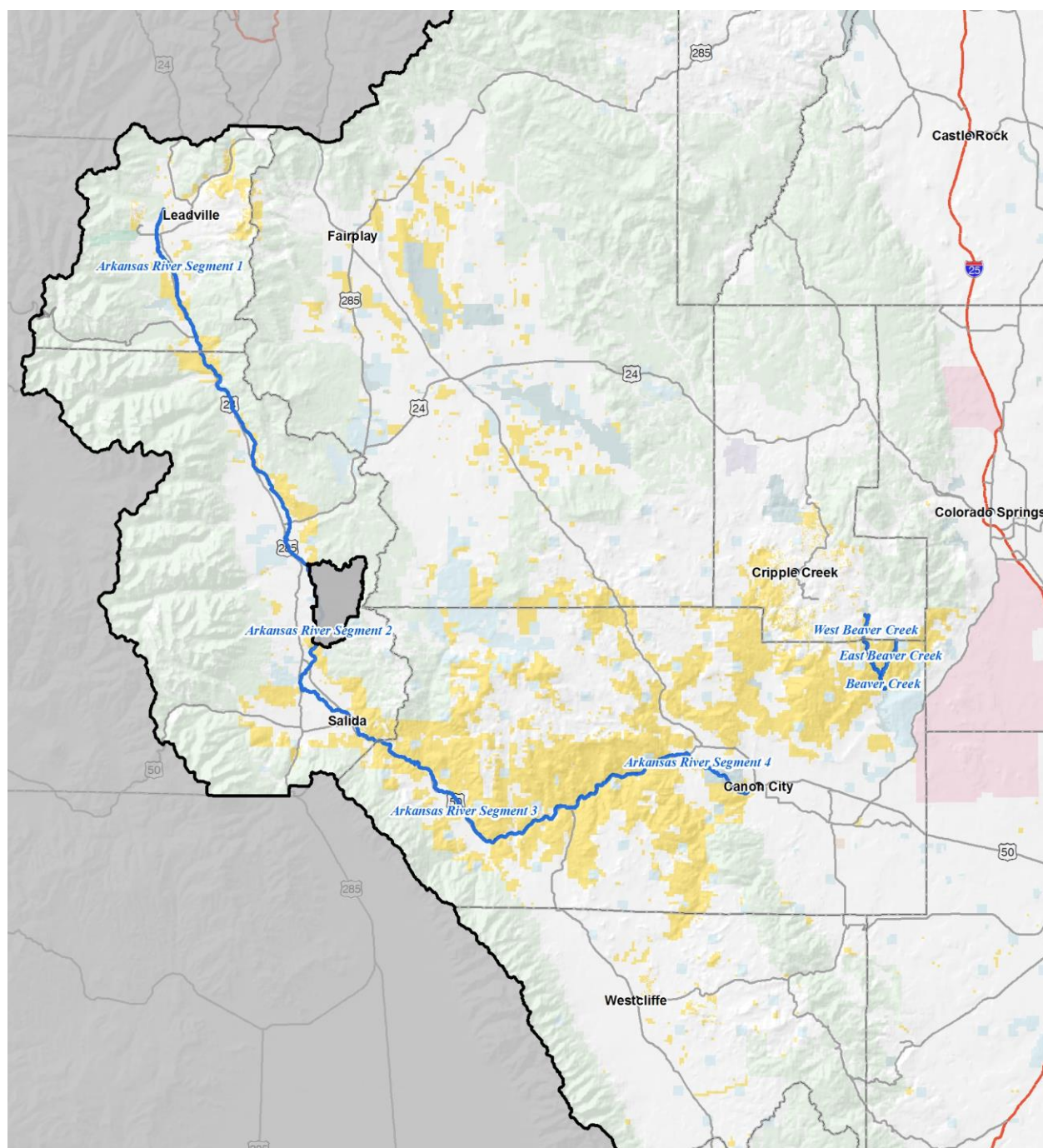


No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map M-4. Alternative D – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

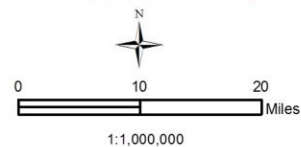


Map M-5. Alternative A – Wild and Scenic Rivers



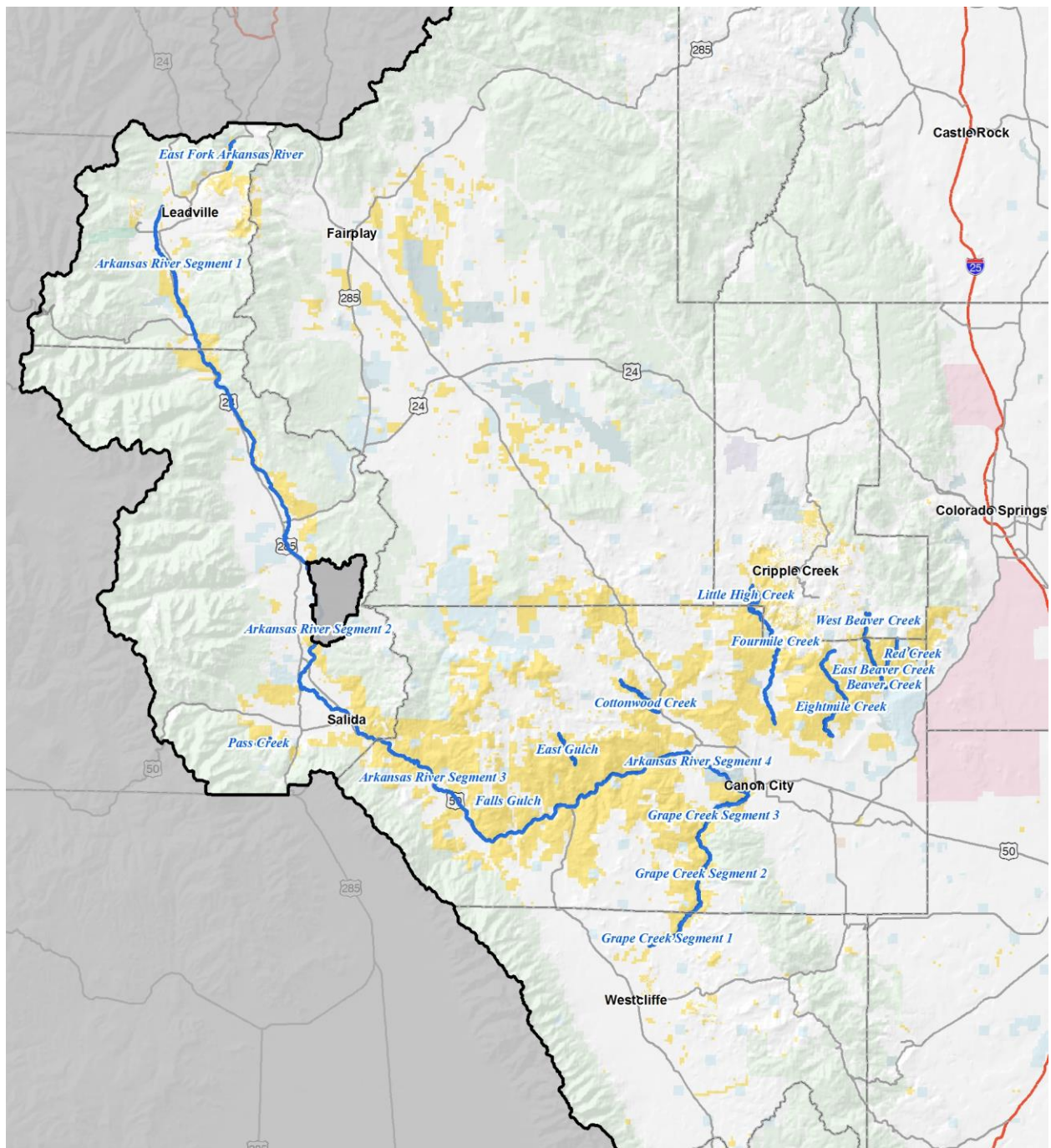
Alternative A

— Wild and Scenic River Suitable



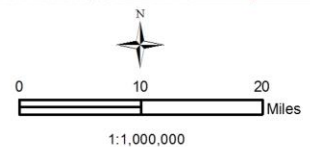
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map M-6. Alternative B – Wild and Scenic Rivers



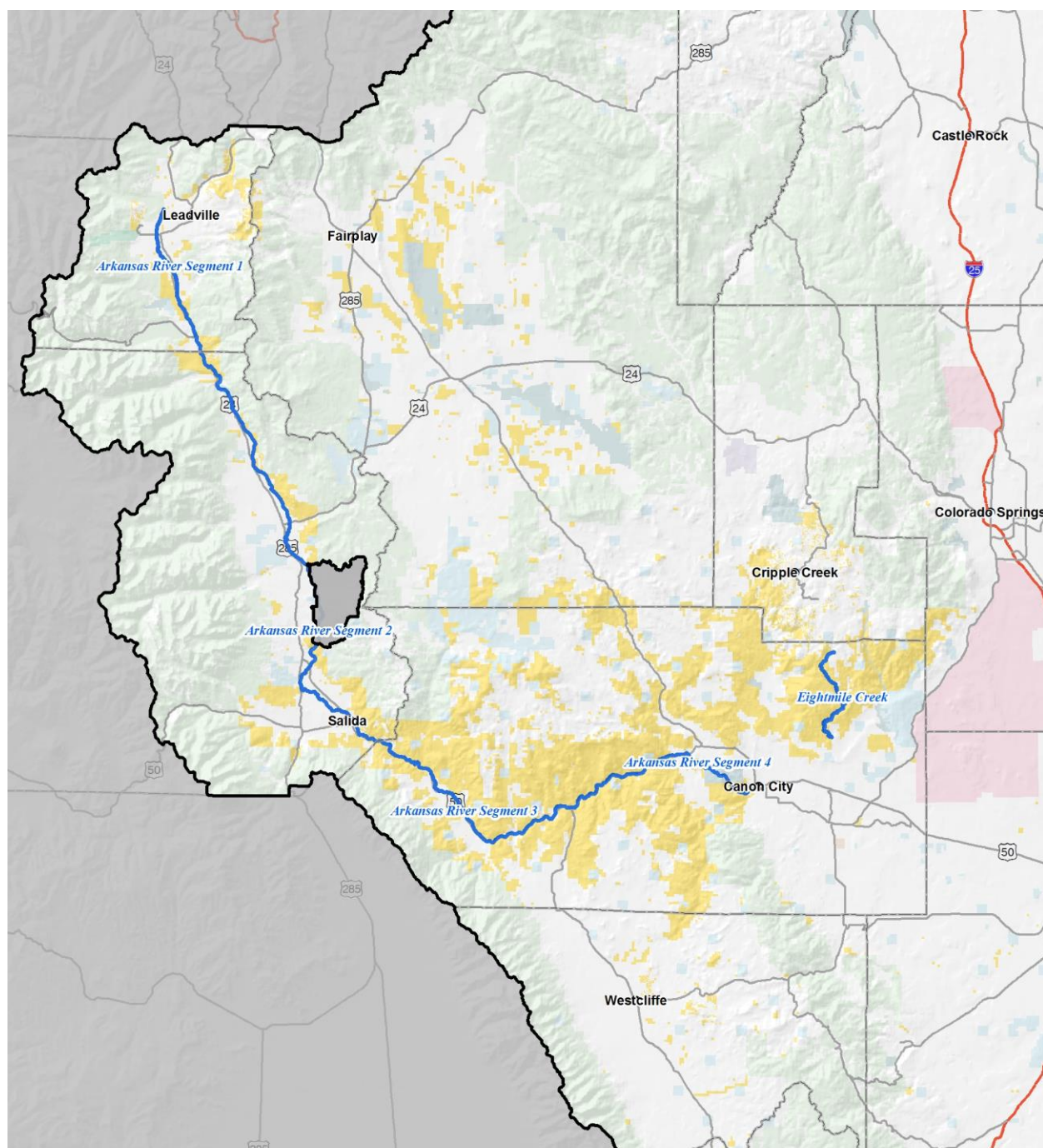
Alternative B

— Wild and Scenic River Suitable



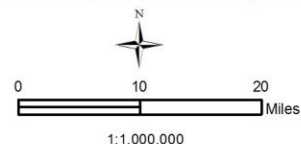
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map M-7. Alternative D – Wild and Scenic Rivers



Alternative D

— Wild and Scenic River Suitable



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Map M-8. All Alternatives – Wilderness Study Areas

