

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

Grand Junction Field Office

Approved Resource Management Plan



Grand Junction Field Office • COLORADO

August 2015

BLM/CO/PL-15/016



BLM Mission

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands
for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/CO/PL-15/016

Cover photo by Bob Wick, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic River, and Visual Resources Program Lead,
Washington Office

**Approved
Resource Management Plan
and
Approved Travel Management Plan
for the
Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office**

BLM/CO/PL-15/016

Prepared by

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office
Grand Junction, Colorado

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES | iii |
| LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS | iv |
| 1.1. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN DECISIONS | 1 |
| 1.1.1. Decisions..... | 1 |
| 1.1.2. Maps and Appendices | 3 |
| 1.1.3. Decisions by Category | 6 |
| I. RESOURCES | 6 |
| AIR..... | 6 |
| WATER | 9 |
| SOILS | 14 |
| VEGETATION..... | 16 |
| SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES..... | 28 |
| FISH AND WILDLIFE | 46 |
| WILD HORSES..... | 61 |
| CULTURAL RESOURCES | 63 |
| PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES..... | 70 |
| VISUAL RESOURCES..... | 72 |
| WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT | 77 |
| LANDS MANAGED FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS..... | 80 |
| II. RESOURCE USES | 84 |
| FORESTRY | 84 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| LIVESTOCK GRAZING | 87 |
| RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES | 93 |
| COMPREHENSIVE TRAILS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT | 154 |
| LANDS AND REALTY | 169 |
| COAL | 179 |
| MINERALS – Fluid Minerals | 181 |
| MINERALS – Oil Shale | 184 |
| MINERALS – Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plan | 185 |
| MINERALS – Solid Minerals (Locatable, Salable, and Non-Energy Leasable) | 196 |
| III. SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS | 200 |
| AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN | 200 |
| WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS | 209 |
| WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS | 213 |
| NATIONAL TRAILS | 215 |
| NATIONAL, STATE, AND BLM BYWAYS | 217 |
| IV. SUPPORT | 219 |
| INTERPRETATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION | 219 |
| TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES | 220 |
| APPENDICES. GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN | 220 |
| APPENDIX A. Maps | A |

| | |
|--|--------|
| APPENDIX B. Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Development, Surface-Disturbing Activities, Surface Use, and Occupancy | B |
| APPENDIX C. Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report | Online |
| APPENDIX D. Summary of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Report on the Application of Relevance and Importance Criteria..... | Online |
| APPENDIX E. BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado | Online |
| APPENDIX F. Wilderness Characteristics Inventory and Planning | Online |
| APPENDIX G. Colorado Air Resources Protection Protocol | Online |
| APPENDIX H. Best Management Practices and Conservation Measures | H |
| APPENDIX I. Cultural Resources..... | Online |
| APPENDIX J. Allotments and Allotment Levels..... | J |
| APPENDIX K. Recreation and Visitor Services Management Framework for Special and Extensive Recreation Management Areas | K |
| APPENDIX L. Special Recreation Permit Program Overview | L |
| APPENDIX M. Travel Management..... | M |
| APPENDIX N. Coal Screening Criteria | N |
| APPENDIX O. Air Emissions Inventory..... | Online |
| APPENDIX P. BLM Biologic Assessment | Online |
| APPENDIX Q. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologic Opinion | Online |

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 1.1. Program Categories and Abbreviations | 1 |
| Table 1.2. List of Appendices | 3 |
| Table 2.3. GJFO Cultural Use Allocations | 62 |

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 4WD or 4x4 | Four-wheel drive vehicle |
| ACEC | Area of critical environmental concern |
| AML | Abandoned mine land |
| APD | Application for permit to drill (oil and gas) |
| ATV | All-terrain vehicle |
| ASQ | Allowable sale quantity |
| AUM | Animal-unit month |
| BLM | United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management |
| BLM lands | Surface acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management |
| BMP | Best management practice |
| BOR | United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation |
| CARPP | Comprehensive Air Resources Protection Protocol |
| CDOT | Colorado Department of Transportation |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CNHP | Colorado Natural Heritage Program |
| COA | Condition of approval |
| COGCC | Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission |
| CPW | Colorado Parks and Wildlife (formerly CDOW -- Colorado Division of Wildlife.) |
| CSU | Controlled surface use |
| CTTM | Comprehensive trails and travel management |
| DOI | United States Department of the Interior |
| EA | Environmental assessment |
| EIS | Environmental impact statement |
| ERMA | Extensive Recreation Management Area |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act of 1973 |
| FEIS | Final environmental impact statement |
| FLPMA | Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| GHG | Greenhouse gas |
| GIS | Geographic information system |
| GJFO | Grand Junction Field Office |
| COGA | Colorado Oil and Gas Association |
| IBLA | Interior Board of Land Appeals |
| IDT | Interdisciplinary team |
| IM | Instruction memorandum |
| LN | Lease notice (oil and gas) |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NSO | No surface occupancy or surface-disturbing activities |
| NWSRS | National Wild and Scenic Rivers System |
| OHV | Off-highway vehicle |
| ORV | Outstandingly remarkable value |
| PFC | Properly functioning condition (land health) |
| PFYC | Potential fossil yield classification |
| R&VS | Recreation and visitor services |
| RMA | Recreation management area |
| RMP | Resource management plan |
| RMZ | Recreation management zone |
| ROD | Record of decision |
| ROW | Right-of-way (lands and realty) |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Office |
| SRMA | Special recreation management area |
| SRP | Special recreation permit |
| T&E | Threatened and endangered |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| TL | Timing limitation (seasonal restriction) |
| U.S . | United States |
| USFWS | United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service |
| VRM | Visual resource management |
| WSA | Wilderness study area |
| WSR | Wild and scenic river |
| WUI | Wildland urban interface |

1.1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN DECISIONS

1.1.1 Decisions

The GJFO Approved RMP describes goals, objectives, allowable use and management action decisions, as well as some implementation-level decisions established for BLM lands and Federal mineral estate managed by the BLM's GJFO. The decisions are detailed by program in section 2.1.3 under four category headings: Resources, Resource Uses, Special Designations, and Support (see Table 2.1 below).

Table 1.1. Program Categories and Abbreviations

I. Resources

| | |
|--|---------|
| Air | AIR |
| Soils | SOIL |
| Water | WTR |
| Vegetation General | VEG |
| Vegetation – Desired Plant Community | VEG-DPC |
| Vegetation – Forest/Woodlands | VEG-FOR |
| Vegetation – Riparian | VEG-RPN |
| Vegetation – Adaptive Drought Management | VEG-ADM |
| Vegetation – Weeds | VEG-WDS |
| Fish and Wildlife | F&W |
| Fish and Wildlife – Fisheries and Aquatic Wildlife | F&W-FAW |
| Fish and Wildlife – Terrestrial Wildlife | F&W-TRW |
| Fish and Wildlife – Big Game Species (Deer, Elk, Moose, and Bighorn Sheep) | F&W-BGS |
| Fish and Wildlife – Pronghorn Antelope | F&W-PHA |
| Fish and Wildlife – Wildlife Emphasis Area | F&W-WEA |
| Special Status Species | SSS |
| Special Status Species – Fish | SSS-FIS |
| Special Status Species – Plants and Terrestrial Wildlife | SSS-PTW |
| Special Status Species – Plants | SSS-PLN |
| Special Status Species – Migratory Birds | SSS-MIG |
| Special Status Species – Yellow-billed Cuckoo | SSS-YBC |
| Special Status Species – Raptors | SSS-RPT |
| Special Status Species – Bald and Golden Eagles | SSS-EGL |
| Special Status Species – Waterfowl and Shorebirds | SSS-WSB |

| | |
|---|---------|
| Special Status Species – Gunnison and Greater Sage-Grouse | SSS-SGR |
| Special Status Species – Reptiles and Amphibians | SSS-R&A |
| Special Status Species – Bats | SSS-BAT |
| Special Status Species – River Otter | SSS-RVO |
| Special Status Species – Canada Lynx | SSS-LYN |
| Special Status Species – Kit Fox | SSS-KIT |
| Special Status Species – White-Tailed Prairie Dog | SSS-WTP |
| Cultural Resources | CUL |
| Paleontological Resources | PAL |
| Visual Resources | VIS |
| Wildland Fire Management | WFM |
| Lands Proposed for the Protection of Wilderness Characteristics | WIL |
| Wild Horses | WHS |

II. Resource Uses

| | |
|---|----------|
| Forestry | FOR |
| Livestock Grazing | GRZ |
| Recreation and Visitor Services | REC |
| Special Recreation Management Areas | REC-SRMA |
| Extensive Recreation Management Areas | REC-ERMA |
| Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management | TRV |
| Lands and Realty | L&R |
| Lands and Realty – Renewable Energy | L&R-REN |
| Coal | COA |
| Fluid Minerals and Geothermal | MIN |
| Fluid Minerals and Geothermal – Oil Shale | MIN-OIL |
| Fluid Minerals and Geothermal – Shale Ridges and Canyon Master Leasing Plan | MIN-MLP |
| Solid Minerals (Locatable, Salable/Mineral Material, Non-Energy Leasable) | SOL |
| Solid Minerals – Locatable Minerals | LOC |
| Solid Minerals – Salable Minerals/Mineral Materials | SAL |
| Solid Minerals – Non-Energy Solid Leasable Minerals | NEL |

III. Special Designations

| | |
|---|------|
| Areas of Critical Environmental Concern | ACEC |
|---|------|

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Wilderness Study Areas | WSA |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers | WSR |
| National Trails | NTR |
| National, State, and BLM Byways | BYW |

IV. Support

| | |
|--|-----|
| Interpretation and Environmental Education | IEE |
| Transportation Facilities | TRN |

For ease of identifying decisions, each decision is numbered. The numbering sequences for the decisions are by program. Each program has an identified abbreviation (Table 2.1) and each decision in that program is numbered in coordination with the program abbreviation, type of decision and decision number. Some examples are as follows:

AIR-GOAL-01: First air program goal

AIR-OBJ-01: First air program objective

AIR-MA-01: First air program management action or allowable use decision

AIR-MA-02: Second air program management action or allowable use decision

AIR-IMP-01: First air program implementation decision

Please note that all acreages and maps presented in the Approved RMP are estimations based on current data. Updating these data is considered plan maintenance, which will occur over time as the Approved RMP is implemented, additional surveys are completed, and information is revised.

1.1.2 Maps and Appendices

Table 1.2 lists supporting information for the decisions contained in the Approved RMP. Maps depicting resource information, stipulations applicable to surface-disturbing activities, and travel management route designations in the Approved RMP are provided in Appendix A. Appendices that are not included in the printed copy (as indicated below as “Available Online”) of the Approved RMP are available on the GJFO web page. Appendices B through P contain supporting information for decisions outlined in the Approved RMP. This document and appendices are also available on the GJFO website: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html>

Table 1.2. List of Appendices

| | |
|------------|---|
| Appendix A | This appendix contains all of the maps (figures) for resources, allocations, designations, stipulations, and the Master Leasing Plan. |
| Appendix B | Stipulations Applicable to Surface-Disturbing Activities, Surface Use and Occupancy. This appendix lists stipulations for fluid minerals leasing referred to in the Approved RMP. |

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| | These stipulations will also apply, where appropriate to achieve their purpose, to all surface-disturbing activities and surface occupancy associated with land use authorizations, permits, and leases issued on BLM lands. |
| Appendix C (Available Online) | Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report. This report contains detailed information for the suitability assessment for each eligible river segment. |
| Appendix D (Available Online) | Summary of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Report on the Application of Relevance and Importance Criteria. This appendix provides summary information about the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) evaluation process. |
| Appendix E (Available Online) | BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado. Description of the conditions that are needed to sustain public land health related to livestock grazing. Supporting information to livestock grazing decisions in the Approved RMP is provided in this appendix. |
| Appendix F (Available Online) | Management and Setting Prescriptions for Lands Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics. Management and setting prescriptions are intended to protect these values along with wilderness characteristics (e.g., naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation). |
| Appendix G (Available Online) | Colorado Air Resources Protection Protocol. This appendix describes the process and strategies the BLM will use when authorizing activities that have the potential to adversely impact air quality within the state of Colorado. |
| Appendix H | Best Management Practices and Conservation Measures. This appendix provides a list of best management practices that are applicable to land use activities authorized by the GJFO. |
| Appendix I (Available Online) | Cultural Resource Allocation to Use Categories. Allocations to Use Categories for individual properties and classes of properties. |
| Appendix J | Allotment and Allotment Management Levels. This appendix provides a summary of the closed allotments and the evaluation criteria for future closures. It also provides a summary of the management on all of the allotments in the field office. |
| Appendix K | Recreation and Visitor Services Management Framework For Special and Extensive Recreation Management Areas. This appendix provides supporting information to recreation and |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | visitor services decisions in the Approved RMP. |
| Appendix L | Special Recreation Permit Program Overview. This appendix provides the evaluation criteria for special recreation permits. |
| Appendix M | Travel Management Plan: Includes the designated System Roads and Maintenance Levels. This appendix provides supporting information to transportation facilities decisions in the Approved RMP including maintenance intensity levels. Includes the travel management maps. |
| Appendix N | Coal Screening Criteria for the Grand Junction Field Office. This appendix provides a summary of the coal management decisions and documents the unsuitability criteria applied to potential coal lands for future development. |
| Appendix O (Available Online) | Air Emission Inventory. This appendix provides a summary of the air emissions inventory for development and production activities within the Grand Junction Field Office. |
| Appendix P (Available Online) | Bureau of Land Management Biologic Assessment for the Grand Junction Field Office. This appendix includes the Biologic Assessment for the RMP and TMP that was submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the consultation process for determining impacts to threatened and endangered species. |
| Appendix Q (Available Online) | Fish and Wildlife Service Biologic Opinion. This appendix includes the Biologic Opinion that was issued for the Grand Junction Field Office RMP and TMP. |

1.1.3 Decisions by Category

See Table 1.1 in section 1.1.1 above for a summary of the categories in this section.

I. RESOURCES

AIR

AIR-GOAL-01:

Minimize impacts on air quality from BLM management actions in accordance with the Clean Air Act and the NEPA.

AIR-OBJ-01:

*Limit air quality degradation from authorized activities on BLM-administered lands by providing appropriate analyses for compliance with applicable Colorado and National Ambient Air Quality Standards, applicable federal, state, and local air quality laws, rules, regulations, and implementation plans, and applicable federal land management guidance documents (e.g., FLAG 2010). Protect air resources from adverse impacts associated with BLM authorized and permitted actions in accordance with the methodology and provisions outlined in the Comprehensive Air Resource Protection Protocol (CARPP) (**Appendix G**).*

AIR-MA-01:

Develop COAs for project-specific surface-disturbing activities to prevent BLM-permitted activities from causing or contributing to exceedances of ambient air quality standards or causing significant adverse impacts on air quality related values.

AIR-AU-01:

LEASE NOTICE LN-8: Air Quality. This lease notice is attached to new oil and gas leasing agreements to provide notice to operators of analysis and mitigation requirements that will be determined on a case by case basis at the permitting/development stage.

AIR-MA-02:

Participate in, conduct, or require air modeling analyses as described in the CARPP (see **Appendix G**) as part of a comprehensive strategy to prevent BLM permitted activities from causing or contributing to violations of ambient air quality standards or causing significant adverse impacts on air quality related values.

AIR-MA-03:

Work cooperatively with local, state, and federal agencies and Tribal governments to enhance air monitoring efforts in order to provide a broader measure of spatially distributed air pollutant concentrations for the purposes of evaluating atmospheric conditions with respect to ambient air quality standards and air quality related values.

AIR-MA-04:

Manage prescribed fire in accordance with the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Smoke Management Program and Regulation Number 9 (5 CCR 1001-11). Prescribed burns will be timed during favorable meteorological conditions so as to minimize smoke impacts.

AIR-GOAL-02:

Manage BLM-administered lands in a manner that protects the quality of air and atmospheric values as directed under the FLPMA.

AIR-OBJ-02:

Manage air resources within the GJFO in accordance with the CARPP (Appendix G).

AIR-MA-05:

Implement the adaptive management strategy for protecting air resources to include the actions above as well as, tracking project specific emissions for comparison against the most recent regional air quality model results to provide cumulative context for any analyzed contemporaneous development period, and providing an annual activity and air quality summary report of BLM activities as described in the CARPP.

AIR-OBJ-03:

Minimize emissions, within the scope of BLM’s authority, from activities that cause or contribute to air quality impairment, visibility degradation, atmospheric deposition, or climate variability.

AIR-MA-06:

Require all drilling and completion engines used on public lands or used to access federal minerals to be in conformance with information and guidance provided by the Colorado Air Resources Management Modeling Study (CARMMS) modeling and CARPP protocol for engine type requirements.

AIR-MA-07:

Require that oil and gas operators use reduced emission completion technology (i.e., “green” completion) as defined in COGCC Rule 805 and the New Source Performance Standards for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production at 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart OOOO at all wells on BLM-administered lands and wells that access federal minerals. An exemption may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

AIR-MA-08:

Require flaring of natural gas during well completions that are exempted from green completion technology. Prohibit venting of natural gas except during emergency situations.

AIR-MA-09:

Minimize emissions of greenhouse gases from BLM-authorized actions in accordance with state and federal regulations, executive and secretarial orders, and BLM policy.

AIR-MA-10:

Require proper road design, construction, and surfacing on BLM authorized roads to reduce particulate matter emissions.

AIR-MA-11:

Open areas and designated routes may be closed during wind events (e.g., during National Weather Service high wind warning) to reduce fugitive dust emissions.

WATER

WTR-GOAL-01:

Protect, preserve, and enhance watershed functions in the capture, retention, and release of water in quantity, quality, and time to meet ecosystem and human needs.

WTR-OBJ-01:

Manage public land activities to maintain or contribute to the long term improvement of surface and ground water quality and minimize or control elevated levels of salt, sediment, and selenium contribution from federal lands to water resources in the planning area.

WTR-MA-01:

Promote the delisting of impaired water bodies (303d listed) by monitoring actions including but not limited to grazing, travel management, and other surface disturbing actions and implementing appropriate management change.

WTR-MA-02:

Remove nonfunctional structures such as sediment basins, ponds, and associated structures and implement additional erosion control/soil stabilization measures as necessary.

WTR-OBJ-02:

Ensure streams on BLM lands are in geomorphic balance (e.g., stream channel size, sinuosity, slope, and substrate are appropriate for its landscape setting and geology) with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed (e.g., no accelerated erosion, deposition, or head-cutting) and ensure that land use does not impede the natural hydrograph (e.g., allows timing, magnitude and duration of peak, high and low flow events by minimizing surface disturbance, erosion, and sedimentation of streams).

WTR-AU-01:

Close the river corridors of the three major rivers (Colorado, Dolores, and Gunnison) to mineral material disposal and non-energy solid mineral leasing and development.

WTR-AU-02:

Classify the Colorado River corridor as unsuitable for coal leasing.

WTR-MA-03:

While maintaining access, close routes with multiple stream crossings and/or identify mitigation including reroutes and proper design, construction, and maintenance plans in accordance with BLM manual handbook guidance.

WTR-AU-03:

STIPULATION HYDROLOGY RIVER NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is

allowed within 400 meters (1312 feet) of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage) or within 100 meters (328 feet) of the 100-year floodplain (whichever area is greatest) on the following major rivers: Colorado, Dolores, and Gunnison. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WTR-AU-04:

STIPULATION CSU-39: *Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC*. Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions to surface-disturbing activities within the Roan and Carr Creek ACEC. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WTR-AU-05:

Identify areas with lentic and lotic riparian characteristics as ROW avoidance area.

WTR-AU-06:

STIPULATION NSO-2: *Streams/Springs Possessing Lotic Riparian Characteristics*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within a minimum distance of 100 meters (328 feet) from the edge of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage). Where the riparian corridor width is greater than 100 meters (328 feet) from bank-full, prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within the riparian zone. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WTR-AU-07:

STIPULATION CSU-3: *Definable Streams*. Surface disturbing actions within a minimum distance of 30 meters (98 feet) from the edge of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage) should be avoided to the greatest extent practicable and disturbances will be subject to site specific relocation at the discretion of the BLM (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WTR-AU-08:

STIPULATION NSO-4: *Lentic Riparian Areas (including springs, seeps, and fens)*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within a minimum distance of 100 meters (328 feet) from the edge of the riparian zone. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WTR-MA-04:

Restrict the use of subsurface explosives and vibroseis buggies within 0.25-mile of all spring sources and perennial streams. This restriction does not apply to oil and gas well operations (e.g., well perforating).

WTR-MA-05:

For actions requiring individual permits through the US Army Corps of Engineers, require a licensed Professional Engineer to approve and stamp the project design,

construction, and reclamation plans to mitigate to the fullest extent practicable riparian resource damage associated with the proposed action.

WTR-MA-06:

Manage the Badger Wash ACEC as a hydrologic study area. Refer to the ACEC Section for Badger Wash ACEC management actions.

WTR-OBJ-03:

Provide sufficient water quantity on BLM lands for multiple use management and functioning, healthy riparian, wetland, aquatic, and upland systems.

WTR-MA-07:

Secure adequate water rights for point sources on BLM lands from the State of Colorado on springs/seeps and wells necessary to preserve, protect, and enhance ecological diversity and sustainability within planning area watersheds. Uses for which BLM will apply for water rights include, but are not limited to, livestock, wildlife watering, wildlife habitat, wild horses, recreation, and fire suppression.

WTR-MA-08:

Acquire private stream-side and river-side parcels from willing sellers that are contained within or adjacent to public land (i.e., West, East, Roan, and Carr Creeks, and the Colorado, Gunnison, and Dolores Rivers) and display important riparian values.

Consider acquisition of stream-side and river-side parcels that contain wetland areas as defined in Executive order 1190, dated May 24,1977, and/or located in floodplain areas (100-year) as defined in Executive Order 11988, dated May 24, 1977, from willing sellers that are contained within or adjacent to public land.

WTR-OBJ-04:

Protect municipal watersheds and source water protection areas on public land that provide drinking water to local communities.

WTR-MA-09:

Reduce point and non-point source contributions of water quality contaminants from public lands by reducing disturbance footprints associated with travel infrastructure and other surface disturbing actions while also maintaining access and meeting resource use objectives.

WTR-AU-09:

Manage the high sensitivity zone of the Palisade municipal watershed as ROW exclusion area.

WTR-AU-10:

Close the Palisade and Grand Junction municipal watersheds, and the Mesa/Powderhorn and Collbran source water protection areas to non-energy solid leasing and development.

WTR-AU-11:

No Leasing: *Watersheds.* Close the Palisade and Grand Junction municipal watersheds to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12 in Appendix A.

WTR-AU-12:

Classify the Palisade and Grand Junction municipal watersheds as unacceptable for coal leasing.

Classify the Collbran and Mesa/Powderhorn source water protection areas, Jerry Creek watershed, and Cabin Reservoir as unsuitable for coal leasing.

WTR-AU-13:

STIPULATION NSO-5: *No Surface Occupancy (Palisade and Grand Junction Municipal Watersheds).* Prohibit surface occupancy and other surface-disturbing activities in the Palisade and Grand Junction municipal watersheds. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WTR-AU-14:

STIPULATION CSU-4: *Collbran and Mesa/Powderhorn Source Water Protection Areas, and Jerry Creek Watershed.* Require that all ground disturbances within source water protection areas and the Jerry Creek Watershed avoid interference with watershed resource values. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WTR-AU-15:

LEASE NOTICE LN-1: *Source Water Protection Areas.* The lease is within source water protection areas, and the lessee is required to implement special protective measures for water resources and to collaborate with municipalities and comply with applicable municipal watershed plans. (Refer to Appendix B.)

WTR-MA-10:

Within *Water Intake Zone 3*, restrict the storage and use of hazardous chemicals, require green completions and green fracking fluids, and restrict oil and gas pits. Apply additional site specific mitigation measures as appropriate to minimize risk of water quality degradation. See Figure 2-32 in Appendix A.

WTR-MA-11:

Oil and gas operations near domestic water supplies using a groundwater well or spring will be restricted. Siting of oil and gas operations may be permitted following NEPA analysis conducted for a specific location, and the application of

protections that may include conditions of approval, mitigation and design features developed in the NEPA analysis, and the regulations at 43 CFR 3101.1-2.

WTR-MA-12:

Conduct gain/loss studies of local streams to characterize natural flow regimes and identify locally important recharge/discharge zones. Characterize groundwater movement (locally and regionally), and groundwater interaction with surface water especially for springs and fen areas. Prioritize study locations based on potential use/alteration of surface and groundwater resources given reasonably foreseeable resource use potential. Coordinate studies with private entities as well as other government agencies to ensure land/resource management actions outside BLM jurisdiction are incorporated in studies. Utilize information gained through studies to modify, develop, and effectively implement appropriate BMPs necessary to protect water resources while allowing development of other natural resources (e.g., coal, uranium, natural gas, gravel, and related infrastructure).

WTR-OBJ-05:

Characterize, monitor, maintain, and/or restore surface/groundwater quality and quantity to sustain designated beneficial uses in cooperation with other federal, local, and state agencies and private entities.

WTR-MA-13:

Monitor morphology and channel stability of streams with concerns identified through land health or PFC assessments or inventories, or streams that could be impacted, to determine appropriate management action. Improve dysfunctional streams caused by unnatural factors. Modify management practices (e.g., grazing systems, recreational uses) and/or stream restoration techniques (e.g., native planting, fencing, energy dissipation structures, bank protection, and drainage structures) as appropriate to address causal factors.

WTR-GOAL-02:

Maintain and protect the quantity and quality of groundwater, as well as aquifer properties.

WTR-OBJ-06:

Manage public lands to maintain functioning condition of all parameters within the hydrologic cycle including groundwater quantity and quality. Ensure the consumption of water resources on public lands resulting from federal actions do not jeopardize the sustainability of water resources or associated riparian/wetland habitats.

WTR-MA-14:

Identify, monitor, and evaluate the condition of important aquifers and recharge/discharge areas within the planning area. Assess aquifer properties and groundwater quality on BLM lands and work with stakeholders to prioritize and develop management plans and site-specific actions to maintain groundwater quality within the identified aquifers.

SOILS

SOIL-GOAL-01:

Ensure that 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, minimizes surface runoff (Land Health Standard 1), and minimizes soil erosion.

SOIL-OBJ-01:

- 1. Minimize or control elevated levels of salt, sediment, and selenium contribution from federal lands to river systems in the planning area.*
 - 2. Maintain or improve soil productivity, including retention of topsoil quality and reestablishing soil capability, potential, and functionality when disturbed.*
 - 3. Preserve proper function and condition of upland soils.*
 - 4. Ensure surface disturbances do not cause accelerated erosion (e.g., rills, soil pedestals, actively eroding gullies) on a watershed scale (e.g., 6th hydrologic unit code scale).*
-

SOIL-MA-01:

Implement appropriate management techniques, guidelines or practices, outlined in Appendix H, to limit soil loss to an amount that does not affect its long term quality, productivity or hydrological function.

SOIL-MA-02:

In areas designated as *open* to OHVs, monitor and identify thresholds for evaluating vulnerability to erosional processes and utilize best available science to limit erosion and sedimentation/salt loading to the Colorado River.

SOIL-MA-03:

Identify those biologic soil crusts in the planning area which are key to sustaining proper function and condition of upland soil health as determined by BLM Land Health Assessments and/or onsite evaluation. Avoid and mitigate disturbance to biologic soil crusts which are determined to be key in sustaining proper function and condition of upland soil health.

SOIL-AU-01:

Manage fragile soils, mapped Mancos shale areas, and saline soils areas as ROW avoidance areas.

SOIL-MA-04:

Protect watershed health and water quality by limiting motorized travel over fragile soils during seasonally wet periods. Allow management officials the authority to modify closure dates based on seasonal climate variability.

SOIL-MA-05:

In high disturbance areas, utilize best available science to model sediment loss relative to natural rates. Based on model results, modify land uses including travel infrastructure to minimize resource damage while maintaining resource and resource use sustainability on public lands.

SOIL-MA-06:

While maintaining access, eliminate duplicative or redundant routes in areas of fragile soils, Mancos Shale areas, slump areas, and on slopes exceeding 40 percent (Public Land Health Standard 1).

SOIL-AU-02:

STIPULATION GEOLOGY SOIL NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed on lands with soils, as mapped in the Resource Management Plan, BLM's GIS database or other maps provided by local, state, federal or tribal agencies that are analyzed and accepted by the BLM, with the following special characteristics: Baxter/Douglas Pass Slump Area and the Plateau Creek Slump Area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SOIL-AU-03:

STIPULATION GEOLOGY SOIL CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted on lands within mapped soils with the following special characteristics: Fragile Soils and Mapped Mancos Shale and Saline Soils. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SOIL-AU-04:

STIPULATION GEOLOGY SLOPE NSO CO: Prohibit surface occupancy and use (for fluid minerals only) on lands with steep slopes greater than 40 percent. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SOIL-MA-04:

Restrict surface-disturbing actions when soil is saturated. On a case-by-case basis, allow construction actions to occur when soils are frozen and such actions will result in reduced environmental impacts. See **STIPULATION GEOLOGY SOIL NSO CO**. See Figure 2-13 in Appendix A.

VEGETATION

Vegetation – General (VEG)

VEG-GOAL-01:

Restore and maintain healthy, productive plant communities of native and other desirable species at self-sustaining population levels commensurate with the species' and habitats' potentials. Ensure 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 (based on Land Health Standard 3).

VEG-OBJ-01:

Manage for a healthy diversity of successional-stage plant communities.

VEG-MA-01:

Restore natural disturbance regimes such as fire, and use vegetative treatments to accomplish biodiversity objectives in resilient plant communities. Avoid prescribed fire and fires managed for resource benefit in black brush and salt desert shrub communities.

VEG-MA-02:

Use new fire starts and prescribed fire where suitable to meet resource objectives as deemed appropriate by Land Health Assessments, Ecological Site Inventories, Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation monitoring, and prescribed fire monitoring.

VEG-OBJ-02:

Provide the public with native plant materials through the sale of wilding permits (e.g., live plants and plant material products exceeding personal use amounts), commercial seed-collecting permits, and free use permits (consistent with 43 CFR 8365.1-5, IM No. 2013-176 Seed Collection Permitting and Pricing Policy within the Bureau of Land Management, and BLM Manual 5500 [Nonsale Disposals]), while protecting other resources.

VEG-MA-03:

Make 830,500 acres available for wilding permits. Issue commercial seed permits on a case-by-case basis. Close the following areas to wilding permits:

- WSAs;
- ACECs;
- SRMAs:
 - Bangs and
 - North Fruita Desert;
- Lands managed for wilderness characteristics;
- Occupied threatened and endangered plant habitat; and

- Occupied special status plant species habitat.

Note: Occupied threatened and endangered plant habitat, and special status plant species is not included in total acreage. Plants that are identified by a Tribe as important for traditional, religious or ceremonial purposes and are not widely available will not be offered as wilding plants for the general public.

Vegetation – Desired Plant Communities (VEG-DPC)

VEG-DPC-GOAL-01:

Manage pinyon-juniper, upper and lower elevation sagebrush, salt desert shrub, forests and woodlands, and riparian areas (the dominant plant communities of the GJFO planning area) as desired plant communities or to emphasize native vegetation, wildlife habitat, watershed health, and biodiversity.

VEG-DPC-OBJ-01:

Manage vegetation to meet BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado (Appendix E) while taking in to account site potential as determined by ecological site inventories, Range/Ecological Site Descriptions, Soils, completed Land Health Assessments, and site-specific management objectives.

VEG-DPC-MA-01:

Use native plant material and restoration techniques to establish desired plant communities focusing on native communities and intact ecosystems. Allow non-native species on a case-by-case basis, only if:

- Suitable native species are not available;
 - The natural biological diversity of the proposed management area will not be diminished;
 - Exotic and naturalized species can be confined within the proposed management area;
 - Analysis of ecological site inventory information indicates that a site will not support reestablishment of a species that historically was part of the natural environment; and,
 - Resource management objectives cannot be met with native species.
 - (see BLM’s Integrated Vegetation Management Handbook, Chapter 8, H-1740-2)
-

VEG-DPC-MA-02:

Reduce redundancies in routes to minimize fragmentation, and minimize direct impacts from motorized and mechanized users of roads, routes and trails on relic vegetation communities. Identify mitigation where open routes are negatively effecting significant plant communities or relic vegetation.

VEG-DPC-OBJ-02:

Manage vegetation to meet BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado (Appendix E) while taking in to account site potential as determined by ecological site inventories, Range/Ecological Site Descriptions, Soils, completed Land Health Assessments, and site-specific management objectives.

VEG-DPC-MA-03:

Defer or exclude livestock grazing, where necessary, for a minimum of two growing seasons (longer than 18 months) on disturbed areas (e.g., a fire event, reclamation of disturbed lands, seedings, surface-disturbing vegetation treatments) or until site-specific analysis and/or monitoring data indicates that vegetative cover, species composition, and litter accumulation are adequate to support and protect watershed values, meet vegetation objectives, and sustain grazing use.

VEG-DPC-MA-04:

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, recreation, energy development, etc.) are not leading to degraded conditions.

VEG-DPC-MA-05:

Reduce redundancies in routes to minimize fragmentation, and minimize direct impacts on sensitive vegetation species from motorized and mechanized users of roads, routes and trails. Identify mitigation where open routes are negatively affecting habitat.

VEG-DPC-OBJ-03:

In lower-elevation vegetation, occupied by the potential natural community, manage for a late- or mid-seral stage as the desired plant community.

VEG-DPC-MA-06:

Maintain present composition of late- to mid-seral plant communities providing suitable habitat for wildlife. Minimize activities that will result in a persistent early-seral stage in the lower elevations.

SALT DESERT SHRUB COMMUNITIES

VEG-DPC-GOAL-02:

*Manage the salt desert shrub communities to maintain viable populations of kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), white-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys leucurus*), and other obligate species. Preserve undisturbed patches of salt desert shrub communities with little to no cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), halogeton*

(Halogeton glomeratus), or other exotic species. Identify and initiate restoration and rehabilitation of unhealthy areas.

VEG-DPC-OBJ-04:

Manage the salt desert shrub community to improve vigor, composition, diversity, and cover of native understory species and biological soil crusts.

VEG-DPC-MA-07:

Suppress all fires in Salt Desert Shrub communities to protect these communities that are not adapted to fire and to minimize potential cheatgrass invasion and conversion.

VEG-DPC-MA-08:

In the lower desert setting, manage grazing to allow the recovery of native perennials. Ensure utilization levels are sustainable, provide periods of rest as needed, and adjust season of use to ensure adequate soil moisture levels post grazing (for plant growth).

VEG-DPC-MA-09:

In greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) communities where head-cutting is just beginning, consider management actions to arrest continued erosion (e.g., armoring, wattles). Stop erosion with armoring and wattles before extensive head-cutting occurs.

VEG-DPC-MA-10:

As advances in cheatgrass-control methods are made, prioritize vegetation treatments to treat cheatgrass and to restore native perennials in the North Desert, Grand Mesa Slopes, and other degraded areas in the lower desert (excluding OHV open areas).

VEG-DPC-MA-11:

To reduce the spread of cheatgrass and noxious weeds, reduce duplicative and redundant routes in areas with susceptibility to cheatgrass or invasive and noxious weed infestations.

Lower-elevation Sagebrush (< 7,500 feet) Desired Plant Community

VEG-DPC-GOAL-03:

*Manage the sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) biome to maintain viable populations of sagebrush-obligate species. Identify and initiate restoration and rehabilitation of sagebrush habitat, while maintaining a mosaic of canopy cover and successional stages. Maintain or improve Sage-Grouse winter habitat.*

VEG-DPC-OBJ-05:

Maintain or improve high-quality sagebrush habitats consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities. Restore the species composition and diversity of seral stages of sagebrush communities.

VEG-DPC-MA-12:

Implement treatments designed to replenish the native seed bank and control noxious and invasive species.

VEG-DPC-OBJ-06:

Sustain, restore, and rehabilitate the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of sagebrush-obligate species.

VEG-DPC-MA-13:

Inventory lower-elevation sagebrush to identify non-functioning habitat and develop restoration plans within priority management units to increase patch size and connectivity through vegetation treatments and consolidation of disturbance to support sagebrush obligate species.

Prioritize management of lower-elevation sagebrush in the following order:

1. Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Gunnison Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) important winter habitat.
 2. Critical and severe big-game winter range.
 3. Areas not meeting land health.
-

VEG-DPC-MA-14:

Avoid natural and prescribed fire in low-elevation sagebrush communities infested with or susceptible to cheatgrass. Ground disturbing mechanical treatments completed in low-elevation sagebrush may require seeding.

VEG-DPC-MA-15:

Inventory low-elevation sagebrush to identify non-functioning habitat. Develop restoration plans that prioritize efforts to achieve specific species and habitat goals. Habitat goals include but are not limited to increased patch size and connectivity through vegetation treatments and consolidation of disturbance to support sagebrush obligate species.

VEG-DPC-MA-16:

Prioritize the following Greater Sage-Grouse and Gunnison Sage-Grouse winter areas for treatment and restoration:

- Winter habitat areas in need of enhancement;
- Areas that pose a fire risk to key winter habitats; and
- Areas to meet habitat condition objectives (e.g., Sunny Side and Wagon Track Ridge).

Upper-elevation Sagebrush ($\geq 7,500$ feet) Desired Plant Community

VEG-DPC-GOAL-04:

Manage the sagebrush biome to maintain viable populations of Greater and Gunnison Sage-Grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species. Identify and initiate restoration and rehabilitation of sagebrush habitat while maintaining a mosaic of canopy cover and successional stages.

VEG-DPC-OBJ-07:

Maintain or improve high-quality sagebrush habitats consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities. Restore the species composition and diversity of successional stages of sagebrush communities.

VEG-DPC-MA-17:

Implement treatments designed to reduce pinyon-juniper and conifer encroachment, replenish diminished native seed banks, control noxious and invasive species, and provide periods of grazing rest or reduced usage during drought.

VEG-DPC-OBJ-08:

Prioritize the following areas for Land Health Assessments, vegetation restoration efforts, and protection of existing intact environments: 1-4. Restoration plans will emphasize increasing patch size and connectivity through vegetation treatments. Disturbances should also be consolidated through BMPs to reduce disturbance and maintain sagebrush-obligate species.

VEG-DPC-MA-18:

Inventory upper-elevation sagebrush to identify non-functioning habitat and develop restoration plans within priority management units to increase patch size and connectivity through vegetation treatments and consolidation of disturbance to support sagebrush obligate species.

Prioritize management of upper-elevation sagebrush in the following order:

1. Greater and Gunnison Sage-Grouse important habitat, including but not limited to designated critical habitat, Brush Mountain, and 4A Mountain.
 2. Critical and severe big-game winter range.
 3. Areas not meeting land health.
 4. Areas that pose a fire risk to key habitats.
-

VEG-DPC-MA-19:

Reduce the encroachment of juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) and other woody tree species in sagebrush habitat. Sites should have evidence of past sagebrush plant communities as evidenced by residual native plants or soils that support a rangeland not a woodland ecological site.

VEG-DPC-MA-20:

Maintain and/or create connections between key sagebrush habitats by encouraging placement of new utility developments (power lines, pipelines, etc.) and transportation routes (roads, trails etc.) in existing utility or transportation corridors to minimize fragmentation of sagebrush vegetation.

VEG-DPC-MA-21:

Remove sagebrush to create small openings in continuous or dense sagebrush to create a mosaic of multiple age classes and associated understory diversity across the landscape to benefit many sagebrush-dependent species. Factors that help determine the mosaic are soil types, topography, aspect, climate and local weather patterns, and current and potential plant communities.

Mountain Shrub

VEG-DPC-GOAL-05:

Manage mountain shrub communities to maintain vigorous stands of deciduous shrubs.

VEG-DPC-OBJ-09:

Emphasize perpetuating late- to mid-seral plant communities that provide suitable habitat for wildlife.

VEG-DPC-MA-22:

Implement treatments designed to reduce pinyon-juniper and conifer encroachment, replenish diminished native seed banks, control noxious and invasive species, and provide periods of grazing rest or reduced usage during drought.

VEG-DPC-MA-23:

Use prescribed fire, natural ignitions, and mechanical treatments to create openings within dense stands.

Vegetation – Forest/Woodlands (VEG-FOR)

VEG-FOR-GOAL-01:

Maintain and restore pinyon-juniper woodlands to meet requirements for land health and to supply wildlife habitat, livestock forage, and consumer products (e.g., posts, poles, firewood, biomass).

VEG-FOR-OBJ-01:

*Manage for pinyon (*Pinus edulis*) and juniper with a balance of seral stages.*

VEG-FOR-MA-01:

Maintain current acreage of old growth pinyon and juniper except in area of high wildfire hazard in the wildland urban interface.

VEG-FOR-MA-02:

Manage past and future treatment areas in pinyon and juniper with an emphasis on creating a mosaic of pinyon and juniper age classes and forage producing sites. Allow additional forage/habitat producing treatments on pinyon and juniper woodland sites.

VEG-FOR-AU-01:

STIPULATION PLANT COMMUNITY CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted within occupied habitat that meets BLM’s criteria, as established in the Resource Management Plan, for significant and/or relict plant communities. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B. See Figure 2-14.

VEG-FOR-GOAL-02:

Maintain forests and woodlands for a healthy mix of successional stages within the natural range of variation that incorporates diverse structure and composition.

VEG-FOR-OBJ-02:

*Manage ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and spruce/fir to mimic natural stand conditions and natural regeneration.*

VEG-FOR -MA-03:

Use prescribed fire and mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments as necessary to reduce the risk of disease vectors and to increase the resilience to beetles and disease.

VEG-FOR -MA-04:

Use silvicultural methods, including mechanized and non-mechanized thinning, prescribed burns, and commercial harvesters to maintain and develop natural patch sizes, shapes, connectivity, and species composition and age-class diversity.

VEG-FOR -MA-05:

Conserve mature riparian forests (e.g., cottonwood [*Populus deltoides wislizeni*] galleries) in suitable habitat to maintain their integrity for use as bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nesting, roosting, or perching substrate.

Vegetation – Riparian Vegetation (VEG-RPN)

VEG-RPN-GOAL-01:

Manage riparian habitat in compliance with the Land Health Standard 2: Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water function properly and have the ability to recover from major disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment and provides forage habitat and biodiversity; water quality is improved or maintained; and stable soils store and release water.

VEG-RPN-OBJ-01:

Protect and restore riparian areas/wetlands through sound management practices.

VEG-RPN-MA-01:

Mitigate to reduce impacts to riparian areas:

- Monitor cattle and wildlife grazing impacts in riparian zones and adjust grazing allocations, season of use, and rest rotations as necessary to ensure PFC is achieved and maintained;
 - Where feasible, consistent with user safety, locate/relocate developed travel routes away from riparian wetland areas;
 - Monitor recreational use on riparian areas. Where adverse impacts are determined to not meet land health standards for riparian habitats, modify recreation management to improve camping opportunities outside of riparian areas; require the use of designated camping sites; install fencing, energy dissipation structures, and bank protection features as appropriate.
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VEG-RPN-MA-02:

Mitigate to reduce impacts to riparian areas:

- Where necessary, control recreational use by changing location or kind of activity, season, intensity, distribution and/or duration;
 - Prohibit firewood harvest, except where appropriate to allow for removal of undesirable invasive species; and
 - Close the river corridors of the three major rivers (Colorado, Dolores, and Gunnison) to mineral material disposal and non-energy solid mineral leasing and development.
-

VEG-RPN-AU-01:

STIPULATION NSO-2: *Streams/Springs Possessing Lotic Riparian Characteristics*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within a minimum distance of 100 meters (328 feet) from the edge of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage). Where the riparian corridor width is greater than 100 meters (328 feet) from bank-full, prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within the riparian zone. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

VEG-RPN-AU-02:

STIPULATION NSO-4: *Lentic Riparian Areas (including springs, seeps, and fens)*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within a minimum distance of 100 meters (328 feet) from the edge of the riparian zone. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

VEG-RPN-AU-03:

Identify areas with lentic and lotic riparian characteristics as ROW avoidance areas.

VEG-RPN-MA-03:

Give priority for riparian management to areas identified as special status species habitat and those riparian areas not meeting Proper Functioning Condition (e.g., Roan, Carr, Hawxhurst, Coon Creek, and Plateau Creeks; the Gunnison, Colorado, and Dolores Rivers; and Unaweeep Seep).

VEG-RPN-MA-04:

In priority management areas and in areas not meeting Proper Functioning Condition, use the Multiple Indicator Method for monitoring to the extent feasible. Tailor the monitoring method to the objectives determined for each stream.

VEG-RPN-MA-05:

Consider the following management actions for improvement or protection of riparian values: riparian grazing pastures, exclosures, land acquisition, adjustments to grazing management, stream structures, and plantings.

VEG-RPN-MA-06:

Where conditions are appropriate, allow removal of tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.), non-native elms (*Ulmus* spp.), and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) material for biomass or personal use.

VEG-RPN-MA-07:

Reduce duplicative and redundant routes in riparian areas, especially those identified as not functioning or functioning at risk. Identify mitigation where open routes are contributing to problems with riparian function.

VEG-RPN-MA-08:

Reduce duplicative and redundant routes in riparian areas or that run parallel to riparian areas, especially in areas identified as not functioning or functioning at risk. Identify mitigation where open routes are contributing to problems with riparian function.

Vegetation – Adaptive Drought Management (VEG-ADM)

VEG-ADM-GOAL-01:

Develop management prescriptions for all surface-disturbing resource uses during times of extended drought.

VEG-ADM-OBJ-01:

Establish criteria for restricting activities during drought.

VEG-ADM-MA-01:

Implement the following measures/parameters for restricting activities during drought (Refer to Table 2-3, Drought Severity Classification):

Severe (D2):

- Send drought letters to grazing permittees and other permitted land users requesting coordination with BLM.
- Coordinate with CPW for big game herd management.
- Prepare local seasonal precipitation graphs.
- Suspend or limit seed-collecting activities.

Extreme (D3):

- Prohibit new surface-disturbing activities in areas with sensitive soils, subject to valid existing rights or actions associated with other valid permitted activities.
- Base changes in livestock use on site-specific data on those allotments that are affected by drought.
- Temporarily close OHV open areas and designated routes as needed during periods of drought and wind events to reduce particulate matter.
- Require additional erosion-control techniques/BMPs for surface-disturbing activities (e.g., hydromulching).
- Limit prescribed burns and vegetation treatments (exceptions: pile burning and hand thinning).

Exceptional (D4):

- Base changes in livestock use on site-specific data on those allotments that are affected by drought.
- Prohibit new surface-disturbing activities, subject to valid existing rights or actions associated with other valid permitted activities.
- Consider closing areas to public entry.

Vegetation – Weeds (VEG-WDS)

VEG-WDS-GOAL-01:

Reduce the occurrence of noxious and invasive species through the use of an Integrated Pest Management Program across the planning area.

VEG-WDS-OBJ-01:

Apply integrated control methods (physical, cultural, biological, chemical, fire) to noxious and invasive pest populations.

VEG-WDS-MA-01:

Prioritize treatment areas for priority noxious and invasive species based on the following criteria:

- Current state, county, and BLM priority weed lists;
 - Appropriate time of year for the most effective treatment; and
 - River restoration projects.
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VEG-WDS-MA-02:

Continue early detection of new infestations, and a rapid treatment response (National Early Detection and Rapid Response Strategy).

VEG-WDS-OBJ-02:

Require weed prevention on appropriate actions authorized within the planning area.

VEG-WDS-MA-03:

Implement preventative measures for activities associated with oil and gas operations; ROWs; range developments; special recreation permits (SRP); and construction and mechanical vegetation treatment activities as authorized in contracts and permits.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

SSS-GOAL-1:

Manage special status species habitats to provide for their conservation and restoration as part of an ecologically healthy system.

SSS-OBJ-01:

Maintain or improve the quality of listed (i.e., threatened or endangered) and sensitive species habitat by managing public land activities to support species recovery and the benefit of those species.

SSS-AU-01:

STIPULATION CSU-9: *BLM Sensitive Plant Species Occupied Habitat.* For plant species listed as sensitive by BLM, special design, construction, and implementation measures within a 100-meter (328 feet) buffer from the edge of occupied habitat may be required. In addition, relocation of operations by more than 200 meters (656 feet) may be required. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-AU-02:

STIPULATION CSU-10: *Wildlife Habitat.* Require proponents of surface-disturbing activities to implement specific measures to mitigate impacts of operations on wildlife and wildlife habitat within high-value or essential wildlife habitat. Measures will be determined through biological surveys, onsite inspections, effects of previous actions in the area, and BMPs (Appendix H). (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-AU-03:

LEASE NOTICE LN-3: *Biological Inventories.* The operator is required to conduct a biological inventory prior to approval of 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, Sage-Grouse leks, or significant natural plant communities. The operator, in coordination with the BLM, shall use the inventory to prepare mitigating measures to reduce the impacts on affected species or their habitats. These mitigating measures may include, but are not limited to, relocation of roads and other facilities and fencing operations or habitat. Where impacts cannot be mitigated to the satisfaction of the BLM's Authorized Officer, surface occupancy on that area is prohibited. (Refer to Appendix B.)

Special Status Species - Fish

SSS-FSH-OBJ-01:

Maintain or improve the quality of listed (threatened or endangered) fish and sensitive fish habitat by managing public land activities to support species recovery and the benefit of those species.

SSS-FSH-MA-01:

Identify limiting habitat factors based on site characteristics and habitat capabilities using channel type and geology classifications (e.g., Rosgen). Upon identification of limiting factors, prioritize and implement proven river, stream, lake, and riparian practices (e.g., in-channel habitat structures to create pools, riparian plantings) or by changing management of other program activities (e.g., changing livestock grazing season use) to achieve desired future condition.

SSS-FSH-MA-02:

Designate the following ACECs to protect habitat for unique, sensitive, and listed fish (see ACECs section for management prescriptions):

- Dolores River Riparian ACEC: flannemouth (*Catostomus latipinnis*) and bluehead sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*); and
 - Roan and Carr Creeks: cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*).
-

SSS-FSH-MA-03:

While maintaining desired levels of access, identify and reroute or close and rehabilitate redundant, duplicative, or poorly constructed routes to reduce point sources of erosion and resulting sedimentation and turbidity impacts within watersheds containing known pure populations of cutthroat trout. Focus on routes within closest proximity to occupied streams.

SSS-FSH-AU-01:

STIPULATION TL-1: *Salmonid and Native, Non-Salmonid Fishes.* Prohibit in-channel stream work in all occupied streams during fish spawning, egg incubation, and fry emerging seasons. Fish spawning, egg incubation, and fry emerging seasons vary by elevation and temperatures; however the following intervals generally apply in Colorado:

- Cutthroat trout (various subspecies): May 1-September 1
- Rainbow trout: March 1-June 15
- Brown trout: October 1-May 1
- Brook trout: August 15-May 1
- Sculpin: May 1-July 31
- Bluehead sucker: May 1-July 15
- Flannemouth sucker: April 1-July 1
- Roundtail chub: May 15-July 15
- Speckled dace: May 1-August 31
- Mountain whitefish: October 1-November 30

Exception Criteria: This stipulation only applies to construction and drilling and does not apply to operations and maintenance. If competing species are involved, the BLM may select to implement species-specific dates for native fish versus nonnative species.

Specific exceptions apply; see Appendix B. See Figures 2-15 in Appendix A.

SSS-FSH-AU-02:

STIPULATION *HYDROLOGY RIVER NSO CO*: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within 400 meters (1312 feet) of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage) or within 100 meters (328 feet) of the 100-year floodplain (whichever area is greatest) on the following major rivers: Colorado, Dolores, and Gunnison. See Figure 2-13. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-FSH-AU-03:

STIPULATION NSO-2: *Streams/Springs Possessing Lotic Riparian Characteristics*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface disturbing activities with a minimum distance of 100 meters (328 feet) from the edge of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage). Where the riparian corridor width is greater than 100 meters (328 feet) from bank-full, prohibit surface occupancy and surface disturbing activities within the riparian zone. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-FSH-AU-04:

Manage the Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC as a ROW avoidance area to protect special status fish species' habitat.

Special Status Species – *Plants and Terrestrial Wildlife*

SSS-PTW-GOAL-01:

Manage special status species habitats to provide for their conservation and restoration as part of an ecologically healthy system.

SSS-PTW-OBJ-01:

To conserve plants and animals (and their habitats) listed by federal and Colorado governments as threatened, endangered, sensitive or species of concern, and to conserve plants and animals that are candidates for these lists with the overall objective of improving their populations so that they can be removed from these lists.

SSS-PTW-MA-01:

Manage threatened and endangered species' habitat as ROW avoidance areas. Relocate ROWs if a determination is made that the relocation action will benefit and promote recovery and will not further impact a threatened and endangered species.

SSS-PTW-MA-02:

Avoid authorizing 2920 permits (such as site facilities and commercial filming) within known threatened and endangered species' habitat. Allow permits only when there are shown to be no effects on threatened and endangered species habitat.

SSS-PTW-AU-01:

Manage the following ACECs as ROW exclusion areas to protect threatened and endangered species' habitat:

- Atwell Gulch (except for ROWs to existing oil and gas leases issues under the 1987 RMP without NSO lease stipulations);
 - Pyramid Rock; and
 - South Shale Ridge (except for ROWs to existing oil and gas leases issues under the 1987 RMP without NSO lease stipulations).
-

SSS-PTW-AU-02:

Manage the following ACECs as ROW exclusion areas to protect special status species' habitat:

- A portion (1,800 acres) of Badger Wash;
 - Juanita Arch;
 - Rough Canyon; and
 - Unawep Seep.
-

SSS-PTW-MA-03:

Protect and maintain unique ecological values for the following habitat locations to improve the habitat for unique, sensitive, threatened, and endangered plants and animals (See ACECs section for specific management of ACECs).

- Atwell Gulch ACEC: Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque milkvetch, and Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*);
- Badger Wash ACEC: grand buckwheat, Ferron's milkvetch, cliffdweller's cryptantha, and Gardner's saltbrush/salina wildrye;
- Dolores River Riparian ACEC: peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), bald eagle, Kachina daisy (*Erigeron kachinensis*), Eastwood's monkeyflower, (*Mimulus eastwoodiae*), San Rafael milkvetch, Dolores River skeleton plant, horseshoe milkvetch, Grand Junction milkvetch, and Gypsum catseye (*Oreocarya revealii*);
- Juanita Arch ACEC: Grand Junction milkvetch;
- The Palisade ACEC: peregrine falcon, bald eagle, Dolores River skeleton plant, San Rafael milkvetch, horseshoe milkvetch, Fisher Tower's milkvetch, tufted green gentian, and Osterhout's catseye;
- Pyramid Rock ACEC: Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia, DeBeque milkvetch, Naturita milkvetch, adobe thistle, and aromatic Indian breadroot;

- Rough Canyon ACEC: canyon treefrog, Gunnison Sage-Grouse, Grand Junction milkvetch, and Eastwood’s desert parsley;
- Sinbad Valley ACEC: Gypsum catseye;
- South Shale Ridge ACEC: Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia, Naturita milkvetch, and adobe thistle; and
- Unaweep Seep ACEC: Great Basin silverspot butterfly and giant helleborine.

SSS-PTW-MA-04:

Pursue land tenure adjustments to facilitate the conservation or recovery of special status species. Avoid the disposal of occupied special status species’ habitat.

SSS-PTW-AU-03:

LEASE NOTICE LN-4 *Threatened and Endangered Species*. This lease contains habitat for threatened and endangered species. Prior to undertaking any activity on the lease, including surveying and staking of well locations, the lessee may be required to perform botanical inventories on the lease. Special design and construction measures may also be required in order to minimize impacts on threatened and endangered species habitat from drilling and producing operations. (Refer to Appendix B.)

Special Status Species – *Plants*

SSS-PLT-OBJ-01:

Promote maintenance and recovery of federally listed, proposed, and candidate plant species by protecting occupied habitat. Protect occupied habitat for all BLM sensitive plant species and significant plant communities as defined and tracked by CNHP.

SSS-PNT-MA-01:

Identify the following areas as core conservation populations for special status plant species:

- Atwell Gulch;
- Logan Wash Mine;
- Pyramid Rock ACEC;
- South Shale Ridge;
- Sunnyside; and
- Reeder Mesa.

Manage identified habitat to maintain the population. Management tools include but are not limited to weed treatments, inter-seeding, route closures, fencing, and managing timing and intensity of grazing.

Identify additional areas as populations are identified and species of concern are modified.

Limit new road construction in Reeder Mesa, Sunnyside, Logan Wash Mine, and South Shale Ridge, and designate new roads associated with authorized uses as administrative (e.g., oil and gas and ROWs). Rehab and close roads associated with authorized uses when no longer needed.

SSS-PLT-MA-02:

Monitor special status plant populations to determine trends, impacts, and guide future management, with an emphasis on areas near surface-disturbing activities. Utilize monitoring data to determine and modify NSO stipulations applicable to current and historically occupied habitat of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate plants.

SSS-PLT-MA-03:

Reduce redundancies in routes to minimize habitat fragmentation, and minimize direct impacts to listed plant species habitat, and occupied habitat from motorized and mechanized users of roads, routes and trails. Identify mitigation where open routes are negatively effecting designated critical habitat.

SSS-PLT-MA-04:

Reduce as much as practicable route density (miles/square mile) within 200 meters of known Threatened and Endangered plant occurrences throughout the field office. If occurrences are identified in the future that conflict with route designations, implement reroutes.

SSS-PLT-AU-01:

STIPULATION NSO-12: *ACECs*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities in the following *ACECs* to protect threatened, proposed, candidate, and sensitive plants. (Refer to Appendix B.)

See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.
Alternative B:

- Atwell Gulch (threatened and sensitive plants);
- Badger Wash (sensitive plants);
- Pyramid Rock (threatened and sensitive plants);
- South Shale Ridge (threatened and sensitive plants); and
- UnawEEP Seep (sensitive plants).

Alternative C:

- Atwell Gulch (threatened and sensitive plants);
- Badger Wash (sensitive plants);
- Plateau Creek (fish);

- Pyramid Rock (threatened and sensitive plants);
- South Shale Ridge (threatened and sensitive plants); and
- UnawEEP Seep (sensitive plants).

Alternative D:

- Badger Wash (sensitive plants);
- Pyramid Rock (threatened and sensitive plants); and
- UnawEEP Seep (sensitive plants).

SSS-PLT-AU-02:

STIPULATION NSO-13: *Current and Historically Occupied and Critical Habitat of Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Plant and Animal Species.* Prohibit certain surface uses, as specified in Appendix B, to protect threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate plants and animals from indirect impacts, loss of immediately adjacent suitable habitat, or impacts to primary constituent elements of critical habitat as designated by USFWS. Maintain existing buffer distances where pre-existing disturbance exists, and reduce redundancies in roads to minimize fragmentation, and minimize direct impacts from motorized and mechanized users of roads, routes and trails. In undisturbed environments and ACECs, prohibit new disturbance within 200 meters (656 feet) of current and historically occupied and suitable habitat. This stipulation includes emergency closures of roads where damage to T&E habitat has occurred. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-PLT-AU-03:

STIPULATION PLANT COMMUNITY CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted within occupied habitat that meets BLM's criteria, as established in the Resource Management Plan, for significant and/or relict plant communities. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B. See Figure 2-14.

Special Status Species – Migratory Birds

SSS-MIG-OBJ-01:

Protect breeding habitats of migratory birds with emphasis on avoiding impacts to nesting birds to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

SSS-MIG-MA-01:

Use adaptive management strategies to conserve and avoid impacts to populations of Birds of Conservation Concern, Partners In Flight priority species, and other species of concern.

SSS-MIG-AU-01:

STIPULATION TL-3: Migratory Bird Habitat. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities, including vegetation-removal projects, in migratory bird habitat during nesting season (May 15 to July 15 or as site-specific analysis dictates) when nesting birds are present. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-15 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Special Status Species - Yellow-billed Cuckoo

SSS-YBC-OBJ-01:

Maintain and improve BLM lands for yellow-billed cuckoo habitat as outlined in the species recovery plan (expected to be published by the USFWS in 2015).

SSS-YBC-MA-01:

Where large stands of cottonwoods occur, manage for restoration or improvement of cuckoo habitat and increase canopy cover and mid-story tree and shrub cover. According to the species recovery plan (not yet released).

SSS-YBC-AU-01:

STIPULATION HYDROLOGY RIVER NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within 400 meters (1,312 feet) of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage) or within 100 meters (328 feet) of the 100-year floodplain (whichever area is greatest) on the following major rivers: Colorado, Dolores, and Gunnison. See Figure 2-43. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

According to the species recovery plan (not yet release).

SSS-YBC-AU-02:

STIPULATION NSO-2: Streams/Springs Possessing Lotic Riparian Characteristics. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface disturbing activities with a minimum distance of 100 meters (328 feet) from the edge of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage). Where the riparian corridor width is greater than 100 meters (328 feet) from bank-full, prohibit surface occupancy and surface disturbing activities within the riparian zone. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Special Status Species – Raptors

SSS-RPT-OBJ-01:

Maintain and improve BLM lands for raptor nesting and fledging habitat.

SSS-RPT-MA-01:

Provide healthy and productive habitat for a variety of raptor species by protecting nest sites, and maintaining important raptor nesting habitat including old-growth pinyon-juniper woodlands.

SSS-RPT-AU-01:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE RAPTOR NESTS TL CO: No surface use is allowed within a 402 meter (.25 mile) radius of active raptor nests, as mapped in the Resource Management Plan, BLM's GIS database or other maps provided by local, state, federal or tribal agencies that are analyzed and accepted by the BLM, during the following time period(s), or until fledging and dispersal of young:

- Osprey nests: April 1 to August 31.
- Red-tailed hawk nests, including any alternate nests: February 15 to July 15.
- Swainson's hawk nests and associated alternate nests: April 1 to July 15.
- Burrows or burrowing owl nest sites: March 1 to August 15.
- Great horned owl nests: February 1 to August 15.
- Other owls and raptors: March 1 to August 15.
- Cooper's hawk, sharp shinned hawk, and northern harrier nests: April 1 to August 15.

Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-RPT-AU-02:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE SENSITIVE RAPTOR NESTS TL CO: No surface use is allowed within an 805 meter (0.5 mile) radius of active or inactive raptor nests, as mapped in the Resource Management Plan, BLM's GIS database or other maps provided by local, state, federal or tribal agencies that are analyzed and accepted by the BLM, during the following time period(s), or until fledging and dispersal of young:

- Ferruginous hawk nests, including any alternate nests: February 1 to July 15.
- Goshawk nest sites: March 1 to September 30.
- Peregrine and prairie falcon nest cliff(s): March 15 to July 31.

Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

The following stipulations are taken from the most recent CPW raptor recommendations; stipulations should be updated as species knowledge and raptor recommendations are updated.

SSS-RPT-AU-03:

STIPULATION CSU-13: Osprey Nest Sites. Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions within 0.25-mile of active osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nest sites. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-RPT-AU-04:

STIPULATION CSU-14: *Ferruginous Hawk Nest Sites.* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions within 0.5-mile of active ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) nest sites and associated alternate nests. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-RPT-AU-05:

STIPULATION CSU-15: *Red-tailed Hawk Nest Sites.* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions within 0.33-mile of active red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) nest sites and associated alternate nests. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-RPT-AU-06:

STIPULATION CSU-16: *Swainson's Hawk Nest Sites.* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions within 0.25-mile of active Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) nest sites and associated alternate nests. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-RPT-MA-02:

Due to propensity of peregrine falcons to relocate nest sites, sometimes up to 0.5-mile along cliff faces, it is more appropriate to designate a cliff nesting complex that encompass the cliff system and a 0.5-mile buffer around the cliff nesting complex. Nesting areas have not been designated at this time but may be in the future where high densities of nesting peregrines occur.

SSS-RPT-AU-07:

STIPULATION CSU-17: *Peregrine Falcon Nest Sites.* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions within 0.5-mile of active peregrine falcon nest sites. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-RPT-AU-08:

STIPULATION CSU-18: *Prairie Falcon Nest Sites.* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions within 0.5-mile of active prairie falcon nest sites. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-RPT-AU-09:

STIPULATION CSU-19: *Other Raptor Species (accipiters, falcons [except kestrel], buteos, and owls).* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions within 0.125-mile of an active nest site of all accipiters, falcons (except kestrel), buteos, and owls not listed in other CSU stipulations. Raptors that are listed and protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act are addressed separately. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Special Status Species – *Bald and Golden Eagles*

SSS-EGL-OBJ-01:

Maintain and improve BLM lands for eagle nesting, fledging, foraging and roosting habitat. Protect the bald and golden eagle concentration, nesting, and nest buffer areas by prohibiting activities during certain times of the year consistent with CPW's most recent raptor recommendations.

SSS-EGL-AU-01:

STIPULATION NSO-23: *Golden Eagle Nest Sites.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities (beyond that which historically occurred in the area prior to nest establishment) within 0.25-mile of active golden eagle nest sites and associated alternate nests. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-EGL-AU-02:

STIPULATION TL-13: *Golden Eagle Nest Sites.* Prohibit human encroachment within 0.5-mile of active golden eagle nests and associated alternate nests from December 15 to July 15. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-15 (Alternative B) in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-EGL-AU-03:

STIPULATION NSO-24: *Bald Eagle Nest Sites.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities (beyond that which historically occurred in the area prior to nest establishment) within 0.25-mile of active bald eagle nests. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-EGL-AU-04:

STIPULATION TL-14: *Bald Eagle Nest Sites.* Prohibit human encroachment within 0.5-mile of active bald eagle nests from November 15 to July 31. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-15 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-EGL-AU-05:

STIPULATION TL-15: *Bald Eagle Winter Roost.* Prohibit activity within 0.25-mile of bald eagle winter roosts from November 15 to March 15. Additional restrictions may be necessary within 0.5-mile of active bald eagle winter roosts if there is a direct line of sight from the roost to the activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-15 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Special Status Species – *Waterfowl and Shorebirds*

SSS-WSB-OBJ-01:

Provide healthy and productive habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds.

SSS-WSB-MA-01:

Protect migratory pathways of waterfowl and shorebirds (see major river corridor stipulation).

SSS-WSB-MA-02:

Protect known breeding sites of upland nesting shorebirds, such as the long billed curlew.

Special Status Species – Gunnison and Greater Sage-Grouse

SSS-SGR-OBJ-01:

Advance the conservation of Gunnison and Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitat in accordance with current national, state, and local working group recommendations and policy as well as the most current scientific literature and research.

SSS-SGR-MA-01:

Consistent with current guidance for sagebrush-dependent species, improve areas of poor quality nesting habitat by implementing the following actions, including but not limited to:

- In areas where species diversity is low seed area with grasses and forbs, with an emphasis on forbs if brood-rearing occurs in the area, accompanied by light disking and interseeding, or drill seeding.
 - Where sage is decadent and does not meet habitat objectives, conduct thinning by roller-chopping, light disking, Dixie Harrow, Lawson Aerator or other methods.
 - Conduct vegetation treatments to retain residual cover through fall and winter into nesting season.
-

SSS-SGR-MA-02:

When reseeding roads, primitive roads and trails, use appropriate seed mixes (appropriate for Sage-Grouse ecological conditions) and consider the use of transplanted sagebrush.

SSS-SGR-MA-03:

Reduce routes through currently suitable or potentially suitable Gunnison and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat by reducing routes through sagebrush parks, with an emphasis on routes that bisect sage brush parks.

SSS-SGR-MA-04:

Improve brood-rearing habitats by implementing the following action:

- Restore old ponds or construct new ponds in areas lacking water, while minimizing potential for promoting mosquito breeding habitat at elevations below 8,000 feet.

SSS-SGR-MA-05:

Improve lek areas by mechanically treating historic lek areas where sagebrush density has increased.

SSS-SGR-MA-06:

To reduce disturbance to Gunnison or Greater Sage-Grouse, close duplicative or redundant routes within Sage-Grouse habitat and/or within 4 miles of a lek.

SSS-SGR-MA-07:

Remove/modify raptor perches, in Gunnison and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat (trees, fences, dry-hole markers, and power poles).

SSS-SGR-MA-08:

Monitor measurable objectives and evaluate grazing management to assure that management actions are achieving Sage-Grouse habitat objectives.

SSS-SGR-MA-09:

Design any new structural range improvements to conserve, enhance, or restore Sage-Grouse habitat through an improved grazing management system relative to Sage-Grouse objectives. Structural range improvements, in this context, include but are not limited to: cattleguards, fences, enclosures, corrals or other livestock handling structures; pipelines, troughs, storage tanks (including moveable tanks used in livestock water hauling), windmills, ponds/reservoirs, solar panels and spring developments.

SSS-SGR-MA-10:

To reduce Sage-Grouse strikes and mortality, remove, modify, or mark fences in high risk areas. When fences are necessary, require a Sage-Grouse-safe design.

SSS-SGR-MA-11:

Locate supplements (salt or protein blocks) in a manner designed to conserve, enhance, or restore Sage-Grouse habitat.

SSS-SGR-MA-12:

Offer temporary use on a case-by-case basis in allotments where grazing preference has been relinquished, or non-use warrants to rest other allotments that include important Sage-Grouse habitat.

SSS-SGR-MA-13:

Apply TL-16 (Occupied Sage-Grouse Winter Habitat) or TL-17 (Sage-Grouse Leks) to vegetation management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitats present in a priority area.

SSS-SGR-MA-14:

Monitor after vegetation treatments for success in meeting objectives and monitor and control invasive vegetation after vegetation treatments in Sage-Grouse habitat.

SSS-SGR-MA-15:

Apply post-vegetation treatment management and monitoring to ensure long term persistence of seeded native plants. Outline temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, wild horse and burro, and travel management, etc., to achieve and maintain vegetation management objectives to benefit Sage-Grouse and their habitats.

SSS-SGR-MA-16:

Design vegetation treatments in Sage-Grouse habitats to strategically reduce wildfire threats in the greatest area. This may involve spatially arranging new vegetation treatments with past treatments, vegetation with fire-resistant seral stages, natural barriers, and roads in order to constrain fire spread and growth. This may require vegetation treatments to be implemented in a more linear versus block design.

SSS-SGR-MA-17:

Include Sage-Grouse habitat parameters such as those defined by Connelly et al. (2000), Hagen et al. (2007) or if available, state and federal Sage-Grouse conservation and recovery plans and appropriate local information in habitat restoration objectives. Make maintaining these objectives within priority Sage-Grouse habitat areas a high restoration priority.

SSS-SGR-MA-18:

Choose native plant seeds for vegetation treatments based on availability, adaptation (site potential), probability for success, and the vegetation management objectives for the area covered by the treatment. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, use species that meet soil stability and hydrologic function objectives as well as vegetation and Sage-Grouse habitat objectives.

SSS-SGR-MA-19:

Manage the following areas to benefit Sage-Grouse habitat:

- Wildlife Emphasis Areas:
 - Glade Park
 - Sunnyside and
 - Timber Ridge.
 - ACECs:
 - Roan and Carr Creek
-

SSS-SGR-AU-01:

Identify the following as ROW exclusion areas:

- Within a 0.6-mile radius of Sage-Grouse leks.
-

SSS-SGR-AU-02:

Allowable use (SSS-SG-AU2):

Identify the following as ROW avoidance areas:

- Sage-Grouse occupied habitat and
 - Within a 4-mile radius of Sage-Grouse leks.
-

SSS-SGR-AU-03:

No Leasing: *Sage-Grouse*. Close all occupied Gunnison Sage-Grouse critical habitat (currently 65,000 acres) and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat within one mile of an active lek to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12 in Appendix A.

SSS-SGR-AU-04:

No Leasing: *Split-estate*. Manage 16,500 acres of Private and State surface/federal fluid mineral estate in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat within one mile of an active lek and Gunnison Sage-Grouse critical habitat as closed to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12 in Appendix A.

SSS-SGR-AU-05:

STIPULATION TL-16: *Occupied Sage-Grouse Winter Habitat*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities in occupied Sage-Grouse winter habitat from December 16 to March 15. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-15 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-SGR-AU-06:

STIPULATION NSO-25: *Sage-Grouse Leks, Nesting, and Early Brood-rearing Habitat*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within 4 miles of an active lek or within Sage-Grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-SGR-AU-07:

STIPULATION TL-17: *Sage-Grouse Leks*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within 4 miles of Sage-Grouse leks from March 1 to June 30. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-15 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Special Status Species – Reptiles and Amphibians

SSS-R&A-OBJ-01:

Maintain and improve BLM lands for priority reptile and amphibian habitat.

SSS-R&A-MA-01:

Identify important areas for key species such as canyon tree frog, great basin spadefoot (*Spea intermontana*), northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*), boreal toad (*Anaxyrus boreas boreas*), long-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*), and midget faded rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus concolor*). Protect habitat by avoiding impacts during critical seasons and maintain integrity and species accessibility of these areas.

SSS-R&A-AU-01:

STIPULATION NSO-26: *Canyon Treefrog, Midget Faded Rattlesnake, Northern Leopard Frog, Great Basin Spadefoot, Long-nosed Leopard Lizard, Boreal Toad.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within all identified canyon treefrog, northern leopard frog, midget faded rattlesnake, Great Basin spadefoot, long-nosed leopard lizard, and boreal toad breeding and denning sites. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Special Status Species - *Bats*

SSS-BAT-OBJ-01:

Maintain and improve BLM lands for bat roosting, maternity sites and winter hibernacula.

SSS-BAT-MA-01:

Identify and protect important areas for bat roosting (including maternity roosts) and hibernacula, such as the Pup Tent Mine, and take appropriate action to protect resources as identified, such as recreational closures, mineral withdrawals, and mine closures with bat gates.

SSS-BAT-AU-01:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE BAT NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within a 402 meter (0.25 mile) radius of the entrance of maternity roosts or hibernacula of BLM sensitive bat species, as mapped in the Resource Management Plan, BLM's GIS database or other maps provided by local, state, federal or tribal agencies that are analyzed and accepted by the BLM. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

SSS-BAT-MA-02:

Where bat roosting, maternity sites and winter hibernacula occur, bat gates will be required for closing abandon mine lands.

SSS-BAT-MA-03:

To reduce potential for vandalism of bat gates and associated disturbance to bats, minimize motorized access to gated sites.

Special Status Species – River Otters

SSS-RVO-OBJ-01:

*Maintain and improve BLM lands for river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) habitat.*

SSS-RVO-MA-01:

Within occupied river otter habitat, protect potential den sites such as hollow trunks of large trees, beaver dens, hollow logs, log jams, or drift piles.

Special Status Species – Canada Lynx

SSS-LNX-OBJ-01:

Maintain and improve BLM-managed portions of Lynx Analysis Units for Lynx habitat.

SSS-LNX-MA-01:

Within lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) habitat in Lynx Analysis Units:

- Manage timber harvest consistent with the August 2013 Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy and
- Limit the expansion of consistent snow compaction unless it serves to consolidate use and improve lynx habitat.

Special Status Species – Kit Fox

SSS-KIT-OBJ-01:

Maintain and improve BLM lands for kit fox habitat.

SSS-KIT-AU-01:

STIPULATION CSU-22: *Kit Fox Dens.* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions to, and require mitigation and minimization measures (as determined by the BLM biologist) of, surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within 200 meters (656 feet) of active kit fox dens. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Special Status Species – White-tailed Prairie Dog

SSS-WTP-OBJ-01:

Maintain or improve white-tailed prairie dog habitat and distribution (Figure 2-73, Appendix A).

SSS-WTP-AU-01:

STIPULATION CSU-23: *Occupied Prairie Dog Towns.* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions to surface-disturbing activities within white-tailed prairie dog towns. Locate permanent above ground structures outside of prairie dog towns. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Except for Prairie Canyon Wildlife Emphasis Area, apply NSO-30 (*Occupied Prairie Dog Towns (no buffer)*).

SSS-WTP-MA-01:

Allow prairie dog relocation activities in existing, occupied, or historic prairie dog complexes where consistent with other management and ecosystem objectives, in areas where plague is not a concern, and in coordination with CPW and Mesa County.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

F&W-GOAL-01:

Minimize the spread of invasive fish and wildlife species and fish and wildlife diseases where management for these species does not conflict with management of special status fish as discussed above.

F&W-OBJ-01:

Reduce or eliminate invasive species and focus on maintaining healthy and productive habitat or improving habitat for native species.

F&W-MA-01:

To prevent the spread of whirling disease, New Zealand mud snails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*), zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), quagga mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*), and other nuisance aquatic organisms, treat all equipment associated with actions permitted by the BLM, included but not limited to SRPs, to be conducted within or near perennial water sources equipment previously used in water bodies with known invasive species, with accepted disinfection practices prior to construction/launch. Firefighting and other emergency equipment will follow appropriate policy as noted in relevant chapters of the current Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book) (US DOI and US Forest Service).

F&W-MA-02:

Caves and other structures utilized by bats may be closed to public access in the event of a White Nose Syndrome outbreak or other transmittable diseases that threaten bats, as needed to avoid the risk of humans transmitting the disease.

F&W-MA-03:

Remove aquatic competitors (such as bullfrogs) from active native aquatic breeding grounds.

F&W-MA-04:

Support USFWS and CPW efforts to remove predatory nonnative fishes (such as smallmouth bass, Largemouth bass, and northern pike) from critical habitat for listed and non-listed native fishes of the Colorado/Gunnison Rivers.

Fisheries and Aquatic Wildlife

F&W-FAW-GOAL-01:

Provide for aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats for abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife with self-sustaining populations.

F&W-FAW-OBJ-01:

Maintain and improve BLM lands for priority habitat requirements for highly valued species such as, but not limited to, coldwater sport fishes, including rainbow, brown, and brook trout where management for these species does not conflict with management of special status fish as discussed above.

F&W-FAW-MA-01:

Identify and manage the following as priority habitats: perennial water sources, riparian areas, intermittent streams and ponds, and ephemeral/seasonal waters.

F&W-FAW-AU-01:

STIPULATION TL-1: *Salmonid and Native, Non-Salmonid Fishes.* Prohibit in-channel stream work in all occupied streams during fish spawning, egg incubation, and fry emerging seasons. Fish spawning, egg incubation, and fry emerging seasons vary by elevation and temperatures; however the following intervals generally apply in Colorado:

- Cutthroat trout (various subspecies): May 1-September 1
- Rainbow trout: March 1-June 15
- Brown trout: October 1-May 1
- Brook trout: August 15-May 1
- Sculpin: May 1-July 31
- Bluehead sucker: May 1-July 15
- Flannelmouth sucker: April 1-July 1
- Roundtail chub: May 15-July 15
- Speckled dace: May 1-August 31
- Mountain whitefish: October 1-November 30

Exception Criteria: This stipulation only applies to construction and drilling and does not apply to operations and maintenance. If competing species are involved, the BLM may select to implement species-specific dates for native fish versus nonnative species.

Specific exceptions apply; see Appendix B. See Figures 2-15 in Appendix A.

F&W-FAW-AU-02:

STIPULATION HYDROLOGY RIVER NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within 400 meters (1312 feet) of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage) or within 100 meters (328 feet) of the 100-year floodplain (whichever area is greatest) on the following major rivers: Colorado, Dolores, and Gunnison. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B. See Figure 2-13.

F&W-FAW-AU-03:

STIPULATION NSO-2: *Streams/Springs Possessing Lotic Riparian Characteristics.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface disturbing activities with a

minimum distance of 100 meters (328 feet) from the edge of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage). Where the riparian corridor width is greater than 100 meters (328 feet) from bank-full, prohibit surface occupancy and surface disturbing activities within the riparian zone. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Terrestrial Wildlife

F&W-TRW-GOAL-01:

Provide for aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats for abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife with self-sustaining populations.

F&W-TRW-OBJ-01:

Maintain and improve BLM lands for priority habitat requirements for the following high-value species:

- *Critical and severe winter range, winter concentration areas, intact security areas, production areas, and big game migrations corridors for big game species (e.g., mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), elk (*Cervus canadensis*), antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), moose (*Alces alces*); and*
- *Proper functioning condition riparian and wetland habitat for all species (see Vegetation—Riparian section).*

Habitat standards and desired wildlife populations levels are determined by CPW and USFWS species-specific plans and strategies in order to meet BLM Colorado's Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 1997a).

F&W-TRW-MA-01:

Actively manage the following areas, placing management emphasis on conserving, restoring, maintaining or enhancing intact and unfragmented habitats that provide security and escape habitat for the key species shown:

- Atwell Gulch ACEC: mule deer and rocky mountain bighorn sheep;
- Dolores River Riparian ACEC: riparian obligate bird species;
- Indian Creek ACEC: deer and elk;
- The Palisade ACEC: riparian obligate birds and mule deer;
- Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC: cutthroat trout and Greater Sage-Grouse;
- Rough Canyon ACEC: Gunnison Sage-Grouse;
- Sinbad Valley ACEC: mule deer and elk;
- Beehive Wildlife Emphasis Area: mule deer and elk;
- Blue Mesa Wildlife Emphasis Area: mule deer and elk;

- Bull Hill Wildlife Emphasis Area: mule deer and elk;
 - East Salt Creek Wildlife Emphasis Area: mule deer and elk;
 - Glade Park Wildlife Emphasis Area: Gunnison Sage-Grouse, mule deer, and elk;
 - Prairie Canyon Wildlife Emphasis Area: long billed curlew, long eared owl, pronghorn antelope, white-tailed prairie dog, kit fox, and burrowing owl;
 - Rapid Creek Wildlife Emphasis Area: mule deer and elk;
 - Winter Flats Wildlife Emphasis Area: deer and elk;
 - Sunnyside Wildlife Emphasis Area: mule deer, elk, and Greater Sage-Grouse; and
 - Timber Ridge Wildlife Emphasis Area: mule deer, elk, and Gunnison Sage-Grouse.
-

F&W-TRW-AU-01:

LEASE NOTICE LN-3: *Biological Inventories.* The operator is required to conduct a biological inventory prior to approval of 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, Sage-Grouse leks, or significant natural plant communities. The operator, in coordination with the BLM, shall use the inventory to prepare mitigating measures to reduce the impacts on affected species or their habitats. These mitigating measures may include, but are not limited to, relocation of roads and other facilities and fencing operations or habitat. Where impacts cannot be mitigated to the satisfaction of the BLM's Authorized Officer, surface occupancy on that area is prohibited. (Refer to Appendix B.)

F&W-TRW-AU-02:

STIPULATION CSU-10: *Wildlife Habitat.* Require proponents of surface-disturbing activities to implement specific measures to minimize and mitigate impacts of operations on wildlife and wildlife habitat within high-value or essential wildlife habitat. Measures will be determined through biological surveys, onsite inspections, effects of previous actions in the area, and BMPs (Appendix H). (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

F&W-TRW-AU-03:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted within the following wildlife emphasis or priority areas, as identified in the Resource Management Plan:

- Beehive (habitat for mule deer and elk) (4,700 acres);
- A portion of East Salt Creek (habitat for mule deer and elk) (20,500 acres);
- Glade Park (habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse, mule deer, and elk) (27,200 acres);

- A portion of Prairie Canyon (long billed curlew, long eared owl, pronghorn antelope, white-tailed prairie dog, kit fox, and burrowing owl habitat) (16,500 acres);
- A portion of Rapid Creek (wintering and migratory habitat for mule deer and elk) (26,900 acres); and
- Winter Flats (deer and elk wintering grounds) (3,500 acres).

Special design, construction and implementation measures, including relocation of operations by more than 200 meters (656 feet), may be required. A plan of development may be required to demonstrate how potential adverse impacts to wildlife habitat will be mitigated.

F&W-TRW-AU-04:

STIPULATION LN-5: *Working in Wildlife Habitat.* Require operators to establish and submit to the GJFO a set of operating procedures for employees and contractors working in important wildlife habitats. Design such procedures to inform employees and contractors of ways to minimize the effect of their presence on wildlife and wildlife habitats. Procedures may address items such as working in bear or snake country, controlling dogs, not feeding wildlife, and understanding and abiding by hunting and firearms regulations. (Refer to Appendix B.)

F&W-TRW-OBJ-02:

Maintain the integrity of ongoing biological research locations.

F&W-TRW-MA-02:

Manage the Ant Research Site as a ROW exclusion area.

F&W-TRW-MA-03:

To preserve the integrity of the ant research site (120 acres) designate the area as closed to motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-TRW-MA-04:

Manage the Owl Banding Station as a ROW avoidance area.

F&W-TRW-AU-05:

STIPULATION NSO-32: *Research Sites.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities in approved research sites including, but not limited to, the Ant Research Area (16 Road) and the Owl Banding Station (south of DeBeque). (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Big Game Species (deer, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep)

F&W-BGS-OBJ-1:

Provide sufficient forage, cover, and protection from disturbance for large ungulates (deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and moose) to maintain healthy viable populations across the landscape commensurate with BLM Colorado's Standards for Public Land Health (BLM 1997a).

F&W-BGS-MA-01:

Deer and elk habitat will be managed to meet BLM Colorado's Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

F&W-BGS-MA-02:

Use COAs listed in Appendix B and standard operating procedures and BMPs listed in Appendix H in designing wildlife projects.

F&W-BGS-AU-01:

Implement the following seasonal travel limitations for motorized and mechanized travel from December 1 to May 1 in the following areas:

- Beehive;
- Blue Mesa;
- Chalk Mountain;
- Coal Canyon;
- Demaree Canyon outside of the WSA;
- Garvey Canyon;
- Grand Mesa Slopes;
- Howard Canyon Flats;
- Indian Point; and
- Post/Lapham Canyons.

Seasonal limitations may be extended to include mechanized use in areas where monitoring indicates mechanized use is causing excessive disturbance to wildlife.

Seasonal limitation periods may be reduced based on coordination with CPW (e.g., mild winters, late hunting seasons, etc.).

F&W-BGS-AU-02:

STIPULATION NSO-12: *ACECs*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

- Atwell Gulch;
- Indian Creek;
- The Palisade;
- Rough Canyon;
- Sinbad Valley; and

- South Shale Ridge.

F&W-BGS-AU-03:

STIPULATION TL-20: *Big Game Winter Range.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities from December 1 to May 1 to protect big game winter range as mapped by the CPW. Certain areas and/or routes within big game winter range may be closed to foot, horse, motorized, and/or mechanized travel from December 1 to May 1. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-15 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

F&W-BGS-OBJ-02:

Protect state wildlife areas from surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities to protect the values for which they were established.

F&W-BGS-AU-04:

STIPULATION RECREATION PARKS NSO CO: Prohibit surface occupancy and use within the boundaries of the following county parks, state parks, state wildlife areas, federal wildlife refuges, and/or National Park Service units:

- Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area (1,400 acres)
- Jerry Creek Reservoir State Wildlife Area (870 acres)
- Plateau Creek State Wildlife Area (1,400 acres)
- Highline State Park (350 acres)
- Vega State Park (2,000 acres)

See Figure 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

F&W-BGS-OBJ-03:

Minimize habitat fragmentation and restore habitat connectivity on big game winter ranges, winter concentration areas, severe winter ranges, and movement corridors.

F&W-BGS-MA-03:

Reduce habitat fragmentation by reducing road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas and winter ranges, (bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and moose) to provide protection of big game production areas from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods. Strive to reduce route densities to less than 2 miles of route per square mile in these areas.

F&W-BGS-AU-05:

STIPULATION CSU-24: *Deer and Elk Migration and Movement Corridors.* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions to surface-disturbing activities within migration and movement corridors for deer and elk. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

F&W-BGS-MA-04:

Prohibit domestic sheep grazing on allotments within occupied bighorn sheep habitat.

F&W-BGS-MA-05:

Allow for permitting of domestic sheep grazing on allotments outside of occupied bighorn sheep habitat on a case-by-case basis per the following criteria:

- 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);
 - Current bighorn sheep management plan direction;
 - The need to protect potential habitat;
 - Local and national research results;
 - Risk assessments from wildlife agencies or BLM;
 - Timing of domestic sheep grazing; or
 - Monitoring results indicating conflicts.
-

F&W-BGS-AU-06:

STIPULATION NSO-34: *Elk Production Area.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities in elk production areas year-round. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

F&W-BGS-AU-07:

STIPULATION BIG GAME PRODUCTION AREAS TL CO. No surface use is allowed during the following time period(s) in big game production areas, as mapped in the Resource Management Plan, BLM’s GIS database or other maps provided by local, state, federal or tribal agencies that are analyzed and accepted by the BLM: Prohibit activities, including motorized travel, elk production areas from May 15 to June 15; in antelope production areas from April 15 to June 30; in Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production areas from April 15 to June 30; in Moose production areas from April 15 to June 30; and in desert bighorn sheep production areas from February 1 to May 1. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Pronghorn Antelope

F&W-PHA-OBJ-1:

Improve pronghorn antelope habitat on BLM lands.

F&W-PHA-MA-01:

Prioritize habitat improvement projects to increase habitat quality in pronghorn antelope range, including projects that improve fawning cover, reduce cheatgrass,

increase in native forage including warm season grasses, and improve water availability.

F&W-PHA-MA-02:

Within pronghorn range, minimize the number of fences, construct fences to accommodate passage by pronghorn, and replace existing fence that do not accommodate pronghorn passage.

F&W-PHA-AU-01:

STIPULATION TL-22: *Pronghorn Wintering Habitat.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities in pronghorn wintering habitat from January 1 to March 31. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-15 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Wildlife Emphasis Areas

An emphasis area is an area of high wildlife value and significance for wildlife species including but not limited to Sage-Grouse, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, prairie dog, and kit fox. Fire rehabilitation efforts and vegetation treatments to improve land health and/or wildlife habitat are not considered ground disturbance, as described in the actions under each emphasis area below. Wildlife emphasis areas are not designations, but rather polygons where more management emphasis is placed on protection and enhancement of the wildlife resource.

F&W-WEA-OBJ-01:

Emphasis areas meet BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado (BLM 1997a). Prioritize those areas that do not meet land health standards as management action areas where actions are taken to work toward meeting land health standards.

F&W-WEA-MA-01:

In wildlife emphasis areas not managed as ROW exclusion or avoidance areas, apply BMPs to consolidate ROWs in existing disturbance and to avoid fragmentation of unfragmented habitat.

F&W-WEA-MA-02:

Consolidate surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within existing disturbance to avoid fragmentation.

F&W-WEA-MA-03:

Reduce habitat fragmentation by reducing road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in wildlife emphasis areas. Route density of less than 0.5 miles of road per square mile preferred, where this cannot be achieved implement winter closures if feasible to seasonally limit route related disturbance in the most critical months.

F&W-WEA-MA-04:

Give priority to wildlife emphasis areas in carrying out actions to improve land health.

F&W-WEA-MA-05:

Focus management in emphasis areas on wildlife. Adopt additional management actions deemed necessary by the BLM (such as closing additional roads to maintain effective habitat patch size).

Beehive Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-02:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in the Beehive wildlife emphasis area (4,700 acres) with an emphasis on wintering and migratory habitat for mule deer and elk (Figure 2-1, Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-06:

Maintain the winter closure gate and enforce closure from December 1 to May 1 annually.

F&W-WEA-AU-01:

Implement seasonal travel limitations for motorized and mechanized travel from December 1 to May 1. Seasonal limitation periods may be adjusted based on coordination with CPW (e.g., mild winters, late hunting seasons, etc.).

F&W-WEA-MA-07:

Classify as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-WEA-AU-02:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted within the wildlife emphasis area. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-47 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Blue Mesa Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-03:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in the Blue Mesa wildlife emphasis area (9,300 acres) with an emphasis on wintering habitat for mule deer and elk (Figure 2-1, Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-08:

Maintain the winter closure gate and enforce closure from December 1 to May 1 annually.

F&W-WEA-AU-03:

Implement seasonal travel limitations for motorized and mechanized travel from December 1 to May 1. Seasonal limitation periods may be adjusted based on coordination with CPW (e.g., mild winters, late hunting seasons, etc.).

F&W-WEA-MA-09:

Classify as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-WEA-AU-04:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Bull Hill Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-04:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in the Bull Hill wildlife emphasis area (4,800 acres) with an emphasis on wintering habitat for mule deer and elk (Figure 2-1, Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-10:

Classify as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-WEA-AU-05:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

East Salt Creek Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-05:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in the East Salt Creek wildlife emphasis area (25,000 acres with an emphasis on wintering habitat for mule deer and elk (Figure 2-1 Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-11:

Maintain existing closure gates and enforce closure from December 1 to May 1 annually.

F&W-WEA-AU-06:

Implement seasonal travel limitations for motorized and mechanized travel from December 1 to May 1. Seasonal limitation periods may be adjusted based on coordination with CPW (e.g., mild winters, late hunting seasons, etc.).

F&W-WEA-MA-12:

Classify as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-WEA-MA-13:

Manage the area east of the Demaree Canyon WSA (4,100 acres) as a ROW exclusion area to maintain the existing unfragmented habitat.

F&W-WEA-MA-14:

Designate the area between the Demaree Canyon WSA and Highway 139 as closed to motorized vehicles to maintain the existing unfragmented habitat.

F&W-WEA-AU-07:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within a portion (4,500 acres) of the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

F&W-WEA-AU-08:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted within a portion (20,500 acres) of the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Glade Park Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-06:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in the Glade Park wildlife emphasis area (27,200 acres) with an emphasis on Gunnison Sage-Grouse, mule deer, and elk habitat (Figure 2-1, Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-15:

Classify as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-WEA-AU-09:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted within the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Prairie Canyon Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-07:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in the Prairie Canyon wildlife emphasis area (22,200 acres) with an emphasis on long billed curlew, long eared owl, pronghorn antelope, white-tailed prairie dog, kit fox, Scott's oriole, gray vireo, and burrowing owl habitat (Figure 2-1, Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-16:

Classify as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-WEA-MA-17:

Manage the pronghorn antelope migratory corridor as a ROW avoidance area for above-ground facilities (including renewable energy sites such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass development).

F&W-WEA-AU-10:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within a portion (5,600 acres) of the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

F&W-WEA-AU-11:

STIPULATION NSO-30: *Occupied Prairie Dog Towns (no buffer).* Prohibit surface occupancy and use and surface-disturbing activities (beyond that which historically occurred in the area) within active white-tailed prairie dog towns. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

F&W-WEA-MA-18:

Within the area designated for pronghorn migration, seek to avoid additional disturbance and apply WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO (Alternative B) or CSU-25 (Wildlife Emphasis Areas; Alternative C) to avoid consolidate disturbance and minimize potential impacts to migrating pronghorn.

F&W-WEA-AU-12:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted within a portion (16,500 acres) of the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Rapid Creek Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-08:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in the Rapid Creek wildlife emphasis area (27,000 acres) with an emphasis on wintering and migratory habitat for mule deer and elk (Figure 2-1], Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-19:

Install and maintain winter closure gates for a portion of the area (23,500 acres).

F&W-WEA-AU-13:

Implement seasonal travel limitations for motorized and mechanized travel in a portion of the area (23,500 acres) from December 1 to May 1 Seasonal limitation

periods may be adjusted based on coordination with CPW (e.g., mild winters, late hunting seasons, etc.).

F&W-WEA-MA-20:

Manage a portion of the area (25,200 acres) as *limited* to designated routes for motorized and mechanized travel (including 23,500 acres with a winter seasonal limitation).

F&W-WEA-MA-21:

Manage a portion of the area (1,700 acres) as *closed* to motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-WEA-MA-22:

Areas within big game winter range may be closed to foot, horse, motorized, and/or mechanized travel from December 1 to May 1.

F&W-WEA-MA-23:

Manage the portion of the wildlife emphasis area that is currently undisturbed as a ROW avoidance area (including renewable energy sites such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass development). See Figure 2-9 (Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-24:

Seek to avoid disturbance and apply WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO to avoid fragmenting the roadless area in the currently roadless, undisturbed section of the emphasis area that is ROW avoidance.

F&W-WEA-AU-14:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted within the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Winter Flats Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-09:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat quality and quantity in the Winter Flats wildlife emphasis area (3,200 acres) with an emphasis on deer and elk wintering grounds (Figure 2-1, Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-25:

Classify as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-WEA-AU-15:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO: Surface occupancy or use may be restricted within the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Sunnyside Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-10:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in the Sunnyside wildlife emphasis area (14,500 acres) with an emphasis on bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, and Greater Sage-Grouse (Figure 2-1, Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-26:

Classify as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.

F&W-WEA-MA-27:

Manage the portions of the wildlife emphasis area that are not contained in the West-wide Energy Corridor as a ROW avoidance area for above-ground facilities (including renewable energy sites such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass development).

F&W-WEA-AU-16:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Timber Ridge Wildlife Emphasis Area

F&W-WEA-OBJ-11:

Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in the Timber Ridge wildlife emphasis area (11,800 acres) with an emphasis on habitat for mule deer, elk, and Sage-Grouse (Figure 2-1, Appendix A).

F&W-WEA-MA-28:

Close to motorized and mechanized travel. Allow for non-motorized game retrieval carts.

F&W-WEA-AU-17:

Manage the wildlife emphasis area as a ROW avoidance area, except along 9.8 Road.

F&W-WEA-AU-18:

STIPULATION WILDLIFE HABITAT NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within the wildlife emphasis area. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WILD HORSES

WHS-GOAL-01:

Manage the administratively designated Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range (LBCWHR) to sustain a healthy viable wild horse population while maintaining a thriving natural ecological balance of resources and uses. (Figure 2-4, Appendix A).

WHS-OBJ-01:

Emphasize protection of wild horses in the LBCWHR and minimize impacts to their population and habitat.

WHS-MA-01:

Continue to prohibit livestock grazing within the LBCWHR.

WHS-MA-02:

While maintaining access for administration and public viewing, reduce the number of duplicative and redundant routes in the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse herd area.

WHS-OBJ-02:

Emphasize management of wild horses in the LBCWHR.

WHS-MA-03:

Manage the LBCWHR (35,200 acres) at an appropriate management level (AML), currently identified as a range of 90 to 150 wild horses. The appropriate management level is a dynamic number that will be adjusted as range conditions warrant and in accordance with BLM policy.

WHS-MA-04:

Utilize periodic removals and/or fertility control to maintain the appropriate management level.

WHS-MA-05:

Monitor and maintain genetic diversity within the LBCWHR by implementing the following actions, including but not limited to:

- Based on genetic analysis, periodically introduce wild horses from other wild horse areas into the LBCWHR and
 - Periodically conduct a genetic analysis for the wild horse population.
-

WHS-OBJ-03:

Manage vegetative communities within the LBCWHR to maintain a forage base to support the established appropriate management level.

WHS-MA-06:

Utilize prescribed or wildfire and mechanized, biological, and chemical treatments to maintain the vegetative types in a state advantageous to wild horse use while meeting land health standards.

WHS-OBJ-04:

Protect wild horses in the LBCWHR by limiting activities which disturb or harass wild horses during critical time periods.

WHS-MA-07:

Prohibit target shooting in the Coal Canyon and Main Canyon areas.

WHS-MA-08:

Close the LBCWHR to motorized over-snow travel.

WHS-AU-01:

Close Coal Canyon to motorized and mechanized travel from December 1 to May 1.

WHS-MA-09:

Maintain and construct range improvements to ensure that the horses are confined to the LBCWHR and have adequate water and forage.

WHS-AU-02:

STIPULATION NSO-36: *Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities in the LBCWHR. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A.

Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WHS-AU-03:

Manage the LBCWHR as a ROW avoidance area outside of the Little Book Cliffs WSA.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

CUL-GOAL-01:

Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources in order to ensure they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (i.e., for research, education, and preservation of cultural heritage).

CUL-OBJ-01:

Allocate all cultural resources currently recorded, or projected to occur on the basis of existing data synthesis, to use allocations according to their nature and relative preservation value (BLM Manual Section 8110.42 and Planning Handbook H-1601-1 [Appendix C]). Cultural Use Allocations include:

| Use Category Allocation | Management Action | Desired Outcome |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| a. Scientific Use | Permit appropriate research including data recovery | Preserved until research or data recovery potential is realized |
| b. Conservation for Future Use | Propose protective measures/designation | Preserve until conditions for use are met |
| c. Traditional Use | Consult with tribes, determine limitations | Long-term preservation |
| d. Public Use | Determine permitted use | Long-term preservation, on-site interpretation |
| e. Experimental Use | Determine nature of experiment | Protected until used |
| f. Discharge from Management | Remove protective measures | No use after recordation; not preserved |

CUL-MA-01:

Allocate all cultural resources currently recorded in Appendix I to category use allocations.

CUL-MA-02:

Assign use category allocations to discovered cultural resource sites and/or areas and apply appropriate management actions to achieve the desired outcome.

CUL-MA-03:

Use category allocations may be revised in response to changing site conditions or as additional data and information are obtained. Criteria allowing for revising allocation includes: 1) environmental change or human caused impacts that alter the significance or scientific potential; 2) through changes brought about by mitigation and/or data recovery; 3) new discovery that adds to the sites potential and changes its eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places; 4) new information or techniques that reveal a new scientific value that was not previously recognized; and 5) new information shared through Native American consultation.

CUL-OBJ-02:

Assign existing cultural resource sites and/or areas to (a) the Scientific Use category. These cultural resources generally meet National Register of Historic Places criterion D; they will yield significant archaeological information about prehistory and history. These cultural resources are available for permitted research and study (Appendix I).

CUL-AU-01:

STIPULATION CSU-27: *Allocation to Scientific Use Category.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities, except archaeological documentation and excavation, within 100 meters (328 feet) around eligible or potentially eligible sites allocated to Scientific Use. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

CUL-MA-04:

Prioritize Scientific Use sites and/or areas for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and develop a cultural resource management plan for Scientific Use sites that outlines specific management objectives and actions for protection.

CUL-OBJ-03:

Assign existing cultural resource sites and/or areas to (b) the Conservation for Future Use category. These cultural resources generally meet any of the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. They are set aside for long-term preservation because of their national and regional significance to prehistory and history (Appendix I).

CUL-AU-02:

STIPULATION NSO-37: *Allocation to Conservation Use Category.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities, including archaeological excavation, within 100 meters (328 feet) around eligible sites allocated to Conservation Use. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

CUL-MA-05:

Prioritize Conservation Use sites for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and within two years from the listing, develop a cultural resource management plan for Conservation Use sites that will outline specific management objectives and actions for protection.

CUL-OBJ-04:

Assign existing cultural resource sites and/or areas to (c) the Traditional Use category. These cultural resources generally meet any of the significance criteria of the National Register of Historic Places and are identified as traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, or areas identified as important to the Tribes in consultation. They are set aside for long-term preservation because of their cultural and religious value to Native American Tribes (Appendix I).

CUL-AU-03:

STIPULATION NSO-38: *Allocation to Traditional Use Category.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within 200 meters (656 feet) around eligible or potentially eligible sites allocated to Traditional Use. In addition, consider visual impacts that projects may have on sites allocated to this use, and apply appropriate mitigation, which may include redesign. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

CUL-OBJ-05:

Assign existing cultural resource sites and/or areas to (d) the Public Use Category. Public Use sites are set aside for their educational and interpretive value to the public. These cultural resources may meet any of the significance criteria of the National Register of Historic Places, or they may not be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places but hold a local or regionally recognized visual value (e.g., historic cabins, railroad grades, roads and trails, mine ruins and mine workings) (Appendix I).

CUL-AU-04:

STIPULATION CSU-28: *Allocation to Public Use Category.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within 100 meters (328 feet) around sites allocated to Public Use. In addition, consider factors such as integrity of setting, recreation opportunity, or visual impacts that projects may have on sites allocated to this use. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-14 Appendix A.

CUL-MA-06:

Allocate historical sites on the uranium mesas (e.g., Tenderfoot, Calamity, Outlaw, Blue Mesa, Hubbard, and Dolores Point); Rough Canyon sites for environmental heritage education; historical buildings that may be suitable for adaptive use, historical roads and trails (e.g., Old Spanish National Historic Trail, Tabeguache Trail, Old Mill Road); and select rock art sites (e.g., Site 5ME4947 on the slopes of the Grand Mesa) to Public Use.

CUL-OBJ-06:

Promote public awareness and education.

CUL-MA-07:

Prioritize Public Use sites and as demand for use of these sites for heritage tourism or other public uses is proposed develop cultural resource management plans (CRMP) that develop site specific management actions for those Public Use sites. CRMPs include outlines for specific management objectives and actions for Heritage Tourism including retrieval of scientific information, hardening for public use, interpretation and long-term protection strategies.

CUL-MA-08:

Manage, protect, and use cultural resources allocated to Public Use, including traditional cultural properties or areas identified as important to the tribes with a secondary allocation to Public Use by implementing the following actions, including but not limited to:

- Developing heritage tourism at sites designated to Public Use using BMPs;
- Interpreting sites; and
- Organizing and conducting ongoing educational programs for tribal groups, the public, school groups, vocational archaeology groups, project proponents, permittees, contractors, and others about cultural resource ethics, and encouraging their assistance in reporting new discoveries and vandalism incidents.

CUL-OBJ-07:

Assign existing cultural resource sites and/or areas to (e) the Experimental Use category. These cultural resources may meet criterion D of the National Register of Historic Places but will not have a primary allocation to the Conservation, Traditional or Public Use categories. They are set aside for studying such problems as natural or human caused deterioration and may be damaged or destroyed in the process of experimentation or mitigation (scientific excavation of inadvertent discovery).

CUL-MA-09:

Prioritize the Experimental use sites focusing on sites allocated to this use in the Sunnyside, Grand Mesa Slopes, and Indian Creek areas. As permitted activities are authorized that may affect these sites develop cultural resource management plans for allowable use on all Experimental Use sites in the Sunnyside, Grand Mesa Slopes, and Indian Creek areas to outline research objectives and identify experimental parameters.

CUL-AU-05:

STIPULATION CSU-29: Sub-surface Inventory. Require sub-surface inventory for deep sub-surface-disturbing activities and buried ROW in the following locations and in additional areas where high potential for subsurface resources may be identified in the future. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

- Indian Creek (20,200 acres);
 - Grand Mesa Slopes (16,000 acres); and
 - Sunnyside (17,300 acres).
-

CUL-OBJ-08:

Assign existing cultural resource sites assigned to (f) the Discharged from Management category. These cultural resources generally are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and are not assigned to other use allocations. They are not protected from other resource uses.

CUL-MA-10:

On an annual basis develop a list of sites to allocate to the Discharge Use category, reevaluate as needed and compile supporting documentation, and submit for consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

CUL-OBJ-09:

Manage areas with scientifically and publicly valuable archaeological and cultural resources through documentation and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and completion of Cultural Resource Management Plans.

CUL-MA-11:

Develop a cultural resource management plan to guide research and long term protection of two cultural properties associated with the Indian Creek Area:

- West Area (730 acres) and
 - East Area (1,700 acres).
-

CUL-AU-06:

STIPULATION NSO-39: *Indian Creek.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities in the following areas to protect cultural resources. See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

- West Indian Creek (520 acres) and
 - East Indian Creek (1,200 acres).
-

CUL-GOAL-02:

Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses (FLPMA Sec. 103(c), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) 106, 110 (a) (2)) by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use will comply with the NHPA Section 106.

CUL-OBJ-10:

Allocate all cultural resources recorded to use allocations according to their nature and relative preservation value (BLM Manual Section 8110.42 and Planning Handbook H-1601-1 [Appendix C]) as part of the evaluation and determination of eligibility process.

CUL-MA-12:

Manage the integrity of cultural resources that are not included in sensitive site areas and mitigate impacts based on maintaining the integrity of the desired outcome of the cultural resource Use Category Allocations. This may require redesign of proposed projects or mitigation.

CUL-MA-13:

To minimize ongoing or potential impacts to cultural resources that are eligible or potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or are listed

on the NRHP, close and/or re-route routes that are inside, pass through, or lead directly to these sites, or identify mitigation to protect sites.

CUL-MA-14:

To minimize the potential for impacts to sites, reduce density of routes in areas known to be of high expected cultural resource density or areas of high value to the cultural program or Tribes.

CUL-MA-15:

Use VRM and recreation (or management) objectives to minimize impacts to site integrity (maintaining the visual, audible, and setting characteristics of sites).

CUL-MA-16:

To minimize ongoing or potential impacts to historic trails identified as eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP, identify mitigation or protect the historic integrity of routes, if necessary.

CUL-GOAL-03:

Uphold Native American trust responsibilities and accommodate traditional uses. The GJFO is part of the Ute traditional homeland where physical remains of their occupation will be protected and preserved. Maintain and, where possible, improve natural and cultural resource conditions to enhance opportunities to exercise Native American use of cultural landscapes and cultural properties in their traditional homeland.

CUL-OBJ-11:

Continue the Ute Ethnohistory Project to compile information regarding traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, traditional uses, and cultural landscapes.

CUL-MA-17:

Accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of sacred sites.

CUL-MA-18:

Manage recorded traditional cultural properties or areas and natural resources of importance to the Ute Tribes to enhance opportunities to exercise Native American use of these resources.

CUL-MA-19:

The following sites of concern have been identified through consultation and will be a priority for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and development of cultural resource management plans that will outline specific management objectives and actions for protection:

- Wickiup camps and open camps with definitive Ute occupation (associated to Ute rock art, artifact assemblages and/or trails);
- Isolated rock art;

- Culturally Modified Trees (includes Scarred and Prayer Trees); and
- Ceremonial features (e.g., eagle traps, vision circles, and special structures).

This list is in no way intended to be a comprehensive list and may continue to grow through consultation.

CUL-MA-20:

In cooperation with the recreation program, manage Unaweep Canyon/West and East Creek as a Ute heritage area, rename the West and East Creek Day Use areas in consultation with the Ute Tribes. With local partners and Ute tribal members interpret Ute Cultural Heritage for the public at this location.

CUL-MA-21:

Identify tribal plant gathering needs and establish tribal protocol for gathering materials for cultural and religious purposes. Do not charge members of federally recognized Tribes fees for the collection of non-commercial or personal-use quantities of plants or minerals used for food, medicine, utilitarian items, traditional use items, or items necessary for traditional, religious or ceremonial purposes. Threatened, endangered, candidate, proposed, or sensitive plants are not included as authorized for collection. Plants that are identified by a Tribe as important for traditional, religious or ceremonial purposes and are not widely available will not be offered as wilding plants for the general public.

CUL-MA-22:

In coordination with the recreation resource management objectives, collaborate with Ute tribal cultural departments and members to identify, allocate to appropriate Use Category, reestablish and interpret traditionally used trails.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

PAL-GOAL-01:

Provide for the identification, protection, and management of paleontological resources for the preservation, interpretation and scientific uses by present and future generations.

PAL-OBJ-01:

Manage paleontological resource to protect significant paleontological values.

PAL-MA-01:

Enhance, promote, and protect the dinosaur resources of the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway (National Scenic Byway and All American Road).

PAL-MA-02:

To reduce ongoing damage to known paleontological sites, close routes that are inside or pass through sensitive paleontological sites, or identify mitigation necessary to protect sites.

PAL-MA-03:

To reduce the potential for vandalism or collection, reduce number of routes in proximity to known paleontological localities.

PAL-OBJ-02:

Identify and protect priority geographic areas.

PAL-MA-04:

Conduct field inventories and document highly sensitive paleontological sites.

PAL-MA-05:

Manage paleontological resources according to their Potential Fossil Yield Classification (Figure 2-25, Appendix A).

Class 1 - Xb Biotitic Gneiss, Schist, Migmatite, Yg Granitic Rocks of 1400 m.y., Xg *Granitic Rocks of 1700 m.y., YXg *Granitic Rocks of 1400 and 1700 m.y.

Class 2 - Pennh Hermosa

Class 3 - Pc Cutler, TRm Moenkopi, JTRgc *Glen Canyon Group, TRwc *Wingate, TRkc *Kayenta, JTRgc *Navajo, Jmwe *Entrada, Jmse *Summerville, KJdw *Burro Canyon Sandstone, Kd *Dakota Sandstone, Km *Mancos Shale, Kmv Mesaverde Group (Undivided), Kmvu Hunter Canyon, Kmvl Mount Garfield, Kh Sego Sandstone, Two Ohio Creek Formation, Tgl Green River Fm., Lower Part, Tgp Green River Fm., Parachute Creek Member, Tg Green River (Undivided), Tu Uinta, Q Quaternary deposits (Undifferentiated)

Class 4–5 - TRc *Chinle, Jmwe *Morrison, Two Wasatch (De Beque)

PAL-AU-01:

LEASE NOTICE: LN-6: *Class 4 and 5 Paleontological Areas.* Have a permitted paleontologist approved by the BLM's Authorized Officer perform an inventory of surface-disturbing activities in Class 4 and 5 paleontological areas. (Refer to Appendix B.)

VISUAL RESOURCES

VIS-GOAL-01:

Manage public lands in a manner that protects the quality of scenic values, specifically protecting those areas of cultural significance and highly valued scenic resources.

VIS-OBJ-01:

Maintain visual quality and integrity in accordance with VRM Classes.

- *Class I Objective: To preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention*
 - *Class II Objective: To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low*
 - *Class III Objective: To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.*
 - *Class IV Objective: To provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.*
-

VIS-MA-01:

Manage visual resources on BLM-administered land according to the objectives for each class as follows (Figure 2-6, Appendix A):

- VRM I = 98,700 acres
- VRM II = 392,400 acres
- VRM III = 396,800 acres
- VRM IV = 173,700 acres

Manage visual resources on BLM land according to the objectives for each class.

VIS-MA-02:

Manage 98,700 acres of BLM lands according to VRM Class I objectives, including the following areas:

- WSAs:
 - Demaree Canyon;
 - Little Book Cliffs;
 - The Palisade; and
 - Sewemup Mesa
- ACECs:
 - Mt. Garfield (except for Coal Canyon corridor) and
 - A portion of The Palisade (26,700 acres within The Palisade WSA).

VIS-AU-01:

Manage VRM Class I areas as ROW exclusion areas.

VIS-MA-03:

To preserve the visual character of the existing landscape, limit or reduce the number of routes in areas managed as VRM Class I. The level of change to the visual landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

VIS-MA-04:

Manage 392,400 acres of BLM lands according to VRM Class II objectives, including the following areas:

- ACECs:
 - Atwell Gulch;
 - A portion of the Palisade (5,500 acres outside of the Palisade WSA);
 - A portion of Dolores River Riparian (7,100 acres);
 - Juanita Arch;
 - Indian Creek;
 - Pyramid Rock;
 - Roan and Carr Creeks
 - Rough Canyon;
 - South Shale Ridge;
 - Sinbad Valley; and
 - UnawEEP Seep.
- Lands managed for wilderness characteristics
- SRMAs:
 - Bangs;
 - A portion of Dolores River Canyon (13,600 acres);
 - North Fruita Desert; and
 - Palisade Rim.
- Byways:
 - A portion of Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway (from the Bookcliffs north);
 - Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway; and
 - UnawEEP-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway (The ROW corridors are designated as VRM III).
- Other VRM Class II areas:
 - Includes the following:
 - Bangs, Rough, Ladder and Northeast Creek Canyons;
 - Cliffs of UnawEEP Canyon (outside of ROW corridor);

- Eastern Cliffs of Hunter Canyon;
 - Colorado River corridor
 - Gunnison river corridor (southwest side);
 - Foreground of Interstate 70;
 - Cliffs adjacent to Mt. Garfield;
 - Dolores River corridor (except for 75 meters corridor along Highway 141); and
 - Juanita Arch.
-

VIS-MA-05:

To retain the visual character of the existing landscape and minimize the level of change, limit or reduce the number of routes in areas managed as VRM Class II. The level of change to the visual landscape should be low. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the natural features of the landscape – form, line, color and texture. Routes may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer.

VIS-MA-06:

Manage 396,800 acres of BLM lands according to VRM Class III objectives, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Wildlife Emphasis Areas:
 - Timber Ridge
 - ACECs:
 - Badger Wash; and
 - A portion of Dolores River Riparian (300 acres).
 - SRMAs:
 - A portion of Dolores River Canyon (2,400 acres).
 - Byways:
 - A portion of Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway (from the Bookcliffs south).
 - Old Spanish National Historic Trail.
 - Other VRM Class III areas:
 - West Salt Creek corridor;
 - Coal Canyon corridor;
 - Highway 141 along the Dolores River; and
 - Unaweep Canyon.
-

VIS-MA-07:

To partially retain the visual character of the existing landscape and to moderate the level of change to the existing environment, carefully consider the designation of routes or design/construction of new routes in areas managed as VRM Class III.

Routes may attract attention, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. To the extent possible, routes should repeat the basic elements found in the natural landscape – form, line, color and texture.

VIS-MA-08:

Manage 1736,700 acres of BLM lands according to VRM Class IV objectives, including the following areas:

- Grand Valley OHV SRMA (9,700 acres);
 - All other areas not identified as VRM Class I, II, or III.
-

VIS-MA-09:

In areas managed under VRM Class IV objectives, allow transportation/access routes that require major modification of the visual landscape. The level of change can be high and routes may dominate the view of the casual observer. To the extent possible, routes should repeat the basic elements found in the natural landscape – form, line, color and texture.

VIS-OBJ-02:

Protect the visual integrity of the landscape by managing all project proposals to meet or exceed objectives of the prescribed VRM classes by incorporating visual design BMPs (Appendix H).

VIS-MA-10:

Ecosystem restoration projects will ensure that visual impacts 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) when such projects are a) considered essential for public safety, achieving desired future conditions, or reducing fuels buildups; and b) expected to be visually prominent.

VIS-OBJ-03:

Minimize impacts to dark night sky conditions from permitted activities and other human caused disturbances on public lands.

VIS-AU-02:

Prohibit permanent outdoor lighting in VRM Class I areas.

VIS-MA-11:

Prevent or reduce impacts to dark night skies by using BMPs that reduce skyward projection of lighting, minimizing illumination and off-site projection of lighting, and by designing required lighting to be downward directing (see BMPs V-3 and FWS-24 in Appendix H).

VIS-AU-03:

STIPULATION VISUAL CLASS I NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed in

- VRM Objective Class I areas;

- the Goblins;
- Highway 141 along the Dolores River; and
- Unaweep Canyon.

Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

VIS-AU-04:

STIPULATION CSU-30: *VRM Class II.* Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions to fluid mineral leasing and other surface-disturbing activities within all areas designated as VRM Class II. Require that surface-disturbing activities meet the objectives of VRM Class II. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-14 (in Appendix A. Specific exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

WFM-GOAL-01:

Providing for firefighter and public safety, manage fire to maximize ecological health benefits.

WFM-OBJ-01:

Use a full range of wildfire management strategies, from full suppression to resource benefit on unplanned ignitions. Multiple strategies can be applied to different areas of the same fire.

WFM-MA-01:

Utilize wildfires on 857,400 acres as identified in Figure 2-26 in Appendix A to manage diversity in desired plant communities.

WFM-MA-02:

Suppress all fires in Salt Desert Shrub communities to protect these communities that are not adapted to fire and to reduce cheatgrass invasion.

WFM-OBJ-02:

Work to restore Fire Regime Condition Classes 2 and 3 towards Class 1, and maintain areas of Fire Regime Condition Class 1.

WFM-MA-03:

Implement fuels treatments actions that may include, but are not limited to:

- Mechanical treatments, including mowing, weed-whacking, chopping (roller chopper), chipping, grinding (hydro-ax), chaining, tilling, and cutting.
 - Manual treatments, including hand cutting (chainsaw/handsaw) and hand-piling.
 - Prescribed fire, including pile and broadcast burning.
 - Chemical spraying or biological treatments, such as insects or goats.
 - Seeding, including aerial or ground application.
 - Commercial stewardship projects.
-

WFM-OBJ-03:

Integrate fire and fuels management to meet Land Health Standards, WUI, and natural and cultural resource objectives across all levels of government and jurisdictional boundaries.

WFM-MA-04:

Use a combination of planned and unplanned fire along with fuels treatments including mechanical, manual, chemical, and seeding to meet resource objectives. The priority will be using any of the above treatments based on strategic goals for site-specific projects.

WFM-MA-05:

Prioritize vegetation treatments that are designed to strategically reduce wildfire threat in areas of high fire risk rather than where the probability of fire is low and the potential for natural post-fire recovery is high.

WFM-OBJ-04:

For the Emergency Stabilization (ES) program, determine the need to prescribe and implement emergency treatments to minimize threats to life or property or to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources from the effects of a wildfire.

WFM-MA-06:

Design ES treatment actions based on the severity of the wildfire impacts. ES priorities include, but are not limited to, areas where:

- Life, safety, or property requires protection.
 - Unique or sensitive cultural resources are at risk.
 - Soils are highly susceptible to accelerated erosion or water quality protection is required.
 - Perennial grasses and forbs are not expected to provide soil and watershed protection within two years.
 - Unacceptable vegetation, such as noxious weeds, may invade and become established.
 - It is necessary to quickly restore threatened, endangered, or special species habitat populations to prevent adverse impacts.
 - Stabilization and rehabilitation are necessary to meet RMP resource objectives.
-

WFM-OBJ-05:

The Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) Program objectives are: 1) To evaluate actual and potential long-term post-fire impacts to critical cultural and natural resources and identify those areas unlikely to recover naturally from severe wildfire damage; 2) To develop and implement cost-effective plans to emulate historical or pre-fire ecosystem structure, function, diversity, and dynamics consistent with RMP objectives, or, if that is infeasible, restore or establish a healthy, stable ecosystem in which native species are well represented; and 3) To repair or replace minor facilities damaged by wildfire.

WFM-MA-07:

Design BAR treatment actions based on the severity of wildfire impacts. BAR priorities include, but are not limited to:

- Repairing or improving lands unlikely to recover naturally.
- Implementing weed treatments to remove invasive weeds and planting native or non-natives to restore or establish healthy ecosystems.
- Planting to reestablish native trees.

- Repairing or replacing minor facilities (e.g., fences, campgrounds, interpretive signs, shelters, wildlife guzzlers, etc.)
-

WFM-OBJ-06:

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.

WFM-MA-08:

Use signage, mass media, personal contacts, assistance with Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and other associated activities to reduce human ignition and other threats from wildfire.

WFM-MA-09:

Coordinate fire restrictions closely with state, county and local partners while considering economic and social effect to local communities.

LANDS MANAGED FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

WIL-GOAL-01:

Manage lands to protect wilderness characteristics (e.g., appearance of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation or solitude) while considering competing resource demands and manageability, such as valid and existing rights, mineral potential, proximity to residential and other development, existing and potential recreation uses.

WIL-OBJ-01:

Where wilderness characteristics are managed for protection:

- *Minimize surface disturbing activities such that the natural quality of the area is maintained;*
 - *Maintain opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation where they occur in the areas.*
-

WIL-MA-01:

Manage 44,100 acres to protect wilderness characteristics in the following areas:

- Bangs (19,600 acres);
- Maverick (17,800 acres); and
- Unawep (6,700 acres).

See Figure 2-4 in Appendix A.

WIL-MA-02:

Protect wilderness characteristics according to management actions and allowable uses for each individual unit, described below.

WIL-MA-03:

Reduce route density in areas where long-term management is designed to protect wilderness characteristics.

Bangs

WIL-OBJ-02:

Manage the Bangs Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Area for the protection of outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and undisturbed landscapes compatible with zone objectives in the Bangs SRMA and with special attention to the protection of wildlife habitat and cultural resources.

WIL-MA-04:

Protect wilderness characteristics by applying the following management:

- Issue Class I-II Commercial and Organized Event SRPs that meet area objectives.
- Limited to designated routes for motorized and mechanized travel, including over-snow travel (except for administrative access to range improvements).
- Close to wood product sales, including Christmas tree cutting.
- Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
- Close to mineral material disposal.
- Close to non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.
- In response to wildfire, use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) to limit impacts on wilderness characteristics. Only allow ground-disturbing mechanical tactics (e.g., bulldozers) if life and/or property are threatened.
- Manage as VRM Class II, except manage existing range improvements as VRM Class III.
- Manage consistently with the overlapping portions of the Bangs SRMA.

WIL-AU-01:

No Leasing: Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-12, Appendix A.

WIL-AU-02:

STIPULATION LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed on identified lands being managed to protect inventoried wilderness characteristics, in accordance with the Resource Management Plan.

Maverick

WIL-OBJ-03:

Manage the Maverick Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Area to protect outstanding opportunities for solitude, undisturbed landscapes, and unique geologic features. A five-canyon complex and unique roadless area with outstanding opportunities for solitude given the topography, vegetation, and unique feature of Juanita Arch, which is the only natural bridge in Colorado.

WIL-MA-05:

Protect wilderness characteristics by applying the following management:

Issue no SRPs for competitive events.

- Close to motorized over-snow travel.

- Close the portion (1,600 acres) that overlaps the Juanita Arch ACEC to motorized and mechanized travel.
- A portion (16,200 acres) is limited to designated routes for motorized and mechanized travel.
- Close to wood product sales and/or harvest.
- Issue non-commercial Christmas tree cutting permits as long as monitoring indicates that naturalness of the unit is not being impacted.
- Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
- Close to mineral material disposal.
- Close to non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- In response to wildfire, use MIST to limit impacts on wilderness characteristics. Only allow ground-disturbing mechanical tactics (e.g., bulldozers) if life and/or property are threatened.

WIL-AU-03:

No Leasing: Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-12, Appendix A.

WIL-AU-04:

STIPULATION LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed on identified lands being managed to protect inventoried wilderness characteristics, in accordance with the Resource Management Plan.

Unaweep

WIL-OBJ-04:

Manage the Unaweep Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Area to protect outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and undisturbed landscapes with emphasis on wildlife, visual resources, range management, critical headwaters, and natural processes.

WIL-MA-06:

Protect wilderness characteristics by applying the following management:

- Issue no SRPs for competitive events.
- Limited to designated routes for motorized and mechanized travel, including over-snow travel.
- Allow for administrative access to range improvements and livestock management.
- Close to wood product sales and/or harvest.

- Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
- Close to mineral material disposal.
- Close to non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- In response to wildfire use MIST to limit impacts on wilderness characteristics. Only allow ground-disturbing mechanical tactics (e.g., bulldozer) if life and/or property are threatened.
- Allow for the placement of range improvements in locations that meet the naturalness and setting of the area.
- Close and restore unauthorized routes that affect naturalness.

WIL-AU-05:

No Leasing: Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-12, Appendix A.

WIL-AU-06:

STIPULATION LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed on identified lands being managed to protect inventoried wilderness characteristics, in accordance with the Resource Management Plan.

WIL-GOAL-02:

Provide appropriate levels of protection to preserve inventoried wilderness characteristics of areas determined to possess wilderness characteristics (e.g., appearance of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation or solitude) while considering competing resource demands and manageability.

WIL-OBJ-05:

Through project analysis analyze and disclose impacts to lands with wilderness characteristics in lands inventoried and found to have those values.

WIL-MA-07:

Maintain an ongoing up to date inventory of lands with wilderness characteristics.

WIL-OBJ-06:

As appropriate, develop a continual evaluation process for lands with wilderness characteristics.

WIL-MA-08:

Work with partners and cooperators to comply with current BLM guidance on maintenance of inventory data for lands with wilderness characteristics.

II. RESOURCE USES

FORESTRY

FOR-GOAL-01:

Manage for healthy woodlands while providing for use of forest and woodland products.

FOR-OBJ-01:

Use a variety of silvicultural techniques and harvest systems to manage for healthy forests and woodlands while offering a variety of forest products and meeting other resource objectives for the following forestry and woodland types:

- *Pinyon/Juniper;*
 - *Ponderosa Pine;*
 - *Douglas-fir;*
 - *Aspen; and*
 - *Spruce/Fir.*
-

FOR-MA-01:

Allow harvest of forest and woodland products in portions of the following forestry zones that are determined suitable for harvest in activity-level plans or site-specific analyses:

- Pinyon-juniper:
 - Bangs Canyon (59,100 acres)
 - Glade Park (67,100 acres);
 - Gateway (194,300 acres);
 - Book Cliffs (214,300 acres);
 - Plateau Valley (66,800 acres);
 - Grand Mesa Slopes (60,700 acres); and
 - Roan Creek (243,300 acres).
- Aspen:
 - Roan Creek (243,300 acres).
 - Book Cliffs (214,300 acres);
 - Plateau Valley (66,800 acres);
 - Grand Mesa Slopes (60,700 acres); and
 - Glade Park (67,100 acres).
- Spruce
 - Book Cliffs (214,300 acres);
 - Plateau Valley (66,800 acres);
 - Grand Mesa Slopes (60,700 acres); and

- Roan Creek (243,300 acres).
 - Douglas fir
 - Book Cliffs (214,300 acres); and
 - Roan Creek (243,300 acres).
-

FOR-MA-02:

Close the following areas (approximately 239,400 acres) to wood product sales and/or harvest (not including Christmas tree harvest). (Figure 2-27, Appendix A). Additional areas may be found as unsuitable for harvest in the site specific forest/woodland management plans:

- The Palisade municipal watershed;
- Known lynx habitat;
- VRM Class I areas;
- WSAs;
- Lands managed for wilderness characteristics; and
- ACECs.

Exception: Allow wood product sales and/or harvest to meet desired resource conditions.

FOR-MA-03:

Allow Christmas tree cutting in annually delineated tree cutting areas. Close the following areas to Christmas tree cutting, except when tree removal supports the objectives of the following areas:

- Areas identified as being over harvested;
 - ACECs;
 - Lands managed for wilderness characteristics; and
 - WSAs.
-

FOR-MA-04:

Where conditions are appropriate, allow removal of tamarisk, non-native elms, and Russian olive material for biomass or personal use.

FOR-MA-05:

In the LBCWHR, limit fuelwood sales to 30 acres or less and to commercial operators only. Design fuelwood sales to meet management objectives for wild horses.

FOR-MA-06:

Discourage clear cuts in small, isolated, and tall conifer stands and/or mature pinyon-juniper woodlands under 160 acres, unless such practices meet other resource objectives.

FOR-MA-07:

Allow treatments of aspen stands to stimulate regeneration through either mechanical or fuels projects. Allow fuelwood cutting of dead and down aspen only in areas identified for allowable harvest, while leaving adequate standing dead trees in place for wildlife habitat.

FOR-MA-08:

Based upon tribal and public demand, allow collection of unconventional forest products. Limit permitted use of vegetal collection of commonly available renewable resources (e.g., seeds, cones, wildlings, berries, mushrooms, nuts) for non-commercial use to the following amounts consistent with other resource goals/objectives:

- Boughs, All Coniferous Species: 50 pounds per person per year
 - Cones – Ornamental: two bushels per person per year (one bushel is equal to 9 gallons or 35 liters)
 - Cones – Nuts: one bushel per person per year
 - Medicinal: one bushel per person per year (collection prohibited within WSAs and ACECs)
 - Mushrooms: five gallons per species per person per year
 - Wildings: 15 meters (50 feet) per species per person per year (collection prohibited within WSAs, ACECs and certain SRMAs)
 - Traditional, religious, or ceremonial plants that are not widely available may be harvested for personal use by Native American tribal members and will not be offered as wilding plants for the general public.
-

FOR-MA-09:

Maintain motorized access to firewood, post and pole gathering, and Christmas tree cutting areas.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

GRZ-GOAL-01:

Provide adequate forage for livestock while attaining healthy rangelands, in accordance with land health standards and in balance with other resources and uses, to contribute to local economies, ranching livelihoods, and the rural western character integral to many communities.

GRZ-OBJ-01:

Meet the forage demands of livestock operations based on current active preference (animal unit-months [AUMs]) while meeting the BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado (BLM 1997a) (Appendix E).

GRZ-MA-01:

Manage livestock grazing in accordance with the BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado (BLM 1997a) (Appendix E).

GRZ-MA-02:

Periodically evaluate current active preference and adjust as needed based on land health assessments, vegetative inventories, riparian monitoring, rangeland monitoring data, or other pertinent information. Allocate increases or decreases in forage availability to meet the greatest need (e.g., livestock, wildlife, watershed health).

GRZ-MA-03:

Make up to 960,500 acres available for livestock grazing. Provide up to 60,716 AUMs of livestock forage commensurate with public land health standards (BLM 1997a) (Appendix J). These acres may change if the cooperatively managed allotments (3,800 acres) are managed by the GJFO in the future. (Figure 2-5, Appendix A.)

GRZ-MA-04:

Make 66,600 acres unavailable for livestock grazing, which includes allotments, portions of allotments, and unallotted land. The purpose includes steep slopes, conflict with BLM recreation sites, or avoidance of sensitive resources such as those described in the *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern* section. Refer to Appendix J, Livestock Grazing Allotments.

GRZ-MA-05:

Close the following allotments to livestock use (see Appendix J):

- Baldrige Mesa;
- Bevan;
- Boulder Canyon;

- Browns Place;
- Brush Creek;
- Charlesworth;
- Clifton;
- Clover Gulch;
- Coon Creek;
- Dead Horse;
- Dry Kimball;
- Eby Point;
- Erven;
- Etcheverry;
- Fetters;
- Heely;
- Hight;
- Horizon;
- Hunter;
- LBCWHR:
- Logan Wash;
- Parkes Place;
- Plateau Creek;
- Red Mountain;
- Sewemup Mesa;
- Webber;
- Webb Isolated Tracts; and
- Whitewater Hill.

GRZ-MA-06:

In open allotments, close the following areas to livestock use:

- Ant Research Area;
- Badger Wash ungrazed paired plots or designated no grazing areas as defined in the study objectives;
- Miracle Rock picnic area;
- Mud Springs Campground;
- North Fruita Desert developed campground;
- Pyramid Rock ACEC;
- Study area exclosures; and
- West Creek picnic area.

- Eastern portion of the Palisade Municipal Watershed in the High Sensitivity area of the watershed.

GRZ-MA-07:

Allow for continuation of cooperatively managed grazing allotments by adjacent BLM field offices in accordance with Interoffice Agreements. Cooperative management of grazing allotments will be completed in accordance with Colorado Land Health Standards and under the guidance of this RMP. Cooperatively managed grazing allotments include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- Bar X (Moab FO): 8,330 acres;
- San Arroyo (Moab FO): 12,981 acres;
- Buckhorn (Moab FO): 1,400 acres; and
- Cathedral Bluffs (White River FO): 2,100 acres.

GRZ-MA-08:

Periodically evaluate whether to close other allotments or portions of allotments to livestock grazing, and implement with project level analysis, based on the following criteria:

- Areas identified as BLM disposal tracts;
- Lack of administrative access to public land;
- Small percentage of forage in allotment is contributed by BLM lands in allotment (less than 15 percent);
- Areas not accessible to livestock grazing (e.g., steep slopes);
- “C” category allotments that are relinquished and determined to be impractical for the administration of livestock grazing by the Authorized Officer;
- Major impact to sensitive resources such as wildlife or threatened and endangered species (e.g., competition for forage, winter range, Sage-Grouse habitat), or sensitive fish habitat, as determined by data analysis;
- Public health and safety;
- High intensity recreation areas/ facilities;
- Resource objectives for municipal watersheds;
- Impacts to cultural resources; and
- Conflicts with adjoining private lands (development).

GRZ-MA-09:

Work cooperatively with permittees, lessees, and other landowners to develop grazing management strategies that integrate both public and private lands into single management units.

GRZ-MA-10:

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, the 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.

GRZ-MA-11:

Implement changes in livestock use through allotment management plans, grazing use agreements, and terms and conditions on grazing permits for priority allotments based on the current prioritization process and/or land health issues.

GRZ-MA-12:

Allow modification of allotment boundaries to correspond with fence lines and natural features, and allow consolidation of allotments and pastures into a new allotment.

GRZ-MA-13:

Construct range improvement projects on allotments to implement changes in grazing management to improve vegetative conditions, riparian conditions, or reduce conflicts with other resources or public land users.

GRZ-MA-14:

Implement vegetation treatments, including mechanical, chemical, and fire, on priority allotments to improve rangeland health or reduce conflicts with other resources or public land users.

GRZ-MA-15:

Maintain a minimum of administrative access to range improvement projects, study sites, and to areas necessary to properly administer grazing permits.

GRZ-MA-16:

In some cases limit public access to protect range improvements from potential damage.

GRZ-OBJ-02:

Provide periodic rest during active growth periods of forage plants to maintain or improve plant vigor and health.

GRZ-MA-17:

When deemed necessary by the BLM's Authorized Officer, defer or exclude livestock grazing for a minimum of two growing seasons on disturbed areas (e.g., a fire event, reclamation of disturbed lands, seedings, surface-disturbing vegetation treatments) or until site-specific analysis and/or monitoring data indicates that vegetative cover, species composition, and litter accumulation are adequate to

support and protect watershed values, meet vegetation objectives, and sustain grazing use.

GRZ-MA-18:

Include periodic rest during the active growing season as part of authorized grazing use on Improve (I) category allotments.

GRZ-MA-19:

In limited precipitation zones (below 6,000 feet) of the Grand Valley and Kannah Creek management areas (176,800 acres), limit the grazing use period to October 1 to April 15, unless otherwise specified in an allotment management plan or grazing use agreement (Figure 2-5, Appendix A).

The change in the grazing use period could be phased in over a three-year period.

GRZ-OBJ-03:

Manage livestock grazing to maintain and/or improve Sage-Grouse habitat.

GRZ-MA-20:

Authorize new water developments for diversions from spring or seep source only when priority Sage-Grouse habitat will benefit on both upland and riparian habitat from the development or there are no negative impacts to Sage-Grouse. This includes developing new water sources for livestock as part of an AMP/conservation plan to improve sage-grouse habitat.

GRZ-MA-21:

Design any new structural range improvements to conserve, enhance, or restore Sage-Grouse habitat through an improved grazing management system relative to Sage-Grouse objectives. Structural range improvements, in this context, include but are not limited to: cattleguards, fences, enclosures, corrals or other livestock handling structures; pipelines, troughs, storage tanks (including moveable tanks used in livestock water hauling), windmills, ponds/reservoirs, solar panels and spring developments.

GRZ-MA-22:

To reduce Sage-Grouse strikes and mortality, remove, modify, or mark fences in high risk areas. When fences are necessary, require a Sage-Grouse-safe design.

GRZ-MA-23:

Locate supplements (salt or protein blocks) in a manner designed to conserve, enhance, or restore Sage-Grouse habitat.

GRZ-MA-24:

Offer temporary use on a case-by-case basis in allotments where grazing preference has been relinquished, or non-use warrants to rest other allotments that include important Sage-Grouse habitat.

GRZ-MA-25:

When conducting NEPA analysis for water developments or other rangeland improvements, address the direct and indirect effects to Sage-Grouse populations and habitat.

GRZ-MA-26:

Pursue the opportunity to establish grass banks from unallotted grazing allotments to provide management options on other allotments (e.g., fire, drought, vegetation treatments, and allotments not meeting land health).

GRZ-OBJ-04:

Manage allotments to protect bighorn sheep with an emphasis on reducing the potential of disease transmission between domestic livestock and bighorn sheep.

GRZ-MA-27:

Prohibit domestic sheep grazing on allotments within occupied bighorn sheep habitat.

GRZ-MA-28:

Allow for permitting of domestic sheep grazing on allotments outside of occupied bighorn sheep habitat on a case-by-case basis per NEPA analysis and the following criteria:

- Presence of topographic features (e.g., natural barriers, rivers) to separate domestic and bighorn sheep;
 - Allow for permitting of domestic sheep grazing on allotments outside of occupied bighorn sheep habitat on a case-by-case basis per NEPA analysis and the following criteria: Adequate separation zones between domestic and bighorn sheep (WAFWA 2010);
 - Current bighorn sheep management plan direction;
 - The need to protect potential habitat;
 - Local and national research results;
 - Risk assessments from wildlife agencies;
 - Timing of domestic sheep grazing; or
 - Monitoring results indicating conflicts.
-

RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

Note: Many of the proactive management measures and approaches that set vision and encourage work with partners and communities are found in Appendix H, Best Management Practices, as well as Appendix K, Recreation Appendix. This section of Chapter 2 should be read in combination with those appendices.

REC-GOAL-01:

Produce a diversity of quality recreational 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.

Note: Many of the proactive management measures and approaches that set vision and encourage work with partners and communities are found in Appendix H, Best Management Practices, as well as Appendix K, Recreation Appendix. This section of Chapter 2 should be read in combination with those appendices.

REC-OBJ-01 (Field Office-Wide Resource Protection Objective):

Increase awareness, understanding, and a sense of stewardship in recreational activity participants so their conduct safeguards cultural and natural resources as defined by Colorado Standards for Public Land Health (see Appendix E) or area-specific objectives (e.g. ACEC, Wild and Scenic Rivers).

REC-AU-01:

Camping Limits. Unless otherwise posted, implement a 14-day camping limit in areas open to camping and overnight use on BLM-managed lands. A limit of less than 14 days or greater than 14 days may be applied in certain areas if applicable due to resource and social impacts.

REC-AU-02:

Allow undeveloped camping where not specifically restricted. Undeveloped camping may be seasonally restricted, sites may be designated or closed as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

REC-AU-03:

Camping/Campfire Closures. Close the following BLM-managed lands to camping and campfires:

- 18 Road Open OHV Area within the North Desert ERMA
- Bangs SRMA (certain areas, see SRMA section below);
- Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA (with an exception for special events, see ERMA section below);
- Horse Mountain ERMA (certain areas, see ERMA section below);
- Palisade Rim SRMA;
- Pyramid Rock ACEC;
- Unaweep Seep ACEC; and
- Within 100 meters of standing historic structures to include but not limited to Calamity Camp and New Verde Mine, unless administratively permitted.

If BLM determines there is a public health and safety issue or resource concern with a cultural resource or historic structure, the site may be closed to camping and overnight use.

REC-AU-04:

Day-use Only. Close the following BLM-managed lands to overnight use (sunset to sunrise):

- 34 and C Roads (certain areas outside of, but adjacent to, the Horse Mountain ERMA)
 - Grand Valley Shooting Ranges (with an exception for authorized training exercises);
 - Horse Mountain ERMA (certain areas, see ERMA section below);
 - Redlands Dam area along the Gunnison River; and
 - The Potholes on the Little Dolores River off of 9.8 Road in the Glade Park area.
-

REC-MA-01:

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. Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs will be applied where appropriate.

REC-MA-02:

All new SRP proposals will be reviewed using the Special Recreation Permit Evaluation as outlined in Appendix L, Special Recreation Permits.

REC-MA-03:

Special Recreation Permits: Develop and implement an allocation system for SRPs. This will include criteria for numbers of events and types of events (i.e., community-focused) that will be considered for authorization through SRPs. Monitoring will identify effectiveness of permit classification system and adjustments will be made if it is determined that recreation goals and objectives are not being met.

REC-MA-04:

All SRPs will contain standard stipulations appropriate for the type of activity and may include additional stipulations necessary to protect lands or resources, reduce conflicting user interactions, or minimize health and safety concerns.

REC-MA-05:

Prohibit cross-country motorized/mechanized travel for big game retrieval, except in open areas (e.g. Grand Valley OHV SRMA). Allow hand-held non-motorized/non-mechanized wheeled game retrieval carts.

REC-MA-06:

Provide recreational travel routes that are compatible with other resource objectives and connect the following areas:

- West side of North Desert ERMA to Rabbit Valley (within the McInnis Canyon NCA) and Utah Rims SRMA (within the Moab FO);
- Palisade Rim SRMA to Horse Mountain ERMA; and
- Grand Mesa to Palisade Rim SRMA and Horse Mountain ERMA.

REC-MA-07:

In balance with other resource considerations, retain or provide access to difficult to reach parcels of public land for hunting, fishing, and other recreation activities.

REC-MA-08:

Consider route features, quality user experience, and route connectivity to determine appropriate route use type (e.g. open, mechanized, ATV, UTV, foot, etc.).

REC-MA-09:

In balance with other resource considerations, provide access to undeveloped campsites that exist along dead-end spur roads.

REC-MA-10:

Work closely with Mesa and Garfield counties to maintain public access to areas identified as important for recreation.

REC-OBJ-02 (*Field Office-Wide Community Partnership and Service Provider Objective*):

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.

Note: See also the BMP appendix (Appendix H), which provides important guidance to meet this objective.

REC-MA-11:

Coordinate with Dominguez-Escalante NCA, CDOT, Mesa County, Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway Association, and other stakeholders (e.g., Western Colorado Climbers' Coalition) to design and construct parking/trailhead facilities and a campground along Highway 141 on Ninemile Hill.

REC-OBJ-03 (*Field Office-Wide Public Health and Safety Objective*):

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).

REC-MA-12:

Continue to manage the existing developed recreation sites:

- Miracle Rock; and
 - Mud Spring.
-

REC-MA-13:

Continue to actively manage and maintain existing developed recreation sites within the planning area, including ERMA and SRMA facilities and the following sites outside of designated RMAs:

- Low Gap Recreation Site;
 - North Soda Recreation Site;
 - Miracle Rock Recreation Site; and
 - Mud Springs Campground.
-

REC-AU-05:

At designated sites allow overnight camping and campfires at Miracle Rock Recreation Site (prohibit camping outside of designated sites).

REC-MA-14:

If monitoring indicates a need for additional camping opportunities in the Miracle Rock area, redesign/reconfigure the Miracle Rock Recreation Site to better accommodate overnight camping.

REC-AU-06:

STIPULATION CSU-31: Recreation. Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions to surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities to minimize conflicts with developed (and future) recreation sites and to mapped (and future) national/regional trails, local system trails that connect communities, and trailheads and interpretive sites with exceptional recreation values or significant public interest. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Apply this stipulation to the following sites that lie outside of designated RMAs:

- Low Gap Recreation Site;
 - North Soda Recreation Site;
 - Miracle Rock Recreation Site; and
 - Mud Springs Campground.
-

REC-AU-07:

The discharge of firearms for recreational target shooting is permitted on BLM lands, outside of areas with firearm use restrictions, provided that the firearm is discharged toward a proper backstop sufficient to stop the projectile's forward progress beyond the intended target. Targets shall be constructed of wood,

cardboard, paper, or similar non-breakable materials. Clay targets and similar aerial targets shall be allowed. All targets, clays and shells are considered litter after use and must be removed and properly discarded.

Notify the public if areas are closed or restricted from recreational target shooting where monitoring or related data suggest that recreational shooting is causing or will cause considerable adverse impacts to public safety, or other sensitive resources (e.g., areas adjacent to a new housing development). Hunting in accordance with state regulations will continue to be allowed.

REC-AU-08:

Firearm Use. Allow the discharge of firearms for recreational target shooting on 1,013,700 acres. See Figure 2-28 Appendix A.

REC-AU-09:

Firearm Use Restrictions. In the following areas, prohibit recreational target shooting that uses any devices to propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns on 49,000 acres (Figure 2-28, Appendix A).

- Bangs SRMA RMZs 1, 2, and 3 (15,500 acres);
- Coal Canyon and Main Canyon areas (4,000 acres);
- Developed recreation sites;
- Grand Valley OHV SRMA (9,700 acres);
- Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA (810 acres);
- Horse Mountain ERMA, including RMZ 2 and adjacent areas west of Sink Creek and areas adjacent to residences at the east end of C Road (1,500 acres).
- Mt. Garfield ACEC (2,400 acres);
- North Desert ERMA, 18 Road Open area (170 acres);
- North Fruita Desert SRMA (11,600 acres);
- Palisade Rim SRMA (2,000 acres); and
- Pyramid Rock ACEC (1,300 acres).

The purpose of the restriction is to protect public safety by minimizing potential for accidental shootings and/or to protect sensitive resources (43 CFR 8364.1). This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

REC-OBJ-04 (*Field Office-Wide Recreation User Interaction Objective*):

Maximize positive interactions between a wide range of recreation users to protect a variety of recreation opportunities (Marcouiller 2008). Note: See BMP Appendix H for important guidance related to this objective.

REC-MA-15:

Designate and manage recreation management areas (ERMAs, SRMAs) to provide and protect a wide variety of recreation opportunities, using approaches including (but not limited to) the following:

- 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 GJFO and adjoining public lands.
- In SRMAs, work with recreation users and other stakeholders to ensure protection of targeted activities, experiences and outcomes.
- In ERMAs managed for multiple activities, consider separating incompatible recreation uses in either time or space if monitoring indicates that negative user interactions are occurring and warrants the change (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.).
- In areas managed for multiple activities, support cooperative efforts by recreation users and other stakeholders that develop strategies promoting compatible interactions between recreation users (e.g., multi-user/interdisciplinary working groups).

REC-AU-10:

In SRMAs and ERMAs, establish specific Trail Management Objectives for primary recreation routes.

REC-OBJ-05 (*De Beque Area Recreation Objective*):

If feasible, provide for recreation opportunities near the town of De Beque that enhance and protect sensitive cultural and biological resources, while providing a diverse mix of recreation activities and experiences, including intermediate to expert level singletrack motorcycling and mountain biking, and motorcycle trials riding utilizing the area's unique natural topography and scenery to enhance users' experiences. To a secondary extent, provide for shared compatible uses such as 4x4 and ATV touring, hiking, and horseback riding. Note: See BMP Appendix H for important guidance related to this objective.

REC-MA-16:

Further evaluate and assess resource values within the area southwest of De Beque (bounded by South Shale Ridge, the Colorado River, and the Little Book Cliffs WSA).

REC-MA-17:

Use the following process to determine if a recreation management area or areas (ERMA and/or SRMA) that meet resource objectives can be identified:

1. Develop the resource evaluation consultation with Tribes, SHPO, and USFWS;

2. Evaluate the feasibility and costs of the assessment process, working together with the public and other partners;
3. Determine potential RMA boundaries if the resource evaluation, process feasibility, and cost assessment support completion of this step, working together with the public and other partners.
4. Conduct NEPA analysis of any ERMA and/or SRMA designation proposal resulting from completion of the previous steps.
5. Define specific thresholds of acceptable change that can be used in monitoring protocols.
6. Construct a carefully designed trail system that supports recreation objectives while protecting sensitive resources, working together with the public and other partners.

Current known management guidance/considerations in the De Beque area:

- High value cultural resources, Tribal concerns and sensitive plants in the area require avoidance or other mitigation.
- Sensitive plants in the area require avoidance or other mitigation.
- Oil and gas exploration and development is prevalent in the area.
- Recreationists desire a diverse mix of recreation activities and experiences, including intermediate to expert level singletrack motorcycling and mountain biking, motorcycle trials riding, 4x4 and ATV touring, utilizing the area's unique natural topography and scenery to enhance users' experiences. To a secondary extent and if possible, provide for shared compatible uses such as 4x4 and ATV touring, hiking, and horseback riding.

Special Recreation Management Areas

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAS AND SRMA BMPs)

The SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and desired 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, 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).

REC-SRMA-OBJ-01:

Through the life of the plan, provide high quality recreation opportunities that result in improved quality of life for individuals and communities. Designate and manage individual SRMAs to provide for targeted recreation, activities, settings and associated outcomes.

REC-SRMA-MA-01:

Designate five SRMAs for the protection of the prescribed recreation outcomes and settings (87,200 acres) (Figure 2-7, Appendix A):

- Bangs (47,800 acres);
 - Dolores River Canyon (16,100 acres);
 - Grand Valley OHV (9,700 acres);
 - North Fruita Desert (11,600 acres); and
 - Palisade Rim (2,000 acres).
-

REC-SRMA-MA-02:

Manage travel management within each SRMA/RMZ to support SRMA/RMZ objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-01:

No Leasing: *Special Recreation Management Areas.* Close the following SRMAs to fluid mineral leasing. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12, Appendix A:

- Bangs;
 - Dolores River Canyon; and
 - Palisade Rim.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-02:

Geophysical exploration:

Close the following SRMAs to geophysical exploration:

- Bangs;
 - Dolores River Canyon;
 - North Fruita Desert; and
 - Palisade Rim.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-03:

Mineral Materials:

Close the following SRMAs to mineral material sales:

- Bangs (with an exception for the Community Bentonite Pit on Little Park Road);
- Dolores River Canyon (with an exception for the pit along the Niche Road);
- Grand Valley OHV;
- North Fruita Desert; and
- Palisade Rim.

REC-SRMA-AU-04:

Non-Energy Solid Leasable Minerals:

Close all SRMAs to non-energy solid leasable minerals.

REC-SRMA-AU-05:

STIPULATION CSU-32: *Recreation Management Areas*. Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions in the Grand Valley OHV SRMA. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

REC-SRMA-AU-06:

STIPULATION *RECREATION SRMA NSO CO*: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within the following Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) as identified in the Resource Management Plan:

- Bangs;
- Dolores River Canyon;
- North Fruita Desert; and
- Palisade Rim.

Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

REC-SRMA-MA-03:

Utilize current best management practices (Appendix H) and the “Recreation Management Guidelines to Meet Public Land Health Standards on Bureau of Land Management Lands in Colorado” to reduce or eliminate impacts from recreation to the other natural and cultural resources listed in the SRMA/RMZ objectives (except for the Grand Valley OHV SRMA). Appendix H describes BMPs current at the time of the RMP planning process. BMPs will likely evolve over the life of the plan. Implementation of management actions should be based on the most current BMPs.

Bangs SRMA - 47,800 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAs AND SRMA BMPs)

Supporting Information for SRMA Allocation

The Bangs SRMA has four distinct recreation management zones (RMZs). Overall, the Bangs SRMA provides opportunities for: mountain biking, hiking and trail running on world class singletrack trails; OHV use on a network of motorcycle, ATV, 4X4 and rock crawling routes; discovering and learning about the area’s natural and cultural history; and exploring primitive undeveloped canyon country on foot or horseback. This SRMA includes the Tabeguache (Lunch Loops), Little Park, Bangs Canyon, and Ribbon Trailheads. The area has scenic views of the Colorado National Monument, Grand Valley, Grand Mesa, and Book Cliffs. The area is in close proximity to the population center of the Grand Valley, which makes it an important community resource for local recreation and quality of life, well as tourism. Portions of the SRMA are managed in partnership with the City of Grand Junction, with shared responsibility for access and facilities.

Goal SRMA-Wide

The Bangs SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce a diversity of quality recreational opportunities that will continue to add to area residents’ quality of life by contributing to the local economy and enhancing stewardship and protection of the area’s natural and cultural resources.

Objective SRMA-Wide

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.

REC-SRMA-MA-04 (Bangs SRMA):

Manage the Tabeguache Trail from Little Park Road to Highway 141 as a high-clearance full-sized 4-wheel drive route to provide long-distance OHV recreation opportunities spanning portions of the Bangs SRMA, Dominguez-Escalante NCA, and Uncompahgre National Forest.

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| <p>Bangs SRMA RMZ 1 Lunch Loops Community Recreation Area 3,900 ACRES (SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAs AND SRMA BMPs)</p> |
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REC-SRMA-OBJ-02 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Through the life of the plan, manage RMZ 1 targeting a local/regional market, providing non-motorized mixed-use trail opportunities, accommodating a range of skill levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced). Encourage community-based recreation that can be marketed as an urban interface recreation asset of the Grand Valley. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities and outcomes:

Activities: *The targeted activities of the RMZ are mountain bicycling, trail running, dog walking, and hiking.*

Outcomes and Experiences:

- 1. Visitors experience or seek to experience frequent access to outdoor physical activity, often in groups of friends and family, for fitness and stress reduction, to*

increase endurance, and to develop outdoor skills and abilities through recreation in this zone.

2. *Visitors realize personal benefits of easy access to the outdoors, improved fitness and health maintenance (physical and mental), development of technical competence (e.g., mountain biking skills), and development of stronger social bonds with friends and family.*
3. *The local community benefits from improved quality of life with higher levels of public land stewardship, stronger community relationships and a healthier community.*
4. *The area economy is strengthened through recreation-related revenue and increased desirability of the community as a place to live.*

Resource Values:

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction Milk Vetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River), soils, paleontological resources, and cultural resources.*

Resource Uses:

Minimize impacts from other resource uses to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: lands and realty.

REC-SRMA-MA-05 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support RMZ outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates RMZ outcomes are not being achieved, settings will be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of RMZ outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics:

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This is a non-motorized, urban interface zone that is bounded by county and city roads. The character of the landscape is largely natural in appearance, with some viewsheds that include roads, trails, houses and other man-made developments. Due to topography and area scenery, the natural landscape is mostly retained despite the density of trails and proximity to the City of Grand Junction. The recreation facilities at trailheads may include, but are not limited to, vault toilets, informational kiosks and shade shelters. Throughout the unit, a designated singletrack trail system with a spectrum of trails (varied level of difficulty) is marked and maintained to achieve defined trail

management objectives that support overall RMZ objectives.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Visitors generally directly encounter fewer than 15 other groups on designated trails. Groups are generally small to medium-sized (1-8 people) with occasional encounters with larger groups. Sights, sounds, and tracks of other targeted users are frequent throughout the RMZ, but more prominent near trailheads. Use is generally highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Non-motorized singletrack trails with easy access from several trailheads in close proximity to the Grand Valley. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local businesses, City of Grand Junction, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve RMZ objectives. Management presence prominent at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.).

REC-SRMA-AU-07 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

VRM Class:

Manage the RMZ under VRM Class II objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-08 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Minerals:

Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
 - Mineral material sales, with the exception of the community bentonite pit on Little Park Road.
 - Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-09 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

REC-SRMA-MA-06 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Lands and Realty:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-10 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Forestry and Vegetation:

Close the RMZ to the following:

- Timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest.
 - Collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-11 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Camping restrictions:

Close the RMZ to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to this intensively used area that lies in close proximity to private residences.

REC-SRMA-AU-12 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Firearm use restrictions:

Prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns due to the high volume of use and density of designated routes in this area. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

REC-SRMA-AU-13 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with zone objectives.
 - Prohibit Class IV SRPs.
 - Only issue event permits that support and celebrate Grand Valley communities. Event permits should be coordinated with the local community and should result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
 - Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
 - Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the RMZ.
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REC-SRMA-AU-14 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Close the RMZ to motorized travel, with the exception of trailhead access and administrative access to range improvements and other facilities.
 - Limit mechanized travel to designated routes throughout the RMZ with the exception of small designated corridors where open travel is allowed (e.g., Free Lunch Trail play areas).
 - Limit foot and horse travel to designated routes north of Little Park Road and Andy's Loop (core Lunch Loop trail system - see travel maps) due to the high volume of use and density of designated routes in this area.
-

REC-SRMA-MA-07 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Construct new system trails to accommodate activity-specific trails (e.g., limited to hiking).
- Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve RMZ objectives. Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.
- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

REC-SRMA-MA-08 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Special Recreation Permits:

All SRPs will be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

Bangs SRMA RMZ 2 Magellan – Tabeguache OHV Trails

10,600 ACRES (SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAS AND SRMA BMPs)

REC-SRMA-OBJ-03 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Through the life of this plan, manage RMZ 2 targeting a local/regional market, and providing a broad range of motorized OHV trail opportunities, accommodating a range of skill levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced) for varying distances, including route connections that create long-distance OHV recreation opportunities spanning portions of the Bangs SRMA, Dominguez-Escalante NCA, and Uncompahgre National Forest. Encourage community-based recreation that can be marketed as an urban interface recreation asset to the Grand Valley. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: *The targeted activities for the RMZ are motorized OHV trail riding (motorcycles, ATV/UTV, 4x4 full-size vehicles, rock crawling).*

Outcomes and Experiences:

1. *Visitors experience or seek to experience easy access to adventure and exploration with family and friends in a natural landscape. Visitors also value the opportunity to test their equipment and driving/riding skills.*
2. *Visitors generally realize personal benefits of having easy access to outdoor recreation in a natural environment, development of technical competence (driving/riding skills), and development of stronger social bonds with friends and family.*
3. *The community benefits from improved quality of life with higher levels of public land stewardship, stronger community relationships and a healthier populous.*
4. *The area economy is strengthened through recreation-related revenue and increased desirability of the community as a place to live.*

Resource Values:

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction Milk Vetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), Canyon Tree Frog (*Hyla arenicolor*), Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*), desert bighorn sheep, deer and elk winter range, water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers), soils, riparian resources, paleontological resources, and cultural (historic and prehistoric) resources.

Resource Uses:

Through the life of the plan, minimize impacts from other resource uses to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: livestock grazing.

REC-SRMA-MA-09 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support RMZ outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates RMZ outcomes are not being achieved, settings will be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of RMZ outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics:

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This area is moderately remote in character with singletrack, ATV, and jeep trails that offer motorized recreation opportunities bound by state and county roads. The character of the landscape is largely natural in appearance, with some viewsheds that include roads, trails, houses and other man-made developments. Due to the topography, vegetative screening and area scenery, the natural-appearing landscape is retained despite the proximity to the City of Grand Junction. The recreation facilities at trailheads may include, but are not limited to, vault toilets, informational kiosks and other signs. Throughout the unit, a designated trail system with a range of trail opportunities (variety of use designations and varied levels of difficulty) is marked and maintained to achieve defined trail management objectives that support overall RMZ objectives.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Visitors generally directly encounter fewer than six other groups on designated routes. Groups are generally small to medium-sized (3-6 people) with occasional encounters with larger groups. Sights, sounds, and tracks of other targeted users are relatively

infrequent throughout the RMZ, but more prominent near trailheads. Other users are more likely to be heard than seen due to the focus on motorized recreation. Use is generally highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): This RMZ is focused on motorized OHV use with trails and trailheads designed specifically for motorcycles, ATVs and full-size 4x4 vehicles. Access on the Tabeguache Trail through this zone, and continuing through RMZ 4, provides long-distance riding opportunities by linking the Tabeguache Trail through the Bangs SRMA, Dominguez-Escalante NCA and Uncompahgre National Forest. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local OHV businesses, City of Grand Junction, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve RMZ objectives. Management presence is prominent at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Rules, regulations, and land-use ethics are clearly posted at trailheads. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.).

REC-SRMA-AU-15 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

VRM Class:

Manage the RMZ under VRM Class II objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-16 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Minerals:

Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
 - Mineral material sales.
 - Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-17 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

REC-SRMA-MA-10 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Lands and Realty:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-18 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Forestry and Vegetation:

Allow harvest of forest and woodland products if the RMZ is determined suitable for harvest. Close the RMZ to collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.

REC-SRMA-AU-19 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Camping restrictions:

- Allow camping and campfires only in designated sites in the portion of the RMZ north of the drainage at the bottom of Rough Canyon. In this portion of the RMZ, require the use of firepans and portable toilet systems, and prohibit firewood collection, to minimize camping impacts.
 - Allow undeveloped camping and campfires in the portion of the RMZ south of the drainage at the bottom of Rough Canyon. In this portion of the RMZ, allow collection of only dead and down wood for campfires.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-20 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Firearm use restrictions:

Prohibit the discharge of firearms (including any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns) for recreational target shooting within the RMZ for the safety of other recreation users in this area of concentrated trail use. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

REC-SRMA-AU-21 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with zone objectives.
 - Prohibit Class IV Commercial and Competitive SRPs.
 - Only issue event permits that support and celebrate Grand Valley communities. Event permits should be coordinated with the local community and should result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
 - Allow non-motorized events that have been coordinated with, and endorsed by, local OHV organizations, and do not significantly interfere with the SRMA's targeted activities, experiences and outcomes.
 - Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
 - Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the RMZ.
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REC-SRMA-AU-22 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes throughout the RMZ with the exception of small designated corridors where open travel is allowed (e.g., Tabeguache Rough Canyon slickrock play area.)
- Manage that part of the Tabeguache Trail that is south of the zone, to Highway 141 as a high clearance full-sized 4-wheel drive route. This action is outside of the Magellan-Tabeguache OHV Zone (RMZ 2) but provides an essential trail link through the adjacent Bangs Primitive Backcountry Zone (RMZ 4) for meeting the RMZ 2 objective for long-distance OHV opportunities.

REC-SRMA-MA-11 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Work with stakeholders/partners to design and construct new system trails to create additional motorized OHV recreation opportunities that help achieve RMZ objectives.
- Work with stakeholders to create new access points and trailheads if necessary to accommodate increased use, and/or achieve RMZ objectives.
- Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve RMZ objectives.
- Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.
- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

REC-SRMA-MA-12 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 1):

Special Recreation Permits:

All SRPs will be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

REC-SRMA-AU-23 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 2):

Prohibit new trail development in the portion of the RMZ which overlaps the Rough Canyon ACEC unless impacts to ACEC relevance and importance criteria can be mitigated.

Bangs SRMA RMZ 3 Mica Mine/Rough Canyon Outdoor Classroom

1,100 ACRES (SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAS AND SRMA BMPs)

REC-SRMA-OBJ-04 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Through the life of this plan, manage RMZ 3 targeting a local/regional market, providing hiking and educational outdoor classroom learning opportunities consistent with Rough Canyon ACEC management objectives to enhance the appreciation and protection of those values (geology, wildlife habitat, sensitive plants and cultural

resources). Encourage community-based use of the area as an outdoor classroom. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: The targeted activities for the RMZ are hiking/walking and experiential learning.

Outcomes and Experiences:

1. Visitors experience or seek to experience the enjoyment and appreciation of the area's wildlife, scenery, views and aesthetics while learning more about the area's history, ecology and geology.
2. Visitors realize personal benefits of a closer relationship with the natural world.
3. The community benefits from an increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes and cultural resources on a community-wide basis.

Resource Values:

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction Milk Vetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), Significant plant communities: West Slope Pinyon Woodland (*Pinus edulis-Juniperus osteosperma/Coleogyne ramosissima* Woodland); Canyon Tree Frog (*Hyla arenicolor*), Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*), desert bighorn sheep, deer and elk winter range, water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers), soils, riparian resources, paleontological resources, and cultural (historic and prehistoric) resources.

Resource Uses:

Minimize impacts from other resource uses to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: mineral collecting, livestock grazing, lands and real estate.

REC-SRMA-MA-13 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support RMZ outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates RMZ outcomes are not being achieved, settings will be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of RMZ outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like group size limits, issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics:

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This is a non-motorized/ non-

mechanized zone with easy access from Grand Junction via Little Park Road. The character of the landscape is mostly natural in appearance with few modifications that detract from naturalness. Evidence of past mining activities and developments are present in portions of Rough Canyon and Ladder Canyon. Due to topography, vegetative screening and area scenery, the natural landscape is mostly retained. The recreation facilities at trailheads may include, but are not limited to, vault toilets, informational kiosks and other signs. Trails in the zone are designed and maintained to facilitate defined experiential learning objectives. Interpretive and educational displays can be expected at trailheads and along primary trails.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): On developed trails (Mica mine, Rough Canyon trails), visitors are likely to encounter multiple groups per day with a fairly high potential of seeing large groups like school groups and scouts. Throughout the rest of the unit, encounters with other groups are infrequent. On developed trails, the sounds of other people are frequently heard. In the rest of the unit, depending on location in the zone and proximity to trailheads, the sounds of other people are infrequent. Use is generally highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Non-motorized/non-mechanized trails provide easy access from the Bangs Trailhead which lies in close proximity to the Grand Valley. The large trailhead accommodates buses that transport school groups to the area. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local businesses, Mesa County School District 51, Colorado Mesa University, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve RMZ objectives. Management presence prominent at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Staff or volunteer trail hosts or guides may be on primary trails providing education/interpretation services. Rules, regulations, and land-use ethics are clearly posted at trailheads. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.).

REC-SRMA-AU-24 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

VRM Class:

Manage the RMZ under VRM Class II objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-25 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Minerals:

Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
 - Mineral material sales.
 - Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-26 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW exclusion area with an exception to allow consideration of ROW applications for access to private inholdings within the RMZ.

REC-SRMA-MA-14 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Lands and Realty:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-27 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Forestry and Vegetation:

Close the RMZ to the following:

- Timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest.
 - Collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.
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REC-SRMA-AU-28 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Camping restrictions:

Close the RMZ to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to sensitive biological and cultural resources.

REC-SRMA-AU-29 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Firearm use restrictions:

For the safety of other recreation users and protection of sensitive resources, prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball, guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

REC-SRMA-AU-30 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Rock Climbing:

- Allow technical rock climbing to continue where it does not create conflicts with targeted recreation uses and outcomes.
- With partners (climbing clubs, retail service providers, etc.), close climbing routes that are causing resource concerns; identify and improve primary access trails to and between climbing routes to protect biological and cultural resources.
- To reduce resource impacts on the top of routes, encourage placement of permanent rappel anchors.

- To protect visual resources, require all permanent anchors to match the color of the rock surface (fixtures, hardware and webbing, etc.).

REC-SRMA-MA-15 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

To protect the learning opportunities associated with the area’s mica and quartz mining history, develop educational messages that encourage visitors to leave mica and quartz onsite. If monitoring shows significant loss of mica and quartz from the area, implement collection restrictions (e.g., prohibit collection of mica and quartz, requiring special permits for the collection of small quantities for classroom study).

REC-SRMA-AU-31 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Special Recreation Permits:

Issue Class I – II Commercial, Competitive and Organized group SRPs that are consistent with RMZ objectives. Event permits should be coordinated with the local community and should result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.

REC-SRMA-AU-32 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Close the RMZ to motorized and mechanized travel.
- Close the Mica Mine trail and Rough Canyon trail to equestrian use to protect sensitive biological and cultural resources. Equestrian use is allowed elsewhere in the RMZ.

REC-SRMA-MA-16 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Work with stakeholders to design and construct any new system trails, access points or facilities identified as necessary for achievement of RMZ objectives.
- Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve RMZ objectives.
- Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.

REC-SRMA-MA-17 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 3):

Special Recreation Permits:

All SRPs will be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

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| <p>Bangs SRMA RMZ 4 Bangs Primitive Backcountry Zone 32,200 ACRES (SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAS AND SRMA BMPs)</p> |
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REC-SRMA-OBJ-05 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Through the life of this plan, manage RMZ 4 targeting local/regional visitors, providing primitive backcountry hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and wildlife viewing opportunities in a largely undeveloped natural setting. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

***Activities:** The targeted activities for the RMZ are primitive cross-country hiking, horseback riding, hunting and wildlife viewing.*

Outcomes and Experiences:

- 1. Visitors experience or seek to experience quiet adventures to enjoy the area's wildlife, scenery, views and undeveloped natural landscapes while exploring the area by foot or horseback.*
- 2. Visitors generally realize personal benefits of physical exercise, stress reduction, and a closer relationship with the natural world.*
- 3. The community benefits from an increased awareness and stewardship of natural landscapes on a community-wide basis.*

Resource Values:

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/ mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), deer and elk winter range, water quality (non-point source erosion/ sedimentation into the Colorado River), soils, paleontological resources, and cultural (historic and prehistoric) resources.*

Resource Uses:

Minimize impacts from other resource uses to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: livestock grazing.

REC-SRMA-MA-18 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support RMZ outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates RMZ outcomes are not being achieved, settings will be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of RMZ outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like group size limits, issuance of permits, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics:

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This is a remote backcountry zone bisected by the Tabeguache Trail which provides a through route for motorized and mechanized users to traverse the area between Bangs RMZ 1 and Highway 141. Apart from the Tabeguache Trail there are few signs of man-made developments in

the interior of this zone. Developments of man are visible in the distance from parts of the zone, and are more prominent near the perimeter of the zone. There are no developed recreation facilities in the zone with the exception of the Tabeguache Trail.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Except along the Tabeguache Trail, visitors to this zone can expect contacts with other groups to be infrequent (0-3 per day) and group sizes are small (1-6 people.) Evidence of other recreation activities is minimal. Use is generally highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Motorized and mechanized vehicle access is limited to the perimeter of the zone, and the Tabeguache Trail that bisects the zone. Foot and horse travel and camping utilizes primitive, undeveloped trails, or cross-country route-finding employing Leave No Trace travel and camping principles. Visitor services and management presence are minimal. There are no developed/maintained trails, with the exception of the Tabeguache Trail. Basic signs showing rules, regulations and land-use ethics may be posted at primary access points. BLM staff or volunteer field patrols in this zone are generally infrequent.

REC-SRMA-AU-33 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Allow motorized and mechanized vehicle use on the Tabeguache Trail through RMZ 4.

REC-SRMA-MA-19 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:

Manage the portion of the RMZ which overlaps the Bangs Canyon LWC unit consistently with the LWC unit management objectives. This includes the management actions and allowable uses shown below for the RMZ in addition to the following:

Allowable Use: **STIPULATION LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS NSO CO.** No surface occupancy or use is allowed on identified lands being managed to protect inventoried wilderness characteristics, in accordance with the Resource Management Plan. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

REC-SRMA-AU-34 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

VRM Class:

Manage the RMZ under VRM Class II objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-35 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Minerals:

Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
 - Mineral material sales.
 - Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-36 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

ROW:

Manage as a ROW exclusion area with an exception to allow consideration of ROW applications for access to private inholdings within the RMZ.

REC-SRMA-MA-20 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Lands and Realty:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-37 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Forestry and Vegetation:

Close the RMZ to the following:

- Timber harvest, fire wood cutting, and special forest product harvest.
 - Collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-38 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Camping restrictions:

Allow overnight camping and campfires using Leave No Trace camping principles.

REC-SRMA-AU-39 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I and II Commercial and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with zone objectives.
 - Prohibit Competitive SRPs except on the Tabeguache Trail.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-40 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Limited to designated routes for motorized and mechanized travel.
 - Limited to designated routes for motorized over-the-snow travel.
-

REC-SRMA-MA-21 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

Special Recreation Permits:

All SRPs will be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

REC-SRMA-MA-22 (Bangs SRMA RMZ 4):

If monitoring indicates that foot or horse travel in the zone is causing resource damage, consider limiting recreation use and/or limited trail development/maintenance to address the resource concern. Trail work, including but not limited to, signage/markings, reroutes, construction, should only be considered after other adaptive management strategies (group size limits, permitting, area closures, etc.) have been implemented to resolve resource concerns.

Dolores River SRMA - 16,100 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAS AND SRMA BMPs)

Supporting Information for SRMA Allocation

The Dolores River Canyons SRMA encompasses scenic canyon country along the lower Dolores River west to the Utah Border, portions of West Creek, and lands adjacent to the Town of Gateway. It also includes a portion of the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway. This SRMA will be directly affected by the development of the Gateway Canyons Resort and their partnership with BLM.

Goal SRMA-Wide

Dolores River Canyons SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce a diversity of quality recreational opportunities that will continue to add to area residents' quality of life by contributing to the local economy and enhancing stewardship and protection of the area's natural and cultural resources.

Objective SRMA-Wide

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.

REC-SRMA-OBJ-06 (Dolores River SRMA):

Through the life of this plan, manage the Dolores River Canyons SRMA targeting a regional, national and international market providing educational opportunities for visitors to experience the history, culture, geology and scenic diversity of this region. Encourage stewardship and environmental and cultural appreciation through education and experiential learning. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: *The targeted activities for the RMZ are automobile/motorized scenic touring, mountain biking, day hiking, float boating (canoes, kayaks, rafts), and environmental learning.*

Outcomes and Experiences:

1. *Visitors experience or seek to experience the area's wildlife, scenery, views, aesthetics and culture by learning about this area during self-exploration or guided tours.*
2. *Visitors generally realize personal benefits of gaining greater appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage through education and improved mental well-being.*
3. *The community benefits by having an enhanced appreciation of public lands and the associated economic benefits of a more robust tourism market.*
4. *Visitor experiences will likely result in enhanced resource stewardship of the area's natural, scenic and cultural resources.*

Resource Values:

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: rare plants, including Kachina daisy (*Erigeron kachinensis*), Eastwood's monkeyflower (*Mimulus eastwoodiae*), San Rafael milkvetch (*Astragalus rafaensis*), Fisher milkvetch (*Astragalus piscator*), Dolores River skeleton plant (*Lygodesmia doloresensis*), horseshoe milkvetch (*Astragalus equisolensis*), Grand Junction milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), Tufted fraseria (*Frasera paniculatum*), Osterhout's cryptantha (*Cryptantha osterhoutii*), and Gypsum catseye; Significant plant communities: Foothills Riparian Shrubland (*Forestiera pubescens* shrubland), Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forest (*Acer negundo* – *Populus angustifolia*/ *Celtis reticulata* Forest); (*Cryptantha gypsophila*); invasive non-native vegetation including Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.); bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*); deer and elk winter range; riparian resources, visual resources, paleontological resources, and cultural (historic and prehistoric) resources.*

Resource Uses:

Minimize impacts from other resource uses to recreation to ensure those uses support SRMA recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this SRMA during the planning process: gold prospecting, lands and realty (ROW corridor), livestock grazing. In the portions of this RMZ that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for the ROW corridor.

REC-SRMA-MA-23 (Dolores River SRMA):

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support SRMA outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates SRMA outcomes are not being achieved, settings will be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of SRMA outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like group size limits, issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics:

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This area is a corridor along Colorado State Highway 141, which is also a state scenic and historic byway (Unaweep-Tabeguache) and along county dirt roads paralleling the Dolores River. Despite its proximity to the highway, ranching development, and the small town of Gateway, this unit remains largely natural in appearance due to the area’s topography and scenic integrity. Few facilities currently exist, but trailheads and other interpretive exhibits will likely be developed over time.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): The majority of visitors use the scenic byway to explore this unit, with a smaller percentage of visitors floating the river or using the trails. Contacts with other groups are moderate to high (15-25) along the highway, and low (3-6) on the river and trails. Group sizes for all activities are variable. The evidence of use is low in regards to alteration of the natural landscapes, but sights and sounds of other users are common along the highway, and less prominent along the river, county roads, and trails. Use is highest during the spring, summer and fall months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Rural highway auto, truck and motorcycle traffic is characteristic in the majority of this unit. The highway affords easy access to the river and trails. Information and environmental education are prevalent along the highway corridor and at trailheads. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local businesses, Town of Gateway, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve RMZ objectives. BLM staff or volunteers may occasionally be onsite, but most visitor use is supported by services in Gateway, or is self-guided, relying on signage or web-based information. Regulatory and educational information and use ethics are clearly signed to educate visitors and reduce resource damage.

REC-SRMA-AU-41 (Dolores River SRMA):

VRM Class:

Manage a portion of the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives (13,600 acres) and a portion under VRM Class III objectives (2,400 acres).

REC-SRMA-AU-42 (Dolores River SRMA):

Minerals:

Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
- Mineral material sales (exception for area near Niche Road).
- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

REC-SRMA-AU-43 (Dolores River SRMA):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

REC-SRMA-MA-24 (Dolores River SRMA):

Lands and Realty:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-44 (Dolores River SRMA):

Camping restrictions:

Limit camping and campfires to designated developed campgrounds and designated undeveloped campsites. Require the use of firepans and portable toilet systems at undeveloped campsites.

REC-SRMA-AU-45 (Dolores River SRMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Prohibit Class III and IV Commercial and Competitive SRPs. Allow an exception for historical, reoccurring events (e.g., Gateway Dynamite Shoot).
 - Only issue vending permits in conjunction with event SRPs.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-46 (Dolores River SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.

REC-SRMA-MA-25 (Dolores River SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Work with Colorado Department of Transportation and the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway to design and develop access from Highway 141 to interpretive sites and other recreation sites along the Dolores River.

REC-SRMA-AU-47 (Dolores River SRMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I and II Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with SRMA objectives.
 - Allow only SRPs that support management objectives of BLM and stakeholders (e.g., environmental and cultural education).
-

REC-SRMA-MA-26 (Dolores River SRMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

All SRPs will be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit

Classification System (see Appendix L).

REC-SRMA-MA-27 (Dolores River SRMA):

Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve SRMA objectives. Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.

Grand Valley OHV SRMA - 9,700 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAS AND SRMA BMPs)

Supporting Information for SRMA Allocation

The Grand Valley OHV SRMA is located northeast of the Grand Junction Regional Airport and encompasses approximately 15 square miles of desert-like terrain bounded by 27 ¼ Road on the west, the 32 Road alignment on the east, and the Little Book Cliffs on the northeast. The barren hills of Mancos shale offer challenging rides for all types of vehicles and all rider skill levels. 27 ¼ Road and 29 Road provide relatively easy access from the Grand Valley, and offer opportunities for development of recreation support facilities such as parking/unloading areas, informational signage, restrooms, campsites, and event venues. Existing roads, property boundaries and prominent topographic features provide distinct area boundaries that could be signed and/or fenced to clearly define the areas open for cross-country OHV travel.

Goal SRMA-Wide

The Grand Valley OHV SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce opportunities for visitors to experience the freedom to participate in a variety of motorized OHV recreation activities which lead to a variety of beneficial recreation and economic outcomes for participants and Grand Valley communities.

Objective SRMA-Wide

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.

REC-SRMA-OBJ-07 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Through the life of this plan, manage the SRMA to provide local and regional visitors the freedom to participate in unconfined motorized OHV recreation activities in close proximity to the urban amenities of the Grand Valley. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: *The targeted activities for the RMZ are all forms of motorized OHV recreation, and undeveloped camping.*

Outcomes and Experiences:

1. *Visitors experience or seek to experience the freedom of cross-country riding and risk-taking adventure while testing their equipment and building their skills often in groups of friends and family.*
2. *Visitors generally realize personal benefits of a greater sense of adventure that tests their endurance and equipment, and an improved capacity to engage in motorized OHV recreation.*
3. *The Grand Valley community benefits from increased local tourism and tax revenue, and an enhanced sense of community ownership in the area's recreation resources.*

Resource Values:

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts in areas adjacent to the SRMA, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction suncup (*Camissonia eastwoodiae*), Grand Junction buckwheat (*Eriogonum contortum*), water quality (salinity, non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River), Mancos soils.*

Resource Uses:

Minimize impacts from other resource uses to recreation to ensure those uses support SRMA recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this SRMA during the planning process: lands and realty (ROW corridor, land acquisitions, private property trespass) and livestock grazing. In the portions of this SRMA that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for the ROW corridor.

REC-SRMA-MA-28 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support SRMA outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates SRMA outcomes are not being achieved, settings will be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of SRMA outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like group size limits, issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics:

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): The area's proximity to the Grand Valley, Interstate 70 and the Grand Junction Regional Airport creates an urban interface setting at the primary access points, with more remote settings available in the interior of the area. The character of the natural landscape has been largely altered by nearby development and cross country travel that has been the dominant use of the area for many years. Developed recreation facilities currently do not exist, but will likely be prominent in the future along the perimeter of the SRMA to

direct and focus use within the open area. The recreation facilities at primary access points may include, but are not limited to, parking/staging areas that accommodate OHV-hauling rigs, OHV loading/ unloading ramps, vault toilets, informational kiosks and shade shelters. Additional recreation facility developments within the area may include event/festival/ vending areas, and OHV race tracks (e.g., motocross track).

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): This SRMA is generally a busy place, with other people constantly in view, traveling or congregating in large groups at trailheads and throughout the unit. Large disturbed areas are present, with sights, sounds, and tracks of other targeted users prominent throughout the SRMA, but more prominent near staging areas. Use is generally highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Access to the southern and western periphery of the area is on regularly-maintained paved or gravel roads. Access into the interior of the SRMA is unrestricted by vehicle size or type. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local OHV businesses, City of Grand Junction, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve SRMA objectives. Maps, signs and physical barriers (e.g., fences) delineate area boundaries. Management presence prominent at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Federal, state and local personnel are frequently present for information, education and law enforcement efforts. Portions of the area are designated for camping, festivals, equipment demonstrations, food vendors, and motorized events and competitions. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (staging/event/camping area facilities, field patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.).

REC-SRMA-AU-48 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

VRM Class:

Manage the SRMA under VRM Class IV objectives with the exception of the portion of the SRMA along the face of the Little Book Cliffs managed under VRM Class II objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-49 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Minerals:

Close the RMZ to the following:

Mineral material sales.

REC-SRMA-AU-50 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW avoidance area except for existing ROW corridor.

REC-SRMA-MA-29 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Lands and Realty:

- Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the SRMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with SRMA objectives.
- Adjust SRMA boundary to match future land tenure adjustments related to expansion of the Grand Junction Regional Airport.

REC-SRMA-AU-51 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Camping restrictions:

- Allow dispersed undeveloped camping throughout the SRMA as long as it does not interfere with frequently used OHV routes.
- Camping emphasis areas may be designated to direct and focus camping activities in areas that reduce interference with OHV use, and/or provide desirable camping opportunities.

REC-SRMA-AU-52 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Firearm use restrictions:

Prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

REC-SRMA-AU-53 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I, II, III and IV Commercial, Competitive and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with SRMA objectives.
- Throughout the year, issue vending SRPs that achieve SRMA objectives and support local outdoor recreation businesses or organizations.
- In association with permitted competitive events, issue vending SRPs to vendors that support the authorized event.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the SRMA.
- Actively promote this area for motorized OHV events and activities.
- Allow non-motorized events that have been coordinated and endorsed by local OHV organizations, and do not significantly interfere with the SRMA's targeted activities, experiences and outcomes.

REC-SRMA-AU-54 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Allow unrestricted travel for all types of use within the SRMA, with the exception

of small designated camping areas, special use areas (e.g., motocross track) and vending/event areas.

REC-SRMA-AU-55 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

To provide navigational assistance to visitors, consider providing directional signing on some primary arterial routes that traverse the SRMA and access primary staging areas.

REC-SRMA-MA-30 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

All SRPs will be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

REC-SRMA-MA-31 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Clearly identify OHV open area boundaries using a variety of communication tools and/or barriers including, but not limited to, digital and/or print media, signs and/or fencing, and natural topographic features. Boundary identification strategies should generally employ the most practical, cost-effective, and least obtrusive materials and methods that are still effective for attaining desired management results. For example, periodic boundary identification signs may be sufficient to contain use along portions of an open OHV area boundary. If signing alone proves ineffective, fencing or other physical barriers can be installed.

REC-SRMA-MA-32 (Grand Valley OHV SRMA):

Continue to comply with the Federal Pollution Control Act regulations to minimize point sources of pollutants to navigable waters by obtaining (or requiring project proponents through conditions of approval to obtain) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits where necessary to reduce impacts from stormwater runoff.

North Fruita Desert SRMA - 11,600 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAS AND SRMA BMPs)

Supporting Information for SRMA Allocation

The North Fruita Desert SRMA is located at the base of the Book Cliffs north of the City of Fruita and encompasses a singletrack trail network that has gained international attention as a mountain bike riding destination. The trail system, and associated camping opportunities, provides a variety of unique opportunities for visitors to experience the diverse terrain of the desert environment along the base of the Book Cliffs. The area's close proximity to the City of Fruita makes it an important community resource for local recreation as well as tourism.

Goal SRMA-Wide

The North Fruita Desert SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce a diversity of quality mountain bicycling

opportunities that add visitors' quality of life while contributing to the local economy and fostering stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

Objective SRMA-Wide

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.

REC-SRMA-OBJ-08 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Through the life of this plan, manage the SRMA to be a tourism-based recreation area, providing singletrack bicycling trail opportunities accommodating a range of skill levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced) that can be marketed by stakeholders and partners as a family-focused mountain biking destination with close proximity to camping. Manage the SRMA for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: *The targeted activities for the SRMA are mountain bicycling and camping.*

Outcomes and Experiences:

- 1. Visitors experience or seek to experience the closeness of family and friends while developing their riding skills and abilities.*
- 2. Visitors realize personal benefits of easy access to the outdoors, improved fitness and health maintenance (physical and mental), development of technical competence (i.e., mountain biking and camping skills), and development of stronger social bonds with friends and family.*
- 3. The community benefits from improved quality of life with higher levels of public land stewardship, stronger community relationships and a healthier community.*
- 4. The area economy is strengthened through recreation-related tourism revenue and increased desirability of the community as a place to live.*

Resource Values:

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: mule deer and elk winter range, water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River) and soils.

Resource Uses:

Minimize impacts from other resource uses to recreation to ensure those uses support SRMA recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this SRMA during the planning process: livestock grazing.

REC-SRMA-MA-33 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support SRMA outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates SRMA outcomes are not being achieved, settings will be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of SRMA outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to

more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics:

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This is primarily a singletrack mountain biking trail network that is easily accessed from county roads, developed trailheads and campgrounds. More remote settings are available in the interior of the area. The character of the landscape is largely natural in appearance, with some viewsheds that include roads, trails, campground facilities, fences, livestock developments and other man-made structures. Due to topography and area scenery, the natural landscape is mostly retained despite the density of trails. The recreation facilities at trailheads and campgrounds may include, but are not limited to, parking lots, vault toilets, picnic tables, fire grates, informational kiosks and shade shelters. Throughout the unit, a designated singletrack trail system with a spectrum of trails (varied level of difficulty) is marked and maintained to achieve defined trail management objectives that support overall SRMA objectives.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Visitors generally directly encounter fewer than 15 other groups on designated trails, and 25 or more other groups in developed campgrounds during peak seasons. Groups are generally small to medium-sized (1-8 people) with occasional encounters with larger groups. Sights, sounds, and tracks of other targeted users are frequent throughout the area, but more prominent near trailheads and camping areas. Use is generally highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Mountain bicycle singletrack trails provide easy access from trailheads off of county roads. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local bicycle shops, City of Fruita, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve SRMA objectives. Portions of the area are designated for camping, festivals, mountain bike events and races. Maps, signs and physical barriers (e.g., fences) delineate area boundaries. Management presence prominent at trailheads and camping areas, and less prominent away from trailheads. Campground host onsite at campground during peak seasons. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead, campground and event facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.).

REC-SRMA-AU-56 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

VRM Class:

Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-57 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Minerals:

Close the SRMA to the following:

- Mineral material sales
 - Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-58 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW exclusion area, with an exception for recreation projects requiring electric or water utilities, or for minimally intrusive access/utility ROWs to private inholdings within the SRMA.

REC-SRMA-MA-34 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Lands and Realty:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the SRMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with SRMA objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-59 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Forestry and Vegetation:

Close the SRMA to the following:

- Timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest.
 - Collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-60 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Camping restrictions:

To reduce resource impacts and conflicting user interactions:

- Limit camping to designated campgrounds and campsites.
 - Limit the number of people and/or vehicles allowed at each campsite.
 - Require the use of portable toilet systems and firepans at designated undeveloped sites.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-61 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Firearm use restrictions:

For the safety of trail users and campers, prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and

arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

REC-SRMA-AU-62 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I – IV Commercial, Competitive and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with SRMA objectives.
 - In association with Competitive events, issue vending SRPs to vendors that support the authorized event.
 - Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the SRMA.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-63 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes throughout the SRMA.

REC-SRMA-AU-64 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Work with stakeholders to design and construct any new system trails, access points or facilities identified as necessary for achievement of SRMA objectives, including promotion of the area as a regional, national and international mountain biking tourism destination.
-

REC-SRMA-MA-35 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Design and construct an event staging area and trail system to accommodate large-scale mountain bike races/events.

REC-SRMA-MA-36 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Construct new system trails to accommodate activity-specific trails (e.g., mountain bike racing, directional travel trails, constructed technical trail features).
-

REC-SRMA-MA-37 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve SRMA objectives. Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.
-

REC-SRMA-MA-38 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations

(allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

REC-SRMA-MA-39 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Construct additional developed camping opportunities to address camping demand.

REC-SRMA-MA-40 (North Fruita Desert SRMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

Special Recreation Permits:

All SRPs will be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

Palisade Rim SRMA - 2,000 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF SRMAS AND SRMA BMPs)

Supporting Information for SRMA Allocation

The Palisade Rim SRMA encompasses the rim and bench lands east of the Town of Palisade. Public lands and trails in the area are popular close-to-home recreation destinations for the community of Palisade, neighboring communities and seasonal tourism. The area offers outstanding views of the Grand Valley, the Colorado River, the Little Book Cliffs and the Grand Mesa. It also contains significant cultural and wildlife resources.

Goal SRMA-Wide

The Palisade Rim SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce quality recreation and learning opportunities that will continue to enhance area residents' quality of life, contribute to the local economy, and provide stewardship and protection of natural and cultural resources. The area's close proximity to the Town of Palisade makes it an important community resource for local recreation as well as tourism.

Objective SRMA-Wide

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.

REC-SRMA-OBJ-09 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Through the life of this plan, manage the SRMA to be a community-based recreation area, providing intermediate to advanced non-motorized trail-based recreation with an emphasis on the area's scenery, cultural heritage educational opportunities and stewardship of cultural and natural resources. Manage the SRMA for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: *The targeted activities for the SRMA are hiking, dog walking, trail running, mountain biking and horseback riding.*

Outcomes and Experiences:

1. *Visitors experience or seek to experience outdoor physical activity for fitness and stress reduction, as well as experiencing and learning about the area's scenic vistas, wildlife and cultural resources, often in small groups of family members and/or friends.*
2. *Visitors realize personal benefits of having recreation, outstanding scenery, cultural appreciation opportunities and wildlife viewing opportunities close to home. Individuals also benefit from improved fitness and health maintenance (physical and mental), development of technical competence (e.g., mountain biking skills), and development of stronger social bonds with friends and family.*
3. *The community benefits from improved quality of life with higher levels of public land stewardship, increased awareness of the area's natural, historic and cultural resources, stronger community relationships and a healthier community.*
4. *The area economy is strengthened through recreation-related tourism revenue and increased desirability of the community as a place to live.*

Resource Values:

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: deer and elk winter range, Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River), soils, paleontological resources, and cultural resources.*

Resource Uses:

Minimize impacts from other resource uses to recreation to ensure those uses support SRMA recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this SRMA during the planning process: lands and realty (access across BOR withdrawal parcel), land acquisition, private property trespass). In the portions of the SRMA that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve ROW corridor management objectives.

REC-SRMA-MA-41 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support SRMA outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates SRMA outcomes are not being achieved, settings will be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of SRMA outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics:

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): The character of the landscape is

largely natural in appearance, with some viewsheds that include roads, trails, railroads, canals, houses, farms and other man-made developments. Due to topography and area scenery, the natural landscape is mostly retained despite the area's proximity to the Town of Palisade, Interstate 70 and the Grand Valley. The recreation facilities at trailheads (adjacent to the SRMA on CDOT property) may include, but are not limited to, vault toilets, informational/interpretive kiosks and shade shelters. Throughout the unit, a designated singletrack trail system is marked and maintained to achieve defined trail management objectives that support overall SRMA objectives.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Visitors generally directly encounter fewer than seven other groups on designated trails. Groups are generally small to medium-sized (1-8 people) with occasional encounters with larger groups. Sights and sounds of other targeted users are moderately frequent throughout the SRMA, but more frequent near the trailhead. Use is generally highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Non-motorized singletrack trails and use are predominant with primary access from a single trail and trailhead on non-BLM land (CDOT and BOR withdrawal). Bicycles may access the SRMA starting from locations in the nearby Town of Palisade. Secondary access from adjacent BLM, Forest Service and municipal lands to the south and east (depending on potential future development of connector trails.) A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local businesses, Town of Palisade, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve SRMA objectives. Management presence is moderate at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.).

REC-SRMA-AU-65 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

VRM Class:

Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-66 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Minerals:

Close the SRMA to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration;
 - Mineral material sales;
 - Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-67 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW avoidance area with the exception of the ROW corridor that crosses the SRMA. Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor. Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.

REC-SRMA-MA-42 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Lands and Realty:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the SRMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with SRMA objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-68 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Forestry and Vegetation:

Close the SRMA to the following:

Timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest.

REC-SRMA-AU-69 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Camping restrictions:

Close the SRMA to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to this intensively used area that lies in close proximity to private residences.

REC-SRMA-AU-70 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Firearm use restrictions:

Prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

REC-SRMA-AU-71 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Prohibit all Class III and IV SRPs.
 - Only issue event permits that support and celebrate Grand Valley communities. Event permits should be coordinated with the local community and should result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
 - Prohibit vending permits.
-

REC-SRMA-AU-72 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Close the SRMA to motorized travel.
- Limit mechanized travel to designated routes throughout the SRMA.
- With partners (e.g., user groups, local municipalities, retail shops, service providers) develop connective trails to adjoining BLM lands, and the Horse Mountain ERMA, that are consistent with SRMA objectives.
- Limit new trail development to the minimum necessary to achieve SRMA objectives.

REC-SRMA-AU-73 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Work with stakeholders to design and construct any new system trails, access points or facilities identified as necessary for achievement of SRMA objectives.
- Reroute, repair, or close and restore unsustainable and eroding routes.
- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

REC-SRMA-AU-74 (Palisade Rim SRMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I and II Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with SRMA objectives.
- Require organized group SRPs for groups exceeding 12 participants
- All SRPs will be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs)

Extensive Recreation Management Areas are recreation areas that are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses. The following general approaches apply to protect activities within the ERMAs designated in this RMP:

- *Management.* In ERMAs, new recreation facilities (e.g., trails, trailheads, restrooms) to effectively address demand for identified recreation activity created by growing communities and recreation-tourism will be considered if: 1) the proposal is consistent with interdisciplinary land use plan objectives; and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or managing partners, visitor fees, or other sources.
- *Funding.* In ERMAs, BLM funding and staff will be prioritized toward effectively addressing visitor health and safety and user interaction issues and resource protection issues created by recreation activities.

- *Visitor Services.* In ERMAs, visitor services (e.g., visitor information/maps, directional signage, facilities, on-the-ground staff presence) will generally be provided at the level to maintain activity participation opportunities and achieve ERMA objectives.
- *Access.* In ERMAs, recreation access will be maintained to and through BLM lands by creating route connectivity and/or by creating loop trails, and by maintaining and developing appropriate trails and trailhead facilities to achieve ERMA objectives and facilitate targeted recreation activities.
- *Partnerships.* For ERMAs, the BLM will focus on partnerships to maintain recreation activity opportunities (e.g., partner with the business community to encourage collaborative efforts on BLM lands, partner with ATV and mountain biking groups where appropriate).
- *Information/Education.* For ERMAs, information boards, web-based materials, brochures, etc. will be used to explain conditions of use for recreation participants and encourage stewardship.
- *Information.* For ERMAs, the BLM will partner with local chambers of commerce, tourism boards and private service providers to communicate appropriate recreation information (e.g., accurate recreation opportunity information, user ethics, distinctiveness of the area and use/user expectations).
Monitoring. In ERMAs, the BLM will monitor visitor use, visitor safety, and resource conditions through BLM staff, volunteers and recreation-tourism partnerships (e.g., towns, outfitters, recreation organizations, CPW). Monitoring methods include direct visitor contact, electronic traffic counters, visitor/community assessments, and physical resource condition measurements
- *Best Management Practices.*
 1. Utilize current best management practices (Appendix H) to balance targeted recreation activities with other resource uses. Appendix H describes BMPs current at the time of the RMP planning process. BMPs will likely evolve over the life of the plan. Implementation of management actions should be based on the most current BMPs.
 2. Utilize current best management practices (Appendix H) and the “Recreation Management Guidelines to Meet Public Land Health Standards on Bureau of Land Management Lands in Colorado” to reduce or eliminate impacts from recreation to the other natural and cultural resources listed in the ERMA objectives. Appendix H describes BMPs current at the time of the RMP planning process. BMPs will likely evolve over the life of the plan. Implementation of management actions should be based on the most current BMPs.

REC-ERMA-OBJ-01:

Through the life of the plan, protect opportunities to participate in identified recreation activities and associated qualities and conditions in ERMAs.

REC-ERMA-MA-01:

Designate the following ERMAs to address local recreation management issues (217,400 acres). (Figure 2-6, Appendix A):

- Barrel Spring (24,700 acres);
- Gateway (78,100 acres);
- Grand Valley Shooting Ranges (750 acres);
- Gunnison River Bluffs (810 acres);
- Horse Mountain (5,100 acres); and
- North Desert (107,900 acres).

REC-ERMA-AU-01:

STIPULATION CSU-32: *Recreation Management Areas*. Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions in the following ERMAs:

- Barrel Spring ERMA
- Gateway ERMA
- Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA
- Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA
- Horse Mountain ERMA
- North Desert ERMA

(Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

REC-ERMA-AU-02:

Mineral Materials:

Close the Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA to mineral material sales.

Barrel Springs ERMA – 24,700 acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF ERMAs AND ERMA BMPs)

REC-ERMA-OBJ-02:

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in long-distance ATV/UTV riding/touring activities, and big game hunting in the upper East Salt Creek and Barrel Spring Creek drainages, with access from 16 Road. The ERMA provides a recreation setting with a relatively unchanged, natural-appearing landscape.

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: fluid mineral leasing, livestock grazing, lands and realty.

REC-ERMA-AU-03 (Barrel Springs ERMA):

VRM Class:

Manage the ERMA under VRM Class III objectives.

REC-ERMA-AU-04 (Barrel Springs ERMA):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

REC-ERMA-AU-05 (Barrel Springs ERMA):

Forestry and Vegetation:

Allow timber harvest, fire wood cutting, and special forest product harvest if the ERMA is determined suitable for harvest.

REC-ERMA-AU-06 (Barrel Springs ERMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I-II Commercial and Organized Event SRPs that meet ERMA objectives.
 - Do not issue Competitive SRPs in the ERMA.
-

REC-ERMA-AU-07 (Barrel Springs ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Maintain public access for ATVs and UTVs from 16 Road to the upper East Salt Creek and Barrel Spring Creek drainages.
 - Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.
-

REC-ERMA-MA-02 (Barrel Springs ERMA):

To achieve recreation outcomes under Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Establish specific Trail Management Objectives for primary recreation routes.
 - Work with partners to repair/reroute/close and maintain travel routes to reduce resource impacts and achieve ERMA objectives.
 - Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names/numbers, and allowable uses. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.
-

REC-ERMA-OBJ-03:

*Through the life of the plan, manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: deer and elk winter range, fragile and slumping soils, riparian habitat, paleontological resources, rare plants - Piceance Bladderpod (*Lesquerella parviflora*), and the following Significant plant communities: Montane Riparian Woodland (*Populus balsamifera* Woodland), Emergent Wetlands (*Eleocharis rostellata* Herbaceous Vegetation), Foothills Riparian Shrubland (*Betula occidentalis* / *Maianthemum stellatum* Shrubland).*

REC-ERMA-AU-08 (Barrel Springs ERMA):

Close to motorized and mechanized vehicles the portion of the ERMA within designated big game winter range from December 1 to April 30 (TL - 20).

Gateway ERMA – 78,100 acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF ERMAS AND ERMA BMPs)

REC-ERMA-OBJ-04:

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in motorized exploration, scenic touring and heritage tourism along the Mesas and side canyons surrounding the Dolores River and the town of Gateway. Visitors to the ERMA have the opportunity to explore and connect to other public lands managed by Grand Junction Field Office, Uncompahgre Field Office and Moab Field Office, as well as the Uncompahgre National Forest and Manti-La Sal National Forest. The ERMA provides a recreation setting with a relatively unchanged, natural-appearing landscape.

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: scenic values; wilderness characteristics; geological features; plant species of concern - Gypsum Valley cateye (*Cryptantha gypsophila*), San Rafael milkvetch (*Astragalus rafaensis*), Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*), Grand Junction milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*); two Significant Plant Communities - Fremont's Cottonwood Riparian Forests (*Populus deltoides* ssp. *wislizeni* /*Rhus trilobata* Woodland), and Emergent Wetlands (*Eleocharis rostellata* Herbaceous Vegetation); deer and elk winter range; cliff-nesting raptors; cultural resources; and paleontological resources. The resources listed above are also identified for special management and protection in one or more of the following areas that the ERMA overlaps, or is immediately adjacent to: Palisade WSA, Sewemup WSA, Maverick LWC unit, Unaweep Canyon LWC unit, Dolores River Riparian ACEC, Juanita Arch ACEC, The Palisade ACEC, Sinbad Valley ACEC, Unaweep Seep ACEC, Blue Mesa wildlife emphasis area, Bull Hill wildlife emphasis area, Calamity Camp National Historic Register site, and Dolores River Riparian SRMA.*

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: uranium exploration and mining, mineral material sales, livestock grazing.

REC-ERMA-AU-09 (Gateway ERMA):

VRM Class:

Manage the ERMA under VRM Class II and III objectives (as described in the VRM section).

REC-ERMA-AU-10 (Gateway ERMA):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

REC-ERMA-MA-03 (Gateway ERMA):

Lands and Realty:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the ERMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with ERMA objectives.

REC-ERMA-AU-11 (Gateway ERMA):

Forestry and Vegetation:

Allow timber harvest, fire wood cutting, and special forest product harvest if the ERMA is determined suitable for harvest.

REC-ERMA-AU-12 (Gateway ERMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

Issue only Class I, II, and III SRPs in the ERMA.

REC-ERMA-AU-13 (Gateway ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.

REC-ERMA-MA-04 (Gateway ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Establish specific Trail Management Objectives for primary recreation routes.
 - Work with stakeholders to identify opportunities to connect/reroute routes to create loop opportunities that help achieve ERMA objectives.
 - Work with partners to repair/reroute/close and maintain travel routes to reduce resource impacts and achieve ERMA objectives.
 - Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names/numbers, and allowable uses. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.
-

REC-ERMA-AU-14 (Gateway ERMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

Issue Class I-III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with ERMA objectives.

Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA - 750 acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF ERMAS AND ERMA BMPs)

REC-ERMA-OBJ-05:

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in recreational target shooting at a developed shooting range in close proximity to Grand Junction. The ERMA provides a recreation setting with a significantly altered natural landscape.

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (lead contamination, non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River).*

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: livestock grazing, fluid mineral leasing.

REC-ERMA-MA-05 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

Physically delineate the boundaries of the ERMA using signage, fencing and other appropriate markers/barriers.

REC-ERMA-MA-06 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

Develop run-on/run-off control plan to mitigate lead contamination to surface and ground water.

REC-ERMA-MA-07 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

Develop a regular lead recovery program to mitigate soil and water contamination.

REC-ERMA-AU-15 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

VRM Class:

Manage the ERMA under VRM Class IV objectives.

REC-ERMA-AU-16 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA ERMA):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

REC-ERMA-MA-08 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

Lands and Realty:

Identify area for disposal to stakeholder(s) who will manage the area with similar objectives.

REC-ERMA-AU-17 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

Camping restrictions:

Close the ERMA to overnight use and campfires from sunset to sunrise to reduce occurrences of vandalism to recreation facilities. Exceptions to this restriction may be granted in order to accommodate training exercises or other special events.

REC-ERMA-AU-18 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Do not issue Class IV SRPS in the ERMA.
- Allow vending SRPs only in conjunction with event SRPs.

REC-ERMA-AU-19 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Allow travel within the ERMA only for the placement and retrieval of targets.

Motorized and mechanized vehicles must remain on designated routes.

REC-ERMA-MA-09 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Work with stakeholders to maintain adequate access to shooting range facilities, consistent with ERMA objectives.

REC-ERMA-AU-20 (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

Issue Class I – III Commercial, Competitive and Organized Group SRPs that are compatible with ERMA objectives.

Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA – 800 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF ERMAS AND ERMA BMPs)

REC-ERMA-OBJ-06 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

Through the life of the plan, support local community partnerships to protect and promote trail-based hiking, dog walking, trail running, mountain bicycling, horseback riding and other non-motorized recreation activities between Orchard Mesa and Whitewater along the Gunnison River bluffs. The ERMA provides an urban interface recreation setting with a moderately altered natural landscape.

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), cliff-nesting raptors, paleontological resources, and cultural resources.*

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: livestock grazing, lands and realty.

REC-ERMA-MA-10 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

Lands and Realty:

With partners (Mesa County, private landowners, Old Spanish Trail Association and City of Grand Junction), work to improve public access into and through the area. Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the ERMA

that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with ERMA objectives.

REC-ERMA-AU-21 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Close the ERMA to motorized travel. Limit all other travel (including foot and horse) to designated routes in order to accommodate targeted recreation activities in a concentrated urban interface area while protecting sensitive biological and cultural resources.

REC-ERMA-AU-22 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

Firearm use restrictions:

Prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

REC-ERMA-OBJ-07 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

Through community partnerships, protect the scenic views of the Gunnison River and Pinyon Mesa, support trail connectivity between communities and public land resources, and provide opportunities to learn about the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

REC-ERMA-MA-11 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

Partnerships:

- Work with partners (Mesa County, private landowners, Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) and City of Grand Junction) to connect/reroute routes to make loop and/or through-route trail opportunities as necessary; reroute or close and naturalize unsustainable and eroding routes.
 - Work with partners (OSTA, Mesa County, City of Grand Junction) to create and/or support education/interpretation of Old Spanish Trail resources.
-

REC-ERMA-AU-23 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

VRM Class:

- Manage the ERMA under VRM Class III objectives.
 - Landscapes in the viewshed to the south and west of the ERMA lie within the Bangs Canyon SRMA and are managed under VRM Class II objectives.
-

REC-ERMA-AU-24 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

Minerals:

Close the ERMA to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
- Mineral material sales.
- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

REC-ERMA-AU-25 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

ROW:

Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

REC-ERMA-AU-26 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

Camping restrictions:

- Close the ERMA to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to this intensively used area that lies in close proximity to private residences.
 - Allow exceptions for overnight camping and campfires only when those activities support the ERMA objectives (e.g., historical reenactments.)
-

REC-ERMA-AU-27 (Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with ERMA objectives (i.e., support partnership efforts).
- Prohibit Class IV SRPs.
- Only issue event permits that have been coordinated with the local community and that result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
- Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the ERMA.

Horse Mountain ERMA - 5,100 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF ERMAS AND ERMA BMPs)

REC-ERMA-MA-12 (Horse Mountain ERMA):

The Horse Mountain ERMA has three distinct recreation management zones (RMZs). Those zones include: the Horse Mountain Trails RMZ (RMZ 1) featuring opportunities to participate in mountain biking, hiking, trail running, motorcycle riding, ATV riding and 4x4 vehicle driving; the C Road OHV Open Area (RMZ 2) offering an open OHV play area; and the C Road Target Shooting Area (RMZ 3) offering recreational target shooting opportunities. Overall, the ERMA provides a diverse mix of recreation activity opportunities in the urban interface zone along the eastern edge of the Grand Valley. The specific management objectives and actions for each RMZ are described below.

Horse Mountain ERMA RMZ 1 – Horse Mountain Trails – 4,700 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF ERMAS AND ERMA BMPs)

REC-ERMA-OBJ-08 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

Through the life of the plan, support local community partnerships to plan, develop and promote a trail system for a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail-based recreation activities. The trail system should provide easy access to the Horse Mountain area, and trail connectivity to/from the Town of Palisade, East Orchard Mesa, the Palisade Rim SRMA and other BLM-managed lands along the Grand Mesa Slopes. Targeted activities include, but are not limited to, hiking, dog walking, trail running, mountain bicycling, horseback riding, ATV riding and motorcycle riding. The RMZ provides a recreation setting with a moderately to significantly altered natural landscape.

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River).*

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. Consider the following resource uses: fluid mineral leasing and livestock grazing. In the portions of this RMZ that overlap the ROW corridor and Wind Energy Emphasis Area, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for those designations.

REC-ERMA-AU-28 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

VRM Class:

Manage the eastern portion of the RMZ under VRM Class III objectives, and the western portion under VRM Class IV objectives (See VRM section.)

REC-ERMA-MA-13 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

Lands and Realty:

- Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor and the Wind Energy Emphasis area that overlap the RMZ. Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.
 - With managing partners (Town of Palisade, Mesa County, City of Grand Junction, private landowners), work to improve public access into and through the area. Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.
 - Work with adjacent landowners, including the City of Grand Junction to minimize recreation conflicts and/or trespass on private property.
-

REC-ERMA-AU-29 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

Camping restrictions:

Close the RMZ to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to this intensively used area that lies in close proximity to private residences.

REC-ERMA-AU-30 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

Close the portion of the RMZ west of Sink Creek to overnight use (sunset to sunrise) to reduce occurrences of vandalism and resource damage.

REC-ERMA-AU-31 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

Firearm use restrictions:

Close to recreational target shooting the portion of the RMZ west of Sink Creek for the safety of adjacent residents, and recreationists using the C Road OHV Open Area, the C Road Target Shooting Area, and the connector trails leading to Horse Mountain.

REC-ERMA-AU-32 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Only issue event permits that have been coordinated with the local community and that result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
 - Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
 - Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the RMZ.
-

REC-ERMA-AU-33 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.

REC-ERMA-MA-14 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

If monitoring indicates conflicting interactions between recreation users, promote positive interactions between visitors by implementing strategies that separate incompatible recreation uses in either time or space (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.)

REC-ERMA-AU-34 (Horse Mountain RMZ 1):

Special Recreation Permits:

Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with RMZ objectives (i.e., support partnership efforts).

Horse Mountain ERMA RMZ 2 – C Road Open Area – 180 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF ERMAS AND ERMA BMPs)

REC-ERMA-OBJ-09 (Horse Mountain RMZ 2):

Through the life of the plan, this RMZ will provide visitors with opportunities to participate in unconfined day-use motorized OHV recreation activities in close proximity to the urban amenities of the Grand Valley. The RMZ will also provide an OHV practice/play area serving as a gateway to the designated route system on adjoining public lands to the east. The RMZ provides a recreation setting with a

significantly altered natural landscape due to intensive motorized OHV use, and nearby residential and agricultural development.

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River).*

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: lands and realty (ROW corridor), fluid mineral leasing. In the portions of this RMZ that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for the ROW corridor.

REC-ERMA-MA-15 (Horse Mountain RMZ 2):

Physically delineate the boundaries of the RMZ using signage, fencing and other appropriate markers/barriers.

REC-ERMA-AU-35 (Horse Mountain RMZ 2):

VRM Class:

Manage under VRM Class IV objectives.

REC-ERMA-AU-36 (Horse Mountain RMZ 2):

Lands and Realty:

- Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor that overlaps the RMZ. Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.
 - Work with adjacent landowners to minimize recreation conflicts and/or trespass on private property.
-

REC-ERMA-AU-37 (Horse Mountain RMZ 2):

Camping restrictions:

Designate the RMZ as a day-use only area. Close the RMZ to overnight use and campfires from sunset to sunrise to reduce occurrences of vandalism, dumping, resource damage and disturbance of nearby residents.

REC-ERMA-AU-38 (Horse Mountain RMZ 2):

Firearm use restrictions:

Close the RMZ to recreational target shooting for the safety of adjacent residents, recreationists using the OHV area and recreationists using the connector trails leading to Horse Mountain.

REC-ERMA-AU-39 (Horse Mountain RMZ 2):

Special Recreation Permits:

Do not issue SRPs in this RMZ. Exception: Allow event staging in the RMZ for events outside of the RMZ.

REC-ERMA-AU-40 (Horse Mountain RMZ 2):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Allow unrestricted travel for all types of motorized OHV use within the RMZ.
- Ensure connectivity between the RMZ and the Horse Mountain Trails RMZ (RMZ 1).

Horse Mountain ERMA RMZ 3 – Target Shooting – 240 Acres
(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF ERMAS AND ERMA BMPs)

REC-ERMA-OBJ-10 (Horse Mountain RMZ 3):

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in day-use recreational target shooting in close proximity to Grand Junction, Clifton and Palisade, while protecting the property and personal safety of private residences in the area. The RMZ provides a recreation setting with a significantly altered natural landscape due to intensive recreation use in the area.

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (lead contamination, non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River).*

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: fluid mineral leasing, livestock grazing. In the portions of this RMZ that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for the ROW corridor.

REC-ERMA-MA-16 (Horse Mountain RMZ 3):

Physically delineate the boundaries of the RMZ using signage, fencing and other appropriate markers/barriers.

REC-ERMA-MA-17 (Horse Mountain RMZ 3):

Clearly identify BLM-managed lands adjacent to the RMZ that are closed to target shooting (900 acres) for the protection of the property and personal safety of nearby private residences in the area.

REC-ERMA-AU-41 (Horse Mountain RMZ 3):

VRM Class:

Manage under VRM Class IV objectives.

REC-ERMA-AU-42 (Horse Mountain RMZ 3):

Lands and Realty:

- Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor that overlaps the RMZ. Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.
- Work with adjacent landowners to minimize recreation conflicts and/or trespass on private property.
- Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

REC-ERMA-AU-43 (Horse Mountain RMZ 3):

Camping restrictions:

Designate the RMZ as a day-use only area. Close the RMZ to overnight use and campfires from sunset to sunrise to reduce occurrences of vandalism, dumping, resource damage and disturbance of nearby residents.

REC-ERMA-AU-44 (Horse Mountain RMZ 3):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive and Organized Group SRPs that provide financial or in-kind support for ongoing maintenance of the RMZ facilities.
- Do not issue Class IV SRPS in the ERMA.
- Allow vending SRPs only in conjunction with event SRPs.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the RMZ.

REC-ERMA-AU-45 (Horse Mountain RMZ 3):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Allow travel within the RMZ only for the placement and retrieval of targets. Motorized and mechanized vehicles must remain on designated routes.

REC-ERMA-AU-46 (Horse Mountain RMZ 3):

Work with stakeholders to maintain adequate access to facilities, consistent with RMZ objectives.

North Desert ERMA - 107,900 Acres

(SEE APPENDICES K AND H FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF ERMAS AND ERMA BMPs)

REC-ERMA-OBJ-11 (North Desert ERMA):

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in motorized OHV recreation (motorcycle, ATV, UTV, full-sized 4x4 vehicles) on a variety routes designated for different motorized uses (e.g., motorcycle, ATV/UTV, full-size vehicles) that link the desert terrain on the north side of the Grand Valley

from Grand Junction and Fruita to Rabbit Valley and the Utah Rims trails and provide multiple long-distance motorized loop opportunities. The ERMA will provide a recreation setting with a moderately altered natural landscape.

*Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction buckwheat (*Eriogonum contortum*), Grand Junction suncup (*Camissonia eastwoodiae*), Dolores River skeletonplant (*Lygodesmia doloresensis*); Significant plant communities: Saline Bottomland Shrublands (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus* / *Suaeda moquinii* Shrubland), Western Slope Grasslands (*Achnatherum hymenoides* Shale Barren Herbaceous Vegetation), Cold Desert Shrublands (*Atriplex confertifolia* / *Achnatherum hymenoides* Shrubland), Gardner's Mat Saltbush Shrublands (*Atriplex gardneri* / *Leymus salinus* Dwarf-shrubland), Skunkbrush Riparian Shrubland (*Rhus trilobata* Shrubland); water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River), Mancos Shale, saline soils, deer and elk winter range, pronghorn.*

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: coal leasing, mineral material sales, fluid mineral leasing and livestock grazing. In the portions of this ERMA that overlap the ROW corridor and Solar Energy Emphasis Areas (Mitchell Road and 21 Road), manage recreation to achieve management objectives for those designations.

REC-ERMA-AU-47 (North Desert ERMA):

VRM Class:

Manage the ERMA under VRM Class II, III and IV objectives (See VRM section.)
The majority of the ERMA is VRM Class IV.

REC-ERMA-MA-18 (North Desert ERMA):

Lands and Realty:

- Designate as a ROW avoidance area with the exception of the ROW corridor that crosses the ERMA.
- Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor and Solar Energy Emphasis areas that overlap the ERMA (Mitchell Road and 21 Road). Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.
- With managing partners (City of Fruita, Mesa County, City of Grand Junction, private landowners), work to improve public access into and through the area. Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the ERMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with ERMA objectives.
- Work with adjacent landowners to minimize recreation conflicts and/or trespass on private property.

REC-ERMA-AU-48 (North Desert ERMA):

Camping Restrictions:

- Allow camping and campfires in the ERMA where it does not interfere with targeted OHV recreation opportunities, and is compatible with the management of other resources and resource uses.
- Close the 18 Road Open OHV area to overnight camping.
- Allow collection of only dead and down wood for campfires.

REC-ERMA-MA-19 (North Desert ERMA):

Camping Management:

If monitoring indicates unacceptable impacts from camping and campfires, implement progressive measures to mitigate those impacts. Mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to: requiring the use of firepans and portable toilet systems; prohibiting firewood collection; limiting portions of the ERMA to designated campsites only; closing portions of the ERMA to camping and campfires.)

REC-ERMA-AU-49 (North Desert ERMA):

Firearm use restrictions:

Close the 18 Road OHV Open area to recreational target shooting for the safety of OHV recreationists in this intensively used portion of the ERMA.

REC-ERMA-AU-50 (North Desert ERMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I – IV Competitive Special Recreation Permits that achieve ERMA objectives.
- Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the ERMA.

REC-ERMA-AU-51 (North Desert ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.

REC-ERMA-MA-20 (North Desert ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Work with stakeholders/partners to plan, develop and maintain a route system that helps achieve ERMA objectives while mitigating impacts to the area's sensitive resources and resource uses (listed in the objectives). This includes identifying appropriate existing routes, repairing or rerouting unsustainable routes, constructing connecting routes, and closing redundant routes.

REC-ERMA-AU-52 (North Desert ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Designate the 18 Road Open OHV area (330 acres).

REC-ERMA-MA-21 (North Desert ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Ensure route connectivity between the ERMA and the Rabbit Valley area of McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area and the Utah Rims SRMA in Utah.

REC-ERMA-MA-22 (North Desert ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Ensure route connectivity between the ERMA and the Grand Valley OHV SRMA. To provide a transition zone between the high-use urban interface area directly north of Grand Junction, allow higher route density along the ERMA's interface with the Grand Valley OHV SRMA at 27¼ Road, with route density generally decreasing as the trail system extends to the northwest toward 25 Road and 21 Road (travel management Zone L.)

REC-ERMA-MA-23 (North Desert ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Identify a multi-use singletrack trail on BLM-managed lands that connects the City of Fruita to the North Fruita Desert SRMA. If monitoring indicates the need to separate uses to ensure visitor safety, construct a bicycle-only trail through the ERMA that directly connects from the City of Fruita to the North Fruita Desert SRMA.

REC-ERMA-MA-24 (North Desert ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Identify a multi-use singletrack trail on BLM-managed lands that connects Highline State Park to the North Fruita Desert SRMA. If monitoring indicates the need to separate uses to ensure visitor safety, construct a bicycle-only trail through the ERMA that directly connects from Highline State Park to the North Fruita Desert SRMA.

REC-ERMA-MA-25 (North Desert ERMA):

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Work with stakeholders to create new access points and trailheads if necessary to accommodate increased use, and/or achieve ERMA objectives.

- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations

(allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

- Promote positive interactions between recreation users by implementing strategies that separate conflicting uses. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc.
-

REC-ERMA-AU-53 (North Desert ERMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial and Organized Group SRPs that achieve ERMA objectives.
-

REC-ERMA-AU-54 (North Desert ERMA):

Special Recreation Permits:

- Develop an event staging area in the ERMA that helps achieve ERMA objectives.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAILS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

TRV-GOAL-01:

Manage the travel system to support the BLM mission, achieve resource management goals and objectives, and provide for appropriate public and administrative access.

TRV-OBJ-01:

Maintain a comprehensive travel network that best meets the full range of public, resource management, and administrative access needs.

TRV-MA-01:

Off-highway vehicle and off road vehicles are synonymous with motorized travel and will be regulated consistent with 43 CFR 8340.

TRV-MA-02:

Designate motorized travel in the GJFO as follows (Figure 2-8, Appendix A):

- Open: 10,200 acres
 - Closed: 126,200 acres
 - Limited to designated routes: 925,200 acres (includes 105,200 acres with seasonal limitations)
-

TRV-MA-03:

Manage 10,200 acres as *open* to motorized recreational travel.

- Grand Valley OHV SRMA, including Skinny Ridge (9,700 acres);
 - 18 Road Open Area (330 acres);
 - Horse Mountain ERMA (RMZ 2 [180 acres]); and
 - Tabeguache OHV Play Area (2 acres).
-

TRV-MA-04:

Manage the Grand Valley Open Area SRMA as a ROW avoidance area (except for areas in delineated ROW corridors).

TRV-MA-05:

Manage 126,200 acres as *closed* to motorized travel (administrative and permitted vehicular access only):

- WSAs
- ACECs:
 - Atwell Gulch;
 - Juanita Arch;
 - Mt. Garfield;
 - A portion of the Palisade (26,700 acres);

- Pyramid Rock;
 - A portion of Rough Canyon (600 acres); and
 - Unawep Seep
 - Lands managed for wilderness characteristics:
 - A portion of Maverick (1,600 acres)
 - Critical Habitat and Research Areas:
 - Ant Research Area; and
 - Reeder Mesa Cactus Study Site
 - Wildlife Emphasis Areas:
 - Timber Ridge (deer/elk/sage-grouse);
 - A portion of East Salt between Demaree Canyon WSA and Highway 139 (deer/elk/kit fox); and
 - A portion of Rapid Creek (deer/elk)
 - SRMAs
 - Bangs (RMZ 1 and 3), with the exception of trailhead access and the Tabeguache Trail;
 - Palisade Rim
 - ERMAs
 - Gunnison River Bluffs.
-

TRV-MA-06:

Manage motorized travel on the remaining portion of the GJFO as limited to designated routes (820,000 acres); acreage does not include seasonal limitations. Refer to BLM's Travel Management Plan (Appendix M) for route designations in limited areas.

TRV-AU-01:

Implement the following seasonal travel limitations for motorized and mechanized travel from December 1 to May 1 (105,200 acres):

- Big game winter range;
- Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range;
- Beehive;
- Blue Mesa;
- Chalk Mountain;
- Coal Canyon;
- Demaree Canyon outside of the WSA;
- Garvey Canyon;
- Grand Mesa Slopes;
- Howard Canyon Flats;

- Indian Point;
- Post/Lapham Canyons;
- Rapid Creek;
- SRMAs:
 - A portion of the North Fruita Desert SRMA (4,300 acres).

These areas will be managed by BLM to reflect CPW's most current big game winter range maps. Seasonal limitation periods may be adjusted based on coordination with CPW (e.g., mild winters, late hunting seasons, etc.).

TRV-MA-07:

Designate mechanized travel in the GJFO as follows (Figure 2-8, Appendix A):

- Open: 10,200 acres
 - Closed: 119,500 acres
 - Limited to designated routes:
931,900 acres (includes 105,200 acres with seasonal limitations)
-

TRV-MA-08:

Manage 119,500 acres as *closed* to mechanized travel:

- WSAs
 - ACECs:
 - Atwell Gulch;
 - Juanita Arch
 - Mt. Garfield;
 - Pyramid Rock;
 - A portion of Rough Canyon (600 acres); and
 - Unawep Seep
 - Wildlife Emphasis Areas:
 - Timber Ridge (deer/elk/sage-grouse);
 - A portion of Rapid Creek (1,700 acres); and
 - SRMAs
 - Bangs (RMZ 3) except for the Tabeguache Trail
 - Lands managed for wilderness characteristics:
 - A portion of Maverick (1,600 acres).
-

TRV-MA-09:

Manage mechanized travel on the remaining portion of the GJFO as limited to designated routes (826,700 acres); acreage does not include seasonal limitations. Refer to BLM's Travel Management Plan (Appendix M) for route designations in limited areas.

TRV-MA-10:

Designate equestrian travel in the GJFO as follows (Figure 2-8, Appendix A):

- Open: 1,056,100 acres
- Closed: 1,300 acres
- Limited to designated routes: 2,200 acres.

TRV-MA-11:

Manage 1,056,100 acres as *open* to equestrian travel.

TRV-MA-12:

Manage 1,300 acres as *closed* to equestrian travel:

- Pyramid Rock ACEC
- And the Mica Mine Trail and Rough Canyon Trail

TRV-MA-13:

Limit equestrian travel to designated routes in the following areas (2,200 acres) (Refer to Appendix M for route designations in limited areas):

- Bangs SRMA (part of RMZ 1 – 1,400 acres)
- Gunnison River Bluffs (800 acres)

TRV-MA-14:

Designate foot travel in the GJFO as follows (Figure 2-8, Appendix A):

- Open: 1,057,800 acres
- Closed: 1,300 acres
- Limited to designated routes: 2,200 acres

TRV-MA-15:

Manage 1,056,100 acres as *open* to foot travel.

TRV-MA-16:

Manage 1,300 acres as *closed* to foot travel.

- Pyramid Rock ACEC.

TRV-MA-17:

Limit foot travel to designated routes in the following areas (2,200 acres) (Refer to Appendix M for route designations in limited areas):

- Bangs SRMA (part of RMZ 1 - 1,400 acres)
- Gunnison river Bluffs ERMA (800 acres)

TRV-MA-18:

Manage the following areas as *closed* to over-snow motorized travel:

- LBCWHR (closed to mechanized and motorized over-snow travel)
- Lands managed for wilderness characteristics, except for Unawep and the Tabeguache Trail in the Bangs LWC area.
- ACECs:
 - Atwell Gulch;
 - Mount Garfield;
 - Pyramid Rock; and
 - Unawep Seep.
- SRMAs:
 - Bangs (RMZ 4).

TRV-MA-19:

Within lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*) habitat, limit the expansion of consistent snow compaction unless it serves to consolidate use and improve lynx habitat.

TRV-IMP-01:

Route Designations. Designate travel on routes as follows (see Appendix M for maps):

- Limited to vehicles under 50 inches wide only: 37 miles (1 percent of total routes)
- Limited to vehicles under 50 inches wide only with a seasonal limitation: 7 miles (<1 percent of all routes)
- Limited to bicycle travel only: 1 miles (<1 percent of total routes)
- County roads: 309 miles (8 percent of total routes)
- Limited to foot and bicycle travel only: 6 miles (<1 percent of total routes)
- Limited to foot travel only: 7 miles (<1 percent of total routes)
- Limited to foot and horse travel only: 47 miles (1 percent of total routes)
- Limited to foot, horse, bicycle, and motorcycle travel only: 89 (2 percent of total routes)
- Limited to foot, horse, bicycle, and motorcycle travel only with a winter seasonal limitation: 3 miles (<11 percent of all routes)
- Limited to foot, horse, and bicycle travel only: 99 miles (2 percent of total routes)
- Limited to foot, horse, and bicycle travel only with a seasonal limitation: 14 miles (<1 percent of all routes)
- Open to all uses: 871 miles (22 percent of all routes)
- Open to all uses with a seasonal limitation: 235 miles (6 percent of all routes)
- Undesignated (Zone L): 545 miles (14 percent of all routes)

- Open to all uses (in OHV open areas): 291 miles (7 percent of all routes)
 - Limited to administrative and permitted uses only: 524 miles (13 percent of all routes), includes 332 miles of routes with no legal public access
 - Closed: 723 miles (18 percent of all routes)
 - Total open to non-motorized travel only: 174 miles (4 percent of all routes), sum of non-motorized categories
 - Total open to motorized travel: 2,576 miles (64 percent of all routes), sum of motorized categories and included routes with deferred designations
 - **Approximate total all routes: 3996 miles**
-

TRV-GOAL-02:

To manage a comprehensive travel and transportation management system that allows for diverse recreational use of motorized and nonmotorized interests; promotes the safety of all users; minimizes conflicts among federal land uses; communicates with the public about available opportunities, and monitors the effects of use.

TRV-OBJ-02:

Seek to effectively manage new modes of travel that cannot be foreseen through this planning effort.

TRV-MA-20:

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.

TRV-GOAL-03:

To manage a comprehensive travel and transportation management system that minimizes damage to natural and cultural resources (historical and archeological sites, traditional cultural properties and natural resources of importance to Native Americans, soil, water, air, vegetation, scenic values, etc.) and minimizes harassment of wildlife and/or significant disruption of wildlife habitats.

TRV-OBJ-03:

Manage travel consistent with outcomes defined by resource programs.

TRV-MA-21:

Prohibit cross-country motorized/mechanized travel for big game retrieval, except in open areas (i.e. OHV open areas). Allow hand-held non-motorized/non-mechanized wheeled game retrieval carts.

TRV-MA-22:

Additional closures or seasonal restrictions on areas or routes may be implemented to reduce resource conflicts, public health and safety concerns, or road and trail damage as necessary.

TRV-MA-23:

Open areas and designated roads and trails may be closed during severe droughts and wind events to reduce particulate matter (e.g., during National Weather Service high wind warning).

TRV-MA-24:

Require proper road design, construction, and/or surfacing on BLM authorized roads to reduce fugitive dust emissions.

TRV-MA-25:

To minimize ongoing or potential impacts to cultural resources that are eligible or potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or are listed on the NRHP, close and/or re-route routes that are inside, pass through, or lead directly to these sites, or identify mitigation necessary to protect sites.

TRV-MA-26:

To minimize potential impacts to sites, reduce density of routes in areas known to be high expected cultural resource density or areas of high value to the cultural program or Tribes.

TRV-MA-27:

Use VRM and recreation (or management) objectives to minimize impacts to site integrity (maintaining the visual, audible, and setting characteristics of sites).

TRV-MA-28:

To minimize ongoing or potential impacts to historic trails identified as eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP, identify mitigation to protect the historic integrity of routes, if necessary.

TRV-MA-29:

Maintain administrative access to active oil and gas wells, but limit public access to provide for public safety at active well sites.

TRV-MA-30:

Maintain administrative access to active mines.

TRV-MA-31:

To facilitate proper reclamation in compliance with pipeline stipulations on rights of way grants and to protect shallow pipeline infrastructure, maintain administrative (but close public) access over pipeline facilities, unless pipelines are placed along existing routes or impacts pipelines and reclamation are not a concern.

TRV-MA-32:

Maintain motorized access to firewood, post and pole gathering, and Christmas tree cutting areas.

TRV-MA-33:

Consider whether parcels are identified for disposal in determining long-term access needs.

TRV-MA-34:

Consider whether parcels are identified for management by another entity in determining long-term access needs.

TRV-MA-35:

During route designations, pursue easements in areas where enhanced public access is desired and interest is expressed by willing sellers.

TRV-MA-36:

Maintain a minimum of administrative access to rights-of-way, other land use authorizations, and utility corridors.

TRV-MA-37:

Reduce trespass from routes that dead-end onto private property by closing routes, managing as administrative, or by signing property boundaries. Allow for landowner access on closed routes through administrative designation and right-of-way grants.

TRV-MA-38:

Maintain a minimum of administrative access to range improvement projects, study sites, and to areas necessary to properly administer grazing permits.

TRV-MA-39:

In some cases limit public access to protect range improvements from potential damage.

TRV-MA-40:

Reduce route density in areas where long-term management is designed to protect wilderness characteristics.

TRV-MA-41:

To reduce ongoing damage to known paleontological sites, close routes that are inside or pass through eligible cultural sites, or identify mitigation necessary to protect sites.

TRV-MA-42:

To reduce the potential for vandalism or collection, reduce number of routes in proximity to known paleontological localities.

TRV-MA-43:

Within each individual SRMA/RMZ, clearly prescribe travel management allowable uses and implementation actions that help achieve SRMA/RMZ objectives.

TRV-MA-44:

In balance with other resource considerations, provide access to undeveloped campsites that exist along dead-end spur roads.

TRV-MA-45:

In balance with other resource considerations, retain or provide access to difficult to reach parcels of public land for hunting, fishing, and other recreation activities.

TRV-MA-46:

Consider route features, quality user experience, and route connectivity to determine appropriate route use type (i.e. open, mechanized, ATV, UTV, foot, etc.)

TRV-MA-47:

Work closely with Mesa and Garfield counties to maintain public access to areas identified as important for recreation.

TRV-MA-48:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with recreation and resource program objectives.

TRV-MA-49:

In high disturbance areas, utilize best available science to model sediment loss relative to natural rates. Based on model results, modify land uses including travel infrastructure to minimize resource damage while maintaining resource and resource use sustainability on public lands.

TRV-MA-50:

While maintaining access, eliminate duplicative or redundant routes in areas of fragile soils, Mancos Shale areas, slump areas, and on slopes exceeding 40 percent. (Public Land Health Standard 1).

TRV-MA-51:

While maintaining access for administration and public viewing, reduce the number of duplicative and redundant routes in the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse herd area.

TRV-MA-52:

To protect and maintain unique ecological values for which the ACEC was designated, limit or reduce the number of routes within ACECs that are managed as limited to designated routes for motorized and mechanized travel.

TRV-MA-53:

To preserve the visual character of the existing landscape, limit or reduce the number of routes in areas managed as VRM Class I. The level of change to the visual landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

TRV-MA-54:

To retain the visual character of the existing landscape and minimize the level of change, limit or reduce the number of routes in areas managed as VRM Class II. The level of change to the visual landscape should be low. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the natural features of the landscape – form, line, color and texture. Routes may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer.

TRV-MA-55:

To partially retain the visual character of the existing landscape and to moderate the level of change to the existing environment, carefully consider the designation of routes or design/construction of new routes in areas managed as VRM Class III. Routes may attract attention, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. To the extent possible, routes should repeat the basic elements found in the natural landscape – form, line, color and texture.

TRV-MA-56:

In areas managed under VRM Class IV objectives, allow transportation/access routes that require major modification of the visual landscape. The level of change can be high and routes may dominate the view of the casual observer. To the extent possible, routes should repeat the basic elements found in the natural landscape – form, line, color and texture.

TRV-MA-57:

To reduce impairment of wilderness characteristics, generally close routes in WSAs. Routes may be left open in WSAs if they were documented at the time of the original wilderness inventory, and adequate documentation exists to indicate that they continue to be used in the same manner and degree as they were at the time of the inventory so as to not impair wilderness characteristics.

TRV-MA-58:

Reduce redundancies in routes to minimize fragmentation, and minimize direct impacts from motorized and mechanized users of roads, routes and trails on relic vegetation communities and sensitive plant species.

TRV-MA-59:

Identify mitigation where open routes are negatively effecting significant plant communities, relic vegetation, and ensure that Land Health Standard 4 is being achieved or progress is being made towards meeting this Standard.

TRV-MA-60:

To reduce the spread of cheatgrass and noxious weeds, reduce duplicative and redundant routes in areas with susceptibility to cheatgrass or invasive and noxious weed infestations.

TRV-MA-61:

Reduce duplicative and redundant routes in riparian areas, especially those identified as not functioning or functioning at risk. Identify mitigation where open routes are contributing to problems with riparian function.

TRV-MA-62:

Reduce redundancies in routes to minimize habitat fragmentation, and minimize direct impacts from motorized and mechanized users of roads, routes and trails on listed species and in designated critical habitat for threatened and endangered plants. Identify mitigation where open routes are negatively effecting listed species and/or designated critical habitat, and ensure that Land Health Standard 4 is being achieved or progress is being made towards meeting this Standard.

TRV-MA-63:

While maintaining access, close routes with multiple stream crossings and/ or identify mitigation including reroutes and proper design, construction, and maintenance plans in accordance with BLM manual handbook guidance.

TRV-MA-64:

Reduce point and non-point source contributions of water quality contaminants from public lands by reducing disturbance footprints associated with travel infrastructure and other surface disturbing actions while also maintaining access and meeting resource use objectives.

TRV-MA-65:

Promote the delisting of impaired water bodies (303d listed) by monitoring actions including but not limited to grazing, travel management, and other surface disturbing actions and implementing appropriate management change.

TRV-MA-66:

Reduce routes through currently suitable or potentially suitable Gunnison and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat by reducing routes through sage brush parks, with an emphasis on routes that bisect sage brush parks.

TRV-MA-67:

Maintain and/or create connections between key sagebrush habitats by encouraging placement of new utility developments (power lines, pipelines, etc.) and transportation routes (roads, trails etc.) in existing utility or transportation corridors to minimize fragmentation of sagebrush vegetation.

TRV-MA-68:

To reduce disturbance to Gunnison or Greater Sage-Grouse, close duplicative or redundant routes within Sage-Grouse habitat and within 4 miles of a lek.

TRV-MA-69:

Reduce habitat fragmentation by reducing road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in production areas, (bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, moose) To provide protection of big game production areas from disturbance and displacement by human activities during critical periods.

TRV-AU-02:

STIPULATION BIG GAME PRODUCTION AREAS TL CO. No surface use is allowed during the following time period(s) in big game production areas, as mapped in the Resource Management Plan, BLM's GIS database or other maps provided by local, state, federal or tribal agencies that are analyzed and accepted by the BLM: Prohibit activities, including motorized travel, in elk production areas from May 15 to June 15; in antelope production areas from April 15 to June 30; in Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep production areas from April 15 to June 30; in Moose production areas from April 15 to June 30; and in desert bighorn sheep production areas from February 1 to May 1. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

TRV-MA-70:

To preserve the integrity of long term research study sites close areas consistent with current management.

TRV-AU-03:

STIPULATION NSO-32: Research Sites. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities in approved research sites including, but not limited to, the Ant Research Area (120 acres) located near 16 Road, and the Owl Banding Station located south of De Beque; see Appendix B.

TRV-MA-71:

Reduce habitat fragmentation by reducing road density (focusing primarily on duplicative or redundant routes) in wildlife emphasis areas. Route density of less than 0.5 km of road per square km preferred, where this cannot be achieved implement winter seasonal limitations if feasible to seasonally limit route related disturbance in the most critical months.

TRV-MA-72:

Within wildlife emphasis areas consolidate surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within existing disturbance to avoid fragmentation.

TRV-MA-73:

Focus management in wildlife emphasis areas on wildlife. Adopt additional management actions deemed necessary by the BLM (such as closing additional

roads to maintain effective habitat patch size).

TRV-MA-74:

While maintaining desired levels of access, identify and reroute or close and rehabilitate redundant, duplicative, or poorly constructed routes to reduce point sources of erosion and resulting sedimentation and turbidity impacts within watersheds containing known pure populations of cutthroat trout. Focus on routes within closest proximity to occupied streams.

TRV-MA-75:

Reduce disturbance at known golden eagle nesting sites by closing routes permanently or seasonally where possible, with an emphasis on routes that result in disturbance above the nest (at the top of a cliff nest). Disturbance above a nest has been shown to cause greater likelihood of nest abandonment

TRV-MA-76:

To reduce potential for vandalism of bat gates and associated disturbance to bats minimize motorized access to gated sites.

TRV-MA-77:

In accordance with 43 CFR 8341.2, where monitoring or related data suggest that OHVs are causing or would cause considerable adverse impacts, areas may be closed or restricted from OHV use. The public will be notified. The BLM could impose limitations on types of vehicles allowed on specific designated routes if monitoring indicates that a particular type of vehicle is causing unacceptable disturbance to the soil, wildlife habitat, special status species habitat, cultural or vegetative resources, or other sensitive resources, especially by off-road travel in an area that is limited to designated routes.

TRV-MA-78:

There are a number of locations throughout the GJFO that are commonly known and consistently used for aircraft landing and departure activities that, through such casual use, have evolved into backcountry airstrips (the definition contained in Section 345 of Public Law 106-914, the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of 2001). In accordance with that law, require full public notice, consultation with local and state government officials, the Federal Aviation Administration, and compliance with all applicable laws, including NEPA, when considering any closure of an aircraft landing strip.

TRV-OBJ-04:

Manage nonmotorized travel consistent with outcomes defined by resource programs.

TRV-MA-79:

Where monitoring or related data suggest that mechanized travel, horseback use or nonmechanized, cross-country travel are causing or would cause considerable adverse impacts, areas may be closed or travel restricted. The public will be

notified. The BLM could impose limitations on types of use allowed on specific designated routes or areas if monitoring indicates that a particular type of use is causing disturbance to the soil, wildlife habitat, cultural or vegetative resources.

TRV-MA-80:

Limit nonmechanized/nonmotorized travel to designated roads and trails in specific areas to protect resource values, provide for public safety, and/or maintain an identified opportunity. These areas include urban interface and high density use areas. Refer to Appendix M for nonmechanized/nonmotorized route designations.

Travel Management Zone L

TRV-OBJ-05:

Manage travel through route designations within Zone L to be consistent with the following recreation and resource objectives:

Watershed and Soils

- *Manage to maintain or contribute to long term improvement of surface and groundwater quality.*
- *Promote geomorphic balance.*
- *Meet Public Land Health Standard 1 for soils and 5 for water quality*
- *Minimize salt and sediment production to natural background rates.*
- *Preserve and promote soil productivity.*

Special Status Species (Plants)

- *Meet Public Land Health Standard 3 for plant communities and 4 for Special Status and Threatened & Endangered species and their habitats.*
- *Promote maintenance and recovery of federally listed, proposed, and candidate plant species by protecting occupied habitat. Protect occupied habitat for all BLM sensitive plant species and significant plant communities as defined and tracked by CNHP*

Vegetation

- *Manage vegetation to meet BLM Standards for Public Land Health while taking into account site potential, and site-specific management objectives. Ensure vegetation resources are managed to achieve balance in soil and watershed protection, wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, forestry, and biodiversity values, while maintaining or enhancing special status species habitat.*

Recreation

- *Ensure route connectivity between the North Desert ERMA and the Grand Valley OHV SRMA. To provide a transition zone between the high-use urban interface area directly north of Grand Junction, allow higher route density along the ERMA's interface with the Grand Valley OHV SRMA at 27 ¼ Road, with route density generally decreasing as the trail system extends to the*

northwest toward 25 Road and 21 Road (Travel Management Zone L.)

TRV-MA-81:

Develop a route system in Zone L (outside of the open area) through cooperation with key stakeholders that utilizes screening measures identified in Appendix M specific to this area within 5 years of approving the Travel Management Plan.

TRV-MA-82:

Reduce redundancies in routes to minimize habitat fragmentation, and minimize direct impacts from motorized and mechanized users of roads, routes and trails on listed species. Identify mitigation where open routes are negatively effecting listed species.

TRV-MA-83:

To reduce the spread of cheatgrass and noxious weeds, reduce duplicative and redundant routes in areas with susceptibility to cheatgrass or invasive and noxious weed infestations.

TRV-AU-04:

STIPULATION NSO-13: *Current and Historically Occupied Habitat of Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species*. Prohibit certain surface uses, as specified in Appendix B, to protect threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate plants and animals from indirect impacts, loss of immediately adjacent suitable habitat, or impacts to primary constituent elements of critical habitat as designated by USFWS. Maintain existing buffer distances where pre-existing disturbance exists, and reduce redundancies in roads to minimize fragmentation, and minimize direct impacts from motorized and mechanized users of roads, routes and trails. In undisturbed environments and ACECs, prohibit new disturbance within 200 meters (656 feet) of current and historically occupied and suitable habitat. This stipulation includes emergency closures of roads where damage to T&E habitat has occurred. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

LANDS AND REALTY

L&R-GOAL-01:

Meet resource needs while providing public use authorizations such as Rights-of-Way (ROWs), renewable energy sources, permits, and leases.

L&R-OBJ-01:

Provide for the development and operation of transportation systems, pipelines, transmission lines, communication sites, renewable energy resources, and other land use authorizations in an environmentally responsible and timely manner.

L&R-AU-01:

ROW Exclusion Areas (including renewable energy sites such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, and biomass development): Manage 210,000 acres as ROW exclusion areas that are not available for the location of ROWs or other realty authorizations under any conditions, to include the following (Figure 2-9, Appendix A):

- ACECs:
 - A portion of Atwell Gulch (2,600 acres);
 - A portion of Badger Wash (1,800 acres);
 - Indian Creek;
 - Juanita Arch;
 - Mt. Garfield (excluding the Coal Canyon Corridor);
 - Pyramid Rock;
 - Rough Canyon;
 - South Shale Ridge (except for ROWs to existing oil and gas leases issued under the 1987 RMP without NSO stipulations); and
 - Unaweep Seep
- Ant Study Area
- LBCWHR (22,800 acres inside WSA)
- Lands managed for wilderness characteristics
- Parachute penstemon occupied habitat
- SRMAs:
 - Bangs (RMZs 3 and 4);
 - North Fruita Desert.
- VRM Class I
- Wildlife emphasis areas:
 - A portion of East Salt Creek (west of Highway 139 [4,100 acres])
- Within a 0.4-mile radius of Sage-Grouse leks

- WSAs (allow for ROWs to existing leases without an NSO stipulation issued under the 1987 RMP)
 - High sensitivity zone of the Palisade municipal watershed, except for the Lands End Communication Site.
-

L&R-AU-02:

ROW Avoidance Areas: Manage 789,400 acres as ROW avoidance areas (Figure 2-9, Appendix A) (see Appendix B):

- ACECs:
 - A portion of Atwell Gulch (260 acres)
 - A portion of Badger Wash (400 acres)
 - Dolores River Riparian
 - The Palisade
 - Roan and Carr Creeks
 - Sinbad Valley
- Administrative sites (e.g., study sites, monitoring plots, range exclosures)
- Developed recreation sites
- Disposal parcels
- Fragile soils
- Floodplains
- National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails (e.g., Old Spanish National Historic Trail)
- LBCWHR (6,500 acres outside of WSA)
- Mapped Mancos shale areas
- OHV open areas (except for areas in delineated ROW corridors)
- Owl banding station
- Sage-Grouse: occupied habitat
- Sage-Grouse: within a 4-mile radius of leks
- Scenic byways (except for areas within corridors)
- SRMAs:
 - Bangs (RMZs 1 and 2, exception for Little Park Road and Monument Road [75-meter setback])
 - Dolores River Canyon
 - Grand Valley OHV
 - Palisade Rim
- Special status species occupied and suitable habitat
- Steep slopes greater than or equal to 40 percent
- Streams/springs possessing lotic/lentic riparian characteristics

- Segment suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS:
 - Dolores River
 - Areas designated as VRM Class II
 - Wetlands, springs, seeps, and riparian areas.
 - Wildlife Emphasis Areas:
 - Prairie Canyon antelope migratory corridor;
 - Rapid Creek (except for West-wide Energy Corridor);
 - Sunnyside (outside of West-wide Energy Corridor); and
 - Timber Ridge (exception along 9.8 Road).
 - Wildlife habitat treatments
 - Old growth forests and woodlands.
-

L&R-AU-03:

Manage the remaining public land not identified as ROW exclusion or avoidance areas as suitable for consideration for public utilities.

L&R-AU-04:

STIPULATION CSU-29: *Sub-surface Inventory.* Require sub-surface inventory for deep sub-surface-disturbing activities and buried ROW in the following locations. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

- Indian Creek (20,200 acres);
 - Grand Mesa Slopes (16,000 acres); and
 - Sunnyside (17,300 acres).
-

L&R-MA-01:

Maintain a minimum of administrative access to rights-of-way, other land use authorizations, and utility corridors.

L&R-MA-02:

Communication Sites: Work with applicants to prioritize co-locating communication site facilities and use existing sites, as feasible. Consider new communication sites if these requirements cannot be met.

L&R-OBJ-02:

Manage corridors for public utilities and other facilities, and establish new corridors in an environmentally responsible manner as necessary to meet future demands and protect sensitive resources.

L&R-AU-05:

Consider the placement of new facilities or upgrades to existing facilities in delineated corridors or in other areas with previous disturbance and existing

facilities, as consistent with other resource values.

L&R-MA-03:

Manage five corridors (96,000 acres) (widths are approximate) for public utilities and other facilities, including:

- Coal Canyon
 - Telephone/fiber optic and power lines (wood poles only, or material and designs that look natural or similar to wood poles)
 - 0.5-mile wide
 - Highway 139
 - All facilities
 - 0.5-mile wide
 - UnawEEP Canyon
 - Telephone/fiber optic and power lines (wood poles only, or material and designs that look natural or similar to wood poles)
 - 0.5-mile wide
 - West Salt Creek
 - All facilities
 - 0.5-mile wide
 - West-wide Energy Corridor
 - All facilities
 - 1 to 5 miles wide
-

L&R-AU-06:

Consider increased bonding for projects within the UnawEEP and Highway 139 Corridors to ensure that reclamation, visual, and other objectives are met.

L&R-OBJ-03:

Provide for the development and operation of actions for leases, permits, and easements authorized under 43 CFR 2920 (such as site facilities and commercial filming) in an environmentally responsible and timely manner.

L&R-MA-04:

Leases, permits, and easements authorized under 43 CFR 2920 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.

L&R-MA-05:

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 cleared areas. Issue permits

without requiring any NEPA analysis only if the following criteria of minimal impact are met. Prior to permit approval, 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.

- Project will not impact sensitive habitat or species.
- Project will not impact cultural resources or traditional cultural properties and natural resources of importance to Native Americans.
- 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).
- 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 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 area with wildlife concerns is not proposed during crucial wildlife periods.
- Aircraft use in area with no wildlife concerns is proposed for no more than two days and does not exceed frequency of three projects per 30-day period.
- 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.

L&R-OBJ-04:

Resolve trespass uses as they are identified and prioritized.

L&R-MA-06:

Monitor for trespass actions and manage as appropriate through ROW authorization or trespass procedures for removal and site restoration.

Renewable Energy

L&R-MA-07:

Encourage applications for both small scale (less than 20 megawatts) and large scale (greater than 20 megawatts) development in solar and wind emphasis areas.

Manage 8,700 acres as emphasis areas for solar energy development and operation, and 2,400 acres as emphasis areas for wind energy development and operation (Figure 2-87, Appendix A). Manage additional areas as identified and determined suitable for development in an environmentally responsible and economically feasible manner. ROW avoidance and exclusion areas apply. Allow for competitive leasing in identified renewable energy emphasis areas, and in new emphasis areas as identified in the future. All ROWs and other realty authorizations shall be relocated to avoid sensitive resources. Special stipulations shall also be applied to protect sensitive resources in avoidance areas.

L&R-MA-08:

Upon receipt of application for development and subsequent approval within solar and wind emphasis areas (Figures 2-29, Appendix A), consider modification of route designations and/or route relocation to accommodate wind energy development.

Land Tenure

L&R-GOAL-02:

Adjust BLM land ownership patterns and implement other realty actions (e.g., withdrawals and easements) to meet resource and community needs.

L&R-OBJ-05:

Consolidate the BLM's land ownership patterns through land tenure adjustments for improved management efficiency, and acquire from willing sellers suitable private land with special resource values.

L&R-AU-07:

Disposals. Identify 10,200 acres as available for disposal through exchanges, state selections, boundary adjustments, R&PP Act leases and patents, leases under Section 302 of FLPMA, sales under Sections 203 and 209 of FLPMA, and sales authorized by other Congressional Acts and special legislation. (Figure 2-10, Appendix A).

Disposal lands must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Lands suitable for public purposes adjacent to or of special importance to local communities and to state or federal agencies for purposes such as community expansion, extended community services, or economic development.
- Isolated parcels that are small or so located as to make effective and efficient management impractical.
- Lands identified for the Grand Junction Regional Airport expansion (2,100 acres).*
- Unintentional occupancy trespasses in existence prior to 2010.
- Parcels containing or integral to significant habitat for special status species may be disposed of only if the habitat for the species of concern can be maintained and if the USFWS and CPW concur.
- Parcels containing or integral to NRHP eligible cultural resources may be disposed of only if the resources can be mitigated through data recovery and if the SHPO concurs with the proposed mitigation.
- Additional lands may be identified for disposal in urbanizing areas on a case-by-case basis to meet community expansion needs and where the public interest will be well served.
- Lands managed as recreational target shooting areas (e.g., 27¼ Road in the Grand Valley Shooting Areas ERMA), if lands will be managed with similar objectives to current use.
- Lands without legal public access.

* Lands identified for the Grand Junction Regional Airport expansion may be reclassified as retention lands if a future update to the Airport Master Plan determines that the lands are not needed for airport expansion.

L&R-MA-09:

Dispose isolated tracts of public lands not presently shown on the base map (Alternative A) that become known in the future and that are not required to meet other resource objectives. See Figure 2-10, in Appendix A.

L&R-MA-10:

Reserve public access in patents where it will benefit the public.

L&R-AU-08:

Identify 20 tracts totaling 5,200 acres for cooperative management (Figure 2-10, Appendix A). Offer these tracts to qualified agencies or entities for management, transfer, or exchange. Tracts that are not in the process of being transferred or do not have a cooperative management agreement in place within 10 years of signing of the record of decision for this RMP may become available for disposal.

L&R-MA-11:

Retention Areas. Retain for long-term management the remaining public lands (not identified for disposal), totaling 1,051,900 acres (Figure 2-10, Appendix A).

L&R-MA-12:

Consider land exchanges in retention areas on a case-by-case basis in order to meet resource objectives if the exchange is in the public interest and will: 1) improve management efficiency; or 2) result in the acquisition of private property with high resource values.

L&R-MA-13:

Consider applications in retention areas to meet community or organization needs under the R&PP Act in accordance with resource objectives.

L&R-AU-09:

STIPULATION DISPOSAL CSU CO. Surface occupancy or use may be restricted due to lands identified for disposal in the Resource Management Plan. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

L&R-MA-14:

Consider whether parcels are identified for disposal or for management by another entity in determining long-term access needs and route designations.

L&R-OBJ-06:

Acquire lands or interests in lands through exchanges, purchases, easements, or donations to facilitate resource goals and objectives.

L&R-MA-15:

Consider acquisition of lands that meet the following criteria:

- Lands within or adjacent to WSAs;
- Lands adjacent to NCAs;
- Lands needed for management of Wild and Scenic Rivers;
- National cultural, historic, or scenic trails and byways;
- Areas for cultural, paleontological, or natural history designation;
- Lands within or adjacent to ACECs;
- Habitat for species of concern (including, but not limited to, special status species);
- Lands that will help conserve, enhance, or restore Sage-Grouse habitat;
- Lands within or adjacent to lands managed for wilderness characteristics;
- Lands within or adjacent to the LBCWHR;
- Lands within or adjacent to SRMAs;
- 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;
 - Wetland areas as defined in Executive Order 11990, dated May 24, 1977;
 - Floodplain areas (100-year) as defined in Executive Order 11988, dated May 24, 1977; and
 - Other lands for other administrative purposes.
-

L&R-MA-16:

Manage lands or interests in acquired lands in a manner consistent with management of other public lands in the surrounding area.

L&R-MA-17:

Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with recreation and resource program objectives.

L&R-MA-18:

To facilitate proper reclamation in compliance with pipeline stipulations and COAs (on rights-of-way grants and APDs) and to protect shallow pipeline infrastructure, maintain administrative (but close to the public) access over pipeline facilities, unless pipelines are placed along existing routes or impacts pipelines and reclamation are unlikely.

L&R-OBJ-07:

Withdraw lands from the public land laws or mining laws where necessary to meet resource and other management objectives of the BLM or other Federal agencies.

L&R-MA-19:

Continue to manage approximately 23,300 acres as withdrawn from mineral entry (Figure 2-16, Appendix A):

- Badger Wash Study Area (3,100 acres)
- Mack Mesa Reservoir (40 acres)
- Sieber Canyon (200 acres)
- West Creek and the UnawEEP Seep (1,500 acres)
- Rough Canyon ACEC (2,700 acres)
- Pup Tent Mine (1 acre)
- Developed recreation sites
 - Mud Springs (40 acres)
 - Miracle Rock (50 acres)
- Department of Energy uranium withdrawal (5,800 acres)
- Existing Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) withdrawals (7,900 acres¹)

Also see Locatable Minerals section.

¹ Of the 7,900 acres of BOR withdrawals, 4,900 surface acres are managed by BOR, 3,000 surface acres are managed by BLM.

L&R-MA-20:

Review withdrawals, as needed, and recommend their renewal, continuation, or termination. Continue all existing withdrawals initiated by other agencies unless the initiating agency requests that the withdrawal be terminated. Following revocation of a withdrawal and issuance of an opening order, manage the lands in a manner consistent with adjacent or comparable public land within the planning area.

Existing BOR withdrawals include:

- Grand Valley Project (5A Withdrawal; approximately 3,100 acres);
- Grand Valley Salinity Unit, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Project (5A Withdrawal; 500 acres);
- Collbran Project (5A Withdrawal; 1,300 acres); and
- Dominguez Project (5B Withdrawal; 3,000 acres)*

*Project not authorized for construction.

L&R-MA-21:

Recommend revocation of the Dominguez Project withdrawal (3,000 acres) as requested by the BOR. Following revocation of the withdrawal and issuance of an opening order, manage the lands in a manner consistent with adjacent or comparable public land within the planning area.

L&R-MA-22:

Consider disposal of any withdrawn lands only upon concurrence by the holding agency and revocation or modification of the withdrawal.

COAL

COA-GOAL-01:

Provide opportunities for environmentally sound exploration and development of coal resources.

COA-OBJ-01:

Maintain coal leasing, exploration, and development within the planning area while minimizing impacts to other resource values.

COA-AU-01:

Within the coal resource development potential area, manage 252,100 acres* as acceptable for further coal leasing and development per Screens 1 and 3, set forth in 43 CFR 3420.1. See Figure 2-35, Appendix A.

*Acreage based off a maximum development depth of 2,500 feet.

COA-AU-02:

Manage areas identified in Screen 2 criteria, set forth in 43 CFR 3461.5, as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing but unsuitable for surface mining or surface mining operations, and subject to the resource objectives outlined in the RMP (Appendix N, Coal Screening Criteria in the GJFO).

COA-AU-03:

Manage 57,400 acres in the coal resource development potential area as unacceptable for further consideration of leasing and development per Screen 3, set forth in 43 CFR 3420.1 (Appendix N, Coal Screening Criteria in the GJFO). See Figure 2-11 in Appendix A):

- Unacceptable areas include the following:
 - Colorado River Corridor;
 - Demaree Canyon WSA;
 - Little Book Cliffs WSA;
 - Pyramid Rock ACEC;
 - A portion of Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC (700 acres); and
 - The Grand Junction and Palisade municipal watersheds.
-

COA-AU-04:

Apply special conditions that must be met during more-detailed planning, lease sale, or post-lease activities, including measures required to protect other resource values, as outlined in Appendix B (Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Other Surface-disturbing Activities) and Appendix H (Best Management Practices and Standard Operating Procedures). Provide special conditions as recommended stipulations during post-lease activities and mine plan permitting processes.

COA-AU-05:

STIPULATION *COAL MINE CSU CO: (Fluid Minerals Only)* Surface occupancy or use (for fluid minerals only) may be restricted due to surface or underground coal mines. Special design, construction and implementation measures, including relocation of operations by more than 200 meters (656 feet), may be required. Operations proposed within the area of an approved surface or underground coal mine will be relocated outside the area to be mined or to accommodate room and pillar mining operations. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

FLUID MINERALS (OIL AND GAS, OIL SHALE, AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES)

MIN-GOAL-01:

Provide opportunities for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals using balanced multiple-use management to meet local and national energy needs.

Oil and Gas and Geothermal Resources

MIN-OBJ-01:

Facilitate orderly, economic, and environmentally sound exploration and development of oil and gas resources (including coalbed natural gas and geothermal), using the best available technology.

MIN-MA-01:

Lease Notices (all Lease Notices): Use a Lease Notice to alert oil and gas and geothermal lessees of special inventory requirements or reporting requirements in certain areas to protect resources (See Appendix B).

MIN-MA-02:

Apply lease stipulations and lease notices to all new leases.

MIN-MA-03:

BLM has the discretion to modify surface operations to change or add specific mitigation measures when supported by scientific analysis. All mitigation/conservation measures not already required as stipulations will be analyzed in a site-specific NEPA document, and be incorporated, as appropriate, into COAs of the permit, plan of development, and/or other use authorizations.

MIN-MA-04:

Develop and apply COAs for authorizations such as, but not limited to, applications for permit to drill, sundry notices, and geophysical exploration to supplement regulation and policy, provided the COAs are consistent with lease rights granted.

MIN-MA-05:

In areas being actively developed, the operator will be encouraged to submit a Master Development Plan (formerly known as Geographic Area Proposal) that describes a minimum of two to three years activity for operator-controlled federal leases within a reasonable geographic area (to be determined jointly with BLM). Use the Master Development Plan to plan development of federal leases within the area to account for well locations, roads, and pipelines, and to identify cumulative environmental effects and appropriate mitigation. The extent of the analysis will be dependent on the extent of surface ownership, extent of lease holdings, topography, access, and resource concerns.

MIN-MA-06:

Resource condition objectives identified in this RMP will guide reclamation activities in areas that are currently under development and areas to be developed prior to their abandonment.

MIN-AU-01:

Leasing: Manage 935,600 acres of the federal mineral estate as open to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration:

- BLM surface/federal minerals: 790,700 acres (Figure 2-12, Appendix A)
 - Private and State surface/federal fluid mineral estate: 144,900 acres.
-

MIN-AU-02:

No Leasing: *BLM surface/federal minerals.* Manage 295,600 acres of the federal mineral estate underlying BLM surface as closed to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12 in Appendix A:

- No leasing areas include the following:
 - Gunnison Sage-Grouse critical habitat;
 - ACECs:
 - Badger Wash (1,700 acres)
 - Dolores River Riparian (7,400 acres)
 - Juanita Arch (1,600 acres)
 - The Palisade (32,200 acres)
 - Rough Canyon (2,800 acres)
 - Sinbad Valley (6,400 acres)
 - UnawEEP Seep (85 acres)
 - Lands managed for wilderness characteristics (44,100 acres)
 - SRMAs:
 - Bangs (47,800 acres)
 - Dolores River Canyon (16,100 acres)
 - Palisade Rim (2,000 acres)
 - Watersheds:
 - Grand Junction (1,900 acres)
 - Palisade (5,200 acres)
 - BOR withdrawals where surface estate is managed by the BLM (3,000 acres)
 - WSAs:
 - Demaree Canyon (22,700 acres)
 - Little Book Cliffs (29,300 acres)
 - The Palisade (26,700)
 - Sewemup Mesa (17,800 acres)
-

MIN-AU-03:

No Leasing: *Split-estate.* Manage 29,800 acres of Private and State surface/federal fluid mineral estate as closed to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12 in Appendix A:

- City of Grand Junction Municipal Watershed (1,300 acres);
 - Palisade Municipal Watershed (7,100 acres);
 - Gunnison Sage-Grouse critical habitat (16,500 acres); and
 - BOR withdrawals where the surface is managed by BOR (4,900 acres).
-

MIN-AU-04:

STIPULATION LN-16 (Alternative A)/LN-7 (Alternatives B and D): *Powderhorn Ski Area.* If drilling operations are proposed, the lessee is hereby notified that there are concerns about ski lift structures, other facilities, and ski runs within the Powderhorn ski area. The lessee is hereby notified that special design, construction, and scheduling measures may be required in order to minimize the impacts of drilling and production operations. Proposed drilling and production facilities and operations shall be relocated and rescheduled as needed to avoid physical interference with ski area facilities and recreation use. This can include relocations of more than 200 meters (656 feet) or seasonal closures of more than 60 days (See Appendix B).

MIN-AU-05:

STIPULATION RECREATION PARKS NSO CO: Prohibit surface occupancy and use within the boundaries of the following county parks, state parks, state wildlife areas, federal wildlife refuges, and/or National Park Service units:

- Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area (1,400 acres)
- Jerry Creek Reservoir State Wildlife Area (870 acres)
- Plateau Creek State Wildlife Area (1,400 acres)
- Highline State Park (350 acres)
- Vega State Park (2,000 acres)

(Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

MIN-AU-06:

Where drainage in areas closed to leasing is likely, the BLM may issue new leases with an NSO stipulation with appropriate exception, waiver, and modification criteria.

MIN-AU-07:

STIPULATION NSO (all NSOs): Apply major constraints (NSO/no surface-disturbing activities) to 424,500 acres that are open to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. Lease areas with fluid minerals NSO stipulations to protect resources (Refer to Appendix B):

- BLM surface/federal minerals: 371,500 acres (Figure 2-13, Appendix A)
 - Private and State surface/federal fluid mineral estate: 53,800 acres..
-

MIN-AU-08:

STIPULATION CSU (all CSUs): Apply constraints (CSUs) to 501,700 acres that are open to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. Lease areas with CSU stipulations to protect resources (Refer to Appendix B):

- BLM surface/federal minerals: 481,800 acres (Figure 2-14, Appendix A)
 - Private and State surface/federal fluid mineral estate: 19,900 acres.
-

MIN-AU-09:

STIPULATION TL (all TLs): Apply constraints (TLs) to 383,800 acres that are open to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. Lease areas with TL stipulations to protect resources (Refer to Appendix B):

- BLM surface/federal minerals: 342,200 acres (Figure 2-15, Appendix A)
 - Private and State surface/federal fluid mineral estate: 41,600 acres.
-

MIN-MA-07:

Maintain administrative access to active oil and gas wells, but limit public access to provide for public safety at active well sites.

Oil Shale

MIN-OSH-OBJ-01:

Maintain opportunities to lease oil shale with further NEPA analysis while minimizing impacts to other resources.

MIN-OIL-AU-01:

Accept applications to lease oil shale on 560 acres of the federal mineral estate within the GJFO, as identified in the *Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/ROD for Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources to Address Land Use Allocations in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (BLM 2008c). See Figure 2-90 in Appendix A. Other decisions related to oil shale leasing made in the *Oil Shale and Tar Sands PEIS* (BLM 2008) are also incorporated here by reference. These decisions are currently being revisited by the BLM in a programmatic planning process and any additional decisions will be adopted by this RMP, as applicable.

MIN-OIL-AU-02:

Applications for commercial leases using surface mining technologies shall not be permitted.

MIN-OIL-MA-01:

Accept applications for commercial leasing using underground mining technologies. The BLM will then publish a notice in the Federal Register. Prior to making any leasing decision, the BLM will conduct site specific NEPA analysis and assess the conformance of leasing with this RMP. If the application is not in conformance with the RMP, then a plan amendment will be required.

MIN-OIL-MA-02:

Consider and give priority to the use of land exchanges, where appropriate and feasible, to consolidate land ownership and mineral interests within the oil shale basins to facilitate development pursuant to Section 369(n) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plan

Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plan (MLP) Vision:

Facilitate the exploration and development of oil and gas resources in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP area, while resolving possible conflicts with future leasing and development, and ensuring protection of the area's resources and resource uses, including, but not limited to: air quality; soils; water; riparian; fish and wildlife (including Wildlife Emphasis Areas); Special Status Species; recreation; and ACECs.

MIN-MLP-OBJ-01:

Promote a proactive approach to planning for oil and gas development in the proposed Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plan area based on known resource values and reasonably foreseeable oil and gas development. Manage oil and gas operations in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP area to prevent degradation of sensitive soils, special status species, and other resources. All management objectives, goals, and actions are the same for the MLP and the entire GJFO decision area unless otherwise stated.

MIN-MLP-AU-01:

Approximately 183,400 acres of Federal mineral estate in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area that are currently unleased will be open to oil and gas leasing and development. Approximately 37,600 acres of Federal mineral estate in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area that are currently unleased will be closed to oil and gas leasing and geophysical exploration.

- Apply NSO, CSU, and TL leasing stipulations in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area to protect resources.
- Apply major constraints (NSO) to about 328,700 acres of Federal mineral estate that are open to fluid minerals leasing. (See Figure 4-2).
- Apply moderate constraints (CSU) to about 362,500 acres of Federal mineral estate that are open to fluid minerals leasing. (See Figure 4-3)
- Apply moderate constraints (TL) to about 237,500 acres of Federal mineral estate that are open to fluid minerals leasing. (See Figure 4-4)

The following energy and minerals, reclamation, livestock grazing, and transportation and access Conditions of Approval (COAs) from Appendix H will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied consistent with environmental analysis and existing lease rights. Additional resource-specific COAs are listed under each resource subheading below.

- Minerals and Energy (M&E) 1-100
- Reclamation (R) 1-17
- Livestock Grazing (LG) 11, 12, 14, and 15
- Transportation and Access (TA) 2

Master Leasing Plan – Air Quality

MIN-MLP-OBJ-02:

Limit air quality degradation within the MLP analysis area by ensuring that land use activities are in compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

MIN-MLP-AU-02:

Require that oil and gas operators use reduced emission completion technology (i.e., “green” completion) as defined in COGCC Rule 805 and the New Source Performance Standards for Crude Oil and Natural Gas

Production at 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart OOOO at all wells on BLM-administered lands and wells that access federal minerals. An exemption may be granted on a case-by-case basis. The following COAs also may be applied to development proposals:

- Air Quality (A) 1-28 and 30-32

Refer to the Air Quality section for other air quality management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Water Resources

MIN-MLP-OBJ-03:

Manage and protect surface water and groundwater in order to maintain or contribute to the long term improvement of surface and ground water quality and minimize or control elevated levels of salt, sediment, and selenium contributions to water resources. All streams on public lands in the MLP Analysis Area that meet or exceed State water quality standards, and that have acceptable channel stability, will be maintained in the present condition through limited management. Streams not meeting State standards, or having unstable channels, will be improved in order to meet minimum standards through intensive management.

MIN-MLP-AU-03:

Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the Shale Ridges

and Canyons MLP analysis area to protect water quality. See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.

Hydrology:

- NSO-2 Streams/Springs Possessing Lotic Riparian Characteristics (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-3 Definable Streams (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-4 Lentic Riparian Areas (including springs, seeps, and fens) (See Figure 4-2)
- CSU-3 Definable Streams (See Figure 4-3)
- HYDROLOGY RIVER NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)

The following COAs from Appendix H will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to development proposals:

- Water Resources (H) 1-12, 14-41, and 43-50

Refer to the Water Resources section for other water resources management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Soil Resources

MIN-MLP-OBJ-04:

Ensure that surface disturbances do not cause accelerated erosion (such as rills, soil pedestals, and actively eroding gullies) on a watershed scale (e.g., 6th hydrologic unit code scale). Minimize or control elevated levels of salt, sediment, and selenium contribution from public lands to rivers. Maintain or improve soil productivity, preserve proper function and condition of uplands, and ensure that surface disturbances do not cause accelerated erosion.

MIN-MLP-AU-04:

Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area to protect soils. See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.

- GEOLOGY SLOPE NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)
- GEOLOGY SOIL NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)
- GEOLOGY SOIL CSU CO (See Figure 4-3)

The following Condition of Approval (COA) from Appendix H will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to development proposals:

- Soils (S) 1-23

Refer to the Soil Resources section for other soil resources management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Vegetation

MIN-MLP-OBJ-05:

Manage for a healthy diversity of successional-stage plant communities and properly functioning riparian zones within the MLP analysis area.

MIN-MLP-AU-05:

Apply the following stipulations and conservation measures on future oil and gas leases within the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area to protect vegetation communities: See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.

Stipulations:

- NSO-2 Streams/Springs Possessing Lotic Riparian Characteristics (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-3 Definable Streams (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-4 Lentic Riparian Areas (including springs, seeps, and fens) (See Figure 4-2)
- PLANT COMMUNITY CSU CO (See Figure 4-3)
- The following Conditions of Approval (COAs) from Appendix H will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to development proposals:
 - Vegetation Rangeland (VR): 1-3, and 4-13
 - Vegetation Riparian Habitat and Wetlands (VRW): 1-5, 9-11, 13-14, and 24
 - Noxious and Invasive Weed Prevention (WEED): 1-29

Refer to the Vegetation section for other vegetation management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area

Master Leasing Plan – Special Status Species

MIN-MLP-OBJ-06:

Protect occupied and suitable habitat for federal proposed, candidate, and threatened or endangered species, and protect occupied habitat for BLM sensitive species necessary for:

- *Maintenance and recovery of proposed, candidate, and threatened or endangered species and*
 - *Support of BLM sensitive species and significant plant communities, consistent with BLM policy on special status species management (BLM manual 6840, BLM 2008o).*
-

MIN-MLP-AU-06: Apply the following stipulations and conservation measures on future oil and gas leases within the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area to protect Special Status Species: See Appendix B for a detailed description of restrictions.

Stipulations:

- NSO-12 ACECs (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-13 Current and Historically Occupied Habitat and Critical Habitat of Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Plant and Animal Species (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-23 Golden Eagle Nest Sites (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-24 Bald Eagle Nest Sites (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-25: Sage-Grouse Leks, Nesting, and Early Brood-rearing Habitat (4 miles) (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-26 Canyon Treefrog, Midget Faded Rattlesnake, Northern Leopard Frog, Great Basin Spadefoot, Long-nosed Leopard Lizard, Boreal Toad (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-30: Occupied Prairie Dog Towns in Prairie Canyon WEA (See Figure 4-2)
- WILDLIFE BAT NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)
- CSU-9 BLM Sensitive Plant Species Occupied Habitat (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-13: Osprey Nests (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-14: Ferruginous Hawk Nest Sites (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-15: Red-tailed Hawk Nest Sites (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-16: Swainson’s Hawk Nest Sites (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-17: Peregrine Falcon Nest Sites (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-18: Prairie Falcon Nest Sites (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-19: Other Raptor Species (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-23: Occupied Prairie Dog Towns (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-39 Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC (See Figure 4-3)
- TL-1 Salmonid and Native, Non-salmonid Fishes (See Figure 4-4)
- TL-3 Migratory Bird Habitat (See Figure 4-4)
- TL-7 Red-tailed Hawk Nests (See Figure 4-4)
- TL-13 Golden Eagle Nest Sites (See Figure 4-4)
- TL-15 Bald Eagle Winter Roost (See Figure 4-4)
- TL-16: Sage-Grouse Leks, Nesting, and Early Brood-rearing Habitat (0.6 mile) (See Map See Figure 4-4)

- WILDLIFE RAPTOR NESTS TL CO (See Figure 4-4)
- SENSITIVE WILDLIFE RAPTOR NESTS TL CO (See Figure 4-4)
- LN-3: Biologic Inventories
- LN-4: Threatened and Endangered Species

The following COAs from Appendix H will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to development proposals:

- Fish and Wildlife Management and Special Status Species (FWS) 1, 4-21, 23-26, and 28-55
- Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) 7 and 9

Refer to the Special Status Species section for other special status species management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Greater Sage-Grouse

MIN-MLP-OBJ-07:

Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome in order to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater Sage-Grouse and other sagebrush-dependent species.

MIN-MLP-AU-07:

Apply the following stipulations and mitigation measures on future oil and gas leases to protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. See Appendix B for a detailed description of restrictions.

Stipulations:

- NSO-12 ACECs (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-13 Current and Historically Occupied Habitat and Critical Habitat of Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Plant and Animal Species (See Figure 4-2)
- CSU-39 Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC (See Figure 4-3)
- TL-16: Occupied Sage-Grouse Winter Habitat (See Figure 4-4)
- TL-17 Sage-Grouse Leks (4 mile) (See Figure 4-4)

Mitigation Measures:

Measures to mitigate impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse, including leasing stipulations, may be applied to future oil and gas leases in the MLP Analysis Area upon publication of the Northwest Colorado BLM Greater Sage-Grouse Record of Decision (ROD).

Refer to the Special Status Species section for other Greater Sage-Grouse management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Fish and Wildlife

MIN-MLP-OBJ-08:

*Maintain and improve BLM lands for priority habitat requirements for the following high-value species: Critical and severe winter range, winter concentration areas, production areas, and big game migrations corridors for big games species (e.g., mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), elk (*Cervus canadensis*), antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), and moose (*Alces alces*).*

Maintain and improve lands for priority habitat requirements for highly valued species such as, but not limited to, cold water sport fishes including rainbow, brown, and brook trout.

Protect state wildlife areas from unnecessary surface occupancy and surface disturbing activities.

MIN-MLP-AU-08:

Designate the following areas in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area as Wildlife Emphasis Areas. Wildlife Emphasis Areas are areas of high habitat value.

Two areas in Garfield County:

- East Salt Creek: 25,000 acres
- A portion of Prairie Canyon: 1,400 acres

Nine areas in Mesa County:

- Beehive: 4,700 acres
- Blue Mesa: 9,300 acres
- Bull Hill: 4,800 acres
- Glade Park: 27,200 acres
- Prairie Canyon (a portion): 20,800 acres
- Rapid Creek: 27,000 acres
- Sunnyside: 14,500 acres
- Timber Ridge: 11,800 acres
- Winter Flats: 3,200 acres

Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area to protect big game, raptors, and fish. See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.

- NSO-32 Research Sites (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-34 Elk Production Area (See Figure 4-2)
- WILDLIFE HABITAT NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)
- RECREATION PARKS NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)
- CSU-10 Wildlife Habitat (See Figure 4-3)

- CSU-24 Deer and Elk Migration and Movement Corridors (See Figure 4-3)
- WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO (See Figure 4-3)
- TL-19 Occupied Prairie Dog Towns (See Figure 4-4)
- TL-20 Big Game Winter Range (See Figure 4-4)
- TL-22 Pronghorn Wintering Habitat (See Figure 4-4)
- BIG GAME PRODUCTION AREAS TL CO (See Figure 4-4)
- LN-3 Biologic Inventories
- LN-5 Working in Wildlife Habitat

Fisheries and Aquatic:

- NSO-12 ACECs (See Figure 4-2)
- WILDLIFE HABITAT NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)
- CSU-39 Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC (See Figure 4-3)
- WILDLIFE HABITAT CSU CO (See Figure 4-3)
- TL-1 Salmonid and Native, Non-salmonid Fishes (See Figure 4-4)

The following Conditions of Approval (COAs) from Appendix H will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to development proposals:

- Fish and Wildlife Management and Special Status Species (FWS) 1, 4-21, 23-26, and 28-55
- Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) 7 and 9

Refer to the Fish and Wildlife and Special Status Species sections for other big game, raptor, and fish management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Wild Horses

MIN-MLP-OBJ-09:

Emphasize protection of wild horses in the LBCWHR and minimize impacts to their population and habitat.

MIN-MLP-AU-09:

Apply the following stipulations and mitigation measures on future oil and gas leases to protect wild horses and the wild horse range. See Appendix B for a detailed description of restrictions.

Stipulations:

- NSO-36 Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range (See Figure 4-2)

The following COAs from Appendix H will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to development proposals:

- Wild Horses (WH) 1-11

Refer to the Wild Horses section for other wild horse management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Cultural and Paleontological Resources

MIN-MLP-OBJ-10:

Protect cultural resources within the MLP Area and manage them according to their Use Category Allocation of one of the following: scientific, conservation, traditional, public, or experimental use. Manage paleontological resources in the MLP analysis area to protect sensitive sites and geologic formations of Class PFYC 4 and 5 potential.

MIN-MLP-AU-10:

Apply the following stipulations and mitigation measures on future oil and gas leases to protect cultural resources. See Appendix B for a detailed description of restrictions.

Stipulations:

- NSO-37 Allocation to Conservation Use Category (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-38 Allocation to Traditional Use Category (See Figure 4-2)
- NSO-39 Cultural Resources (Indian Creek) (See Figure 4-2)
- CSU-27 Allocation to Scientific Use Category (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-28 Allocation to Public Use Category (See Figure 4-3)
- CSU-29 Sub-surface Inventory (See Figure 4-3)
- LN-6: Paleontology

The following COAs from Appendix H will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to development proposals:

- Cultural Resources (CR) 1-7 and 10-13
- Tribal Consultation (TC) 1-6 and 8-10
- Paleontology (P) 1-6

Refer to the Cultural and Paleontological Resources sections for other cultural and paleontological resources management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Visual Resources

MIN-MLP-OBJ-11:

Manage visual resources within the MLP analysis area according to VRM

classifications. Protect the visual integrity of the landscape by managing all project proposals to meet or exceed objectives of the prescribed VRM classes by incorporating visual design BMPs and COAs.

MIN-MLP-AU-11:

Apply the following stipulations and mitigation measures on future oil and gas leases to protect visual resources. See Appendix B for a detailed description of restrictions.

Stipulations:

- VISUAL CLASS I NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)
- CSU-30: VRM Class II (See Figure 4-3)

The following COAs from Appendix H will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to development proposals:

- Visual Resources (V) 1-20

Refer to the Visual Resources section for other visual resources management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Recreation and Visitor Services

MIN-MLP-OBJ-12:

Provide for a focus on meeting recreation goals and objectives in RMAs to reduce conflict between users and oil and gas development.

MIN-MLP-AU-12:

Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area to protect recreation outcomes and settings. See Appendix B for a detailed description of restrictions.

- RECREATION SRMA NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)
- RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS CSU CO (See Figure 4-3)

Designate the following areas in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP area as ERMAs to address local recreation issues:

- North Desert (107,900 acres)
- Grand Valley Ranges (750 acres)
- Barrel Spring (24,700 acres)

Apply the following stipulation on future oil and gas leases in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area to address local recreation issues. See Appendix B for a detailed description of restrictions.

- RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS CSU CO (See Figure 4-3)

Other:

- CSU-31 Recreation (See Figure 4-3)
- RECREATION PARK NSO CO (See Figure 4-2)

Refer to the Recreation and Visitor Services section for other recreation and visitor services management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

Master Leasing Plan – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

MIN-MLP-OBJ-13:

Provide for protection of ACEC resource values by reducing impacts from oil and gas development in these areas.

MIN-MLP-AU-13:

Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area to protect the relevant and important characteristics of ACECs. See Appendix B for a detailed description of restrictions.

- NSO-12 ACECs (See Figure 4-2)
- CSU-39 Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC (See Figure 4-3)

Refer to the ACEC section for other ACEC management actions that are applied throughout the RMP decision area, including the Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP analysis area.

SOLID MINERALS (LOCATABLE MINERALS, SALABLE MINERALS/MINERAL MATERIALS, AND NON-ENERGY LEASABLE MINERALS)

SOL-GOAL-02:

Provide opportunities to develop locatable minerals, mineral materials, and non-energy leasable minerals consistent with other resource goals and uses to meet local and national energy and mineral needs.

Locatable Minerals

LOC-OBJ-01:

Facilitate environmentally responsible exploration and development of locatable minerals subject to BLM policies, laws, and regulations.

LOC-MA-01:

Allow mineral exploration and development (locatable minerals) under the General Mining Law of 1872 on all BLM-administered lands unless it is proposed for administrative withdrawal or wilderness designation. Regulate locatable mineral exploration and development on BLM land under 43 CFR 3800. Open all surface estate (1,061,400 acres), except the withdrawn areas identified below, to location of mining claims activity (Figure 2-16, Appendix A).

LOC-AU-01:

Maintain the following areas (23,300 acres) as withdrawn from mineral entry, per the Secretary of the Interior:

- Badger Wash Study Area (3,100 acres)
- Mack Mesa Reservoir (40 acres)
- Calamity Camp (40 acres)
- Sieber Canyon (200 acres)
- West Creek and the Unawweep Seep (1,500 acres)
- Rough Canyon ACEC (2,700 acres)
- Pup Tent Mine (1 acre)
- Developed recreation sites
 - Mud Springs (40 acres)
 - Miracle Rock (50 acres)
- Existing BOR withdrawals (7,900 acres)

Also see Lands and Realty section.

LOC-AU-02:

Petition to the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal of the following areas (20,600 acres) from mineral entry (Figure 2-17, Appendix A):

- ACECs:
 - Priority 1:
 - Sinbad Valley;
 - Priority 2:
 - Badger Wash;
 - Juanita Arch;
 - Mt. Garfield;
 - A portion of The Palisade (5,600 acres);
 - Pyramid Rock;
- Recreation sites:
 - Campgrounds;
 - Developed target shooting zones (Grand Valley Shooting Ranges ERMA);
 - Trailheads/picnic areas; and
- Logan Wash Mine Site.

LOC-MA-02:

Petition lands for withdrawal from locatable mineral development on a case-by-case basis for the protection of important resource values. The size of any mineral withdrawal are commensurate with what is desirable to protect the values requiring the withdrawal.

LOC-MA-03:

Maintain administrative access to active mines.

Salable Minerals/Mineral Materials

SAL-OBJ-01:

Manage mineral material (salable minerals) resources to provide for the needs of individuals, municipalities, and businesses while ensuring compatibility with other resource objectives.

SAL-MA-01:

Identify additional common use areas in locations and sizes to meet the existing and reasonably foreseeable demand for the commodity(ies) available at each site, where compatible with resource objectives.

SAL-MA-02:

Prohibit commercial sales of petrified wood products due to limited availability of such resources.

SAL-MA-03:

Permit future common use areas where compatible with resource objectives. Establish sites in appropriate locations and with sufficient capacity while avoiding a proliferation of sites for similar materials in a given area.

SAL-MA-04:

Maintain designated bentonite common use area on Little Park Road.

SAL-AU-01:

Identify 783,800 acres as open for consideration for mineral material disposal on a case-by-case basis. (Figure 2-18, Appendix A).

SAL-AU-02:

Close 277,700 acres to mineral material disposal (Figure 2-18, Appendix A):

- Colorado, Dolores, and Gunnison River Corridors;
- WSAs;
- ACECs;
- Lands managed for wilderness characteristics;
- Gunnison River Bluffs ERMA
- SRMAs:
 - Bangs (except for the Little Park Road bentonite mine);
 - Dolores River (exception for area near Niche Road); and
 - North Fruita Desert.

Non-Energy Solid Leasable Minerals

NEL-OBJ-01:

Provide opportunities for non-energy leasable exploration and/or development subject to standard stipulations (e.g., NSO, CSU, TL).

NEL-AU-01:

Identify 518,600 acres as open for consideration of non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development (e.g., potash), subject to stipulations in Appendix B (Figure 2-62, Appendix A).

NEL-AU-02:

Close 542,800 acres in the following areas to non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development (Figure 2-19, Appendix A):

- WSAs
- ACECs
- Gunnison Sage-Grouse critical habitat
- Lands managed for wilderness characteristics
- LBCWHR

- SRMAs
- Wildlife Emphasis Areas:
 - Blue Mesa
 - Bull Hill
 - Glade Park
 - Timber Ridge
- Watersheds:
 - Grand Junction
 - Palisade
- VRM Class I and II areas

NEL-MA-01:

Issue prospecting permits in areas where potash values are not known, which could lead to issuance of a preference right lease.

III. SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

ACEC-GOAL-01:

Manage ACECs to protect significant resource values and prevent damage to important natural, biological, cultural, recreational, or scenic resources and values, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

ACEC-OBJ-01:

Continue to manage those areas within the GJFO that require some special management and that meet the criteria for ACEC designation.

ACEC-MA-01:

Designate the following areas as ACECs (123,000 acres). (Figure 2-20, Appendix A):

- Atwell Gulch (2,900 acres);
 - Badger Wash (2,200 acres);
 - Dolores River Riparian (7,400 acres);
 - Indian Creek (2,300 acres);
 - Juanita Arch (1,600 acres);
 - Mt. Garfield (2,400 acres)
 - The Palisade (32,200 acres);
 - Pyramid Rock (1,300 acres);
 - Roan and Carr Creeks (33,600 acres);
 - Rough Canyon (2,800 acres);
 - Sinbad Valley (6,400 acres);
 - South Shale Ridge (27,800 acres); and
 - Unawweep Seep (85 acres).
-

ACEC-AU-01:

Close all ACECs to mineral material disposal and non-energy solid leasable mineral exploration and development.

ACEC-AU-02:

To protect and maintain unique ecological values for which ACECs are designated, limit or reduce the number of routes within ACECs that are managed as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.

ACEC-AU-03:

Prohibit surface occupancy and use, and prohibit surface occupancy and use and

surface-disturbing activities within the following ACECs:

- Atwell Gulch (2,900 acres);
- Badger Wash (2,200 acres);
- Dolores River Riparian (7,400 acres);
- Indian Creek (2,300 acres);
- Juanita Arch (1,600 acres);
- Mt. Garfield (2,400 acres);
- Palisade (32,200 acres);
- Pyramid Rock (1,300 acres);
- Rough Canyon (2,800 acres);
- Sinbad Valley (6,400 acres);
- South Shale Ridge (27,800 acres); and
- Unaweep Seep (85 acres).

Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Atwell Gulch Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-02:

Designate the Atwell Gulch ACEC (2,900 acres) to protect rare plants, cultural resources, scenic values, and wildlife habitat. Management actions include the following:

- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Close to motorized travel, including over-snow motorized travel.
- Close to mechanized travel.
- Issue no SRPs for competitive events.
- Close 2,600 acres to livestock grazing (approximately 250 acres will remain unallotted).
- Manage 2,600 acres as a ROW exclusion area (except allow for ROWs to existing oil and gas leases issued under the 1987 RMP without NSO stipulations).
- Manage 260 acres as a ROW avoidance area for natural gas pipelines, water pipelines, and produced water pipelines.
- Allowable Use: Only allow vegetation treatments for the benefit of the identified relevant and important values.
- Close to fossil collection.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-12: ACECs. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Badger Wash Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-03:

Designate the Badger Wash ACEC (2,200 acres) to protect rare plants and use as a hydrologic study area. Management actions include the following:

- Manage as VRM Class III.
- Classify motorized and mechanized travel as *limited to designated routes*.
- Issue no SRPs for competitive events.
- Close to grazing in the paired study watersheds (186 acres).
- Open to grazing outside of the paired watersheds in accordance with watershed study objectives (400 acres).
- Manage the paired watersheds (1,800 acres) as a ROW exclusion area.
- Manage 400 acres as ROW avoidance areas.
- Petition to the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal from mineral entry.
- **No Leasing: ACECs.** Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-39, Appendix A.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION: NSO-12: ACECs. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Dolores River Riparian Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-04:

Designate the Dolores River Riparian ACEC (7,400 acres) to protect riparian, hydrology, scenic and paleontological resources, and special status species. Management actions include the following:

- Manage a portion under VRM Class II (7,100 acres) and a portion under VRM Class III (300 acres).
- Manage as ROW avoidance area.
- Allowable Use: Only allow vegetation treatments that do not negatively impact the identified relevant and important values.
- Classify motorized and mechanized travel as *limited to designated routes*.
- Only allow camping in designated sites.

- Close to recreational placer mining outside of active mining claims.
- **No Leasing:** *ACECs*. Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12, Appendix A.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-12: *ACECs*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Indian Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-05:

Designate the Indian Creek ACEC (2,300 acres) to preserve research and cultural values. Management actions include the following:

- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
- Classify motorized and mechanized travel as *limited to designated routes*.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-12: *ACECs*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Juanita Arch Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-06:

Designate the Juanita Arch ACEC (1,600 acres) to protect rare plants and geologic values. Management actions include the following:

- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Close to motorized and mechanized travel.
- Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
- Petition to the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal from mineral entry.
- **No Leasing:** *ACECs*. Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-39, Appendix A.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-12: *ACECs*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Mt. Garfield Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-07:

Designate the Mt. Garfield ACEC (2,400 acres) to protect its scenic values. Management actions include the following:

- Manage as VRM Class I.
- Close to motorized travel, including over-snow motorized travel.
- Prohibit target shooting.
- Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
- Close to fossil collection.
- Petition to the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal from mineral entry.
- Classify as unsuitable for coal leasing.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-12: ACECs. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

The Palisade Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-08:

Designate the Palisade ACEC (32,200 acres) to protect rare plant populations and special status wildlife. Management actions include the following:

- Manage 5,500 acres as VRM Class II.
- Classify 26,700 acres as *closed* and 5,500 acres as *limited to designated routes* for motorized and mechanized travel.
- Issue no SRPs for competitive events.
- Manage as a ROW avoidance area.
- Allowable Use: Only allow vegetation treatments that do not negatively impact relevant and important values.
- **No Leasing: ACECs.** Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12, Appendix A.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-12: ACECs. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Pyramid Rock Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-09:

Designate the Pyramid Rock ACEC (1,300 acres) to preserve habitat for rare plant species and to protect paleontological and cultural resources:

- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Close to motorized, mechanized, equestrian, and foot travel, including over-snow motorized travel.
- Prohibit target shooting.
- Issue no SRPs for competitive events.
- Close to camping.
- Close to livestock grazing.
- Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
- Close to all types of collection (e.g., fossil, vegetation, rocks, etc.), except for permitted collection for scientific research.
- Petition to the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal from mineral entry.
- Require permit and agreement to allow research activities that support the objectives of the ACEC.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-12: ACECs. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Roan and Carr Creeks Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-10:

Designate the Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC (33,600 acres) to protect unique riparian habitats, genetically pure populations of cutthroat trout, and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. Management actions include the following:

- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Allowable Use: Only allow vegetation treatments for the benefit of the identified relevant and important values.
- Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.
- Manage as ROW avoidance area.
- Close to mechanized travel.
- Classify the portion of the ACEC (700 acres) within the coal resource development potential area as unacceptable for coal leasing.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION CSU-12: Roan and Carr Creeks ACEC. Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions to surface-disturbing activities within the Roan and Carr Creek ACEC. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-25: Sage-Grouse Leks, Nesting, and Early Brood-rearing Habitat. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing

activities within 4 miles of an active lek or within Sage-Grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Rough Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-11:

Designate the Rough Canyon ACEC (2,800 acres) to protect geologic, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and plants. Management actions include the following:

- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Classify a portion of the ACEC (2,200 acres) for motorized and mechanized travel as *limited to designated routes*.
- Classify a portion of the ACEC (600 acres) for motorized and mechanized travel as *closed*.
- Prohibit new trail development in those portions of Bangs Canyon RMZ 2 that are located within the ACEC, unless impacts on the ACEC relevance and importance criteria can be mitigated.
- Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
- Withdrawn from mineral entry.
- **No Leasing:** ACECs. Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12, Appendix A.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-13: *Current and Historically Occupied Habitat of Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species.* Prohibit certain surface uses, as specified in Appendix B, to protect threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate plants and animals from indirect impacts, loss of immediately adjacent suitable habitat, or impacts to primary constituent elements of critical habitat as designated by USFWS. Maintain existing buffer distances where pre-existing disturbance exists, and reduce redundancies in roads to minimize fragmentation, and minimize direct impacts from motorized and mechanized users of roads, routes and trails. In undisturbed environments and ACECs, prohibit new disturbance within 200 meters (656 feet) of current and historically occupied and suitable habitat. This stipulation includes emergency closures of roads where damage to T&E habitat has occurred. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-37: *Allocation to Conservation Use Category.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities, including archaeological excavation, within 100 meters (328 feet) around eligible sites allocated to Conservation Use. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Sinbad Valley Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-12:

Designate the Sinbad Valley ACEC (6,400 acres) to protect rare plants, wildlife, cultural resources, geologic and scenic values. Management actions include the following:

- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Classify motorized and mechanized travel as *limited to designated routes*.
- Manage as a ROW avoidance area.
- Petition to the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal from mineral entry.
- **No Leasing:** ACECs. Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-12, Appendix A.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-12: ACECs. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

South Shale Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-13:

Designate the South Shale Ridge ACEC (27,800 acres) to protect rare plants, wildlife habitat, and scenic values. Management actions include the following:

- Issue no SRPs for competitive events.
- Classify motorized and mechanized travel as *limited to designated routes*.
- Manage as VRM Class II
- Manage as a ROW exclusion area (except allow for ROWs to existing oil and gas leases issued under the 1987 RMP without NSO stipulations).
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION NSO-12: ACECs. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Unawep Seep Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ACEC-MA-14:

Designate the Unawep Seep ACEC (85 acres) to protect habitat for the rare Great Basin silverspot butterfly, rare plants, riparian habitat, and hydrologic values. Management actions include the following:

- Manage as VRM Class II.

- Close to unauthorized motorized travel activities, including over-snow travel (see 43 CFR 8342.1).
 - Closed to mechanized travel.
 - Issue no SRPs for competitive events.
 - Prohibit commercial wood product sales, harvesting forest and woodland products, and Christmas tree cutting.
 - Prohibit camping.
 - Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
 - Close to fossil collection.
 - Open to livestock grazing.
 - Withdrawn from mineral entry.
 - Close to mineral material disposal.
 - **No Leasing:** *ACECs*. Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-12, Appendix A.
 - Allowable Use:
STIPULATION NSO-12: *ACECs*. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13, Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.
-

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

WSA-GOAL-01:

Preserve the wilderness character of WSAs.

WSA-OBJ-01:

Preserve wilderness characteristics in WSAs in accordance with non-impairment standards as defined under BLM Manual 6330, Management of Wilderness Study Areas (BLM 2012i), until Congress either designates these lands as wilderness or releases them for other purposes.

WSA-MA-01:

Manage the four WSAs (96,500 acres) under BLM Manual 6330, Management of Wilderness Study Areas (BLM 2012i), pending congressional action on wilderness recommendations (Figure 2-21, Appendix A):

- Demaree Canyon (22,700 acres)
 - Little Book Cliffs (29,300 acres)
 - The Palisade (26,700 acres)
 - Sewemup Mesa (17,800 acres)
-

WSA-MA-02:

Manage all WSAs as VRM Class I.

WSA-MA-03:

Manage all WSAs as closed to motorized and mechanized travel. Travel required for valid existing rights and grandfathered uses will be allowed.

WSA-AU-01:

STIPULATION NSO-43: Wilderness Study Areas. Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities in WSAs in accordance with BLM Manual 6330, Management of Wilderness Study Areas (BLM 2012i). (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13, in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

WSA-MA-04:

In the event Congress designates any of the WSAs as Wilderness, management direction will be adapted to the actions defined in the designating legislation in a manner consistent with the 1964 Wilderness Act, until an activity plan is developed detailing management direction for the area(s).

WSA-GOAL-02:

Implement management strategies for lands within WSAs, should Congress release one or more of these areas from wilderness consideration.

WSA-OBJ-02:

If Congress releases one or more WSAs from wilderness consideration, manage those lands consistent with land use designations and resource objectives described below.

WSA-MA-05:

If Congress releases one or more WSAs from wilderness consideration, update the wilderness characteristics inventory for lands that were formerly WSAs (FLPMA Section 201).

WSA-MA-06:

If Congress Releases WSAs from wilderness consideration, reconsider acceptability for further coal leasing using the Coal Screening Criteria (**Appendix N**).

Sewemup Mesa

WSA-OBJ-03:

If the Sewemup Mesa WSA is released from Wilderness consideration, manage the lands for the following resource values where present: cultural and visual resources, wilderness characteristics, and un-fragmented wildlife habitat.

WSA-MA-07:

If Congress releases Sewemup Mesa WSA from Wilderness consideration, manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics by applying the following management:

- Issue no SRPs for competitive events.
- Close to motorized and mechanized travel, including over-snow motorized travel.
- Close to wood product sales and/or harvest (including Christmas tree harvest).
- Manage as a ROW exclusion area.
- Close to mineral material disposal
- Close to non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- **No Leasing:** *Lands with wilderness characteristics outside WSAs.* Close to fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-12 in Appendix A.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS NSO CO. No surface occupancy or use is allowed on identified lands being managed to protect inventoried wilderness characteristics, in accordance with the Resource Management Plan. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Little Book Cliffs

WSA-OBJ-04:

If the Little Book Cliffs WSA is released from Wilderness consideration, manage the lands for the following resource values where present: wild horses and wild horse viewing, big horn sheep, and the Colorado hookless cactus.

WSA-MA-08:

If Congress releases Little Book Cliffs WSA from Wilderness consideration, manage the portion of the WSA within LBCWHR in accordance with the Alternative B management prescriptions for the LBCWHR. For the remainder of the WSA:

- Consider SRPs for competitive events.
- Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.
- Manage as ROW avoidance area.
- Manage as VRM Class III.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS NSO CO. No surface occupancy or use is allowed on identified lands being managed to protect inventoried wilderness characteristics, in accordance with the Resource Management Plan. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-13 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Demaree Canyon

WSA-OBJ-05:

If the Demaree Canyon WSA is released from Wilderness consideration, manage the lands for the following resource values where present: Kit Fox habitat and sage brush flats (within critical deer/elk winter range).

WSA-MA-09:

If Congress releases Demaree Canyon WSA from Wilderness consideration:

- Consider SRPs for competitive events.
- Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.
- Manage as ROW avoidance area.
- Manage a portion as VRM Class II and a portion as VRM Class III.
- Allowable Use:
- **STIPULATION NSO-29: Active Kit Fox Dens.** Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within 200 meters (656 feet) of active kit fox dens. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figures 2-43 (Alternative

B) 2-44 (Alternative C) in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION CSU-10: *Wildlife Habitat*. Require proponents of surface-disturbing activities to implement specific measures to mitigate impacts of operations on wildlife and wildlife habitat within high-value or essential wildlife habitat. Measures will be determined through biological surveys, onsite inspections, effects of previous actions in the area, and BMPs (Appendix H). (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-14 in Appendix A. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

The Palisade Wilderness Study Area

WSA-OBJ-06:

If The Palisade WSA is released from Wilderness consideration, manage the lands for the following resource values where present: rare plants, water quality/fish habitat (e.g., North Fork), cliff nesting habitat, lands with wilderness characteristics, and recreation activities.

WSA-MA-10:

If Congress releases The Palisade WSA from Wilderness consideration, manage in accordance with the Alternative B management prescriptions for The Palisade ACEC with the following exceptions:

- Close to motorized travel, including over-snow motorized travel.
 - Close most portions of the area to motorized travel, including over-snow motorized travel.
 - Manage portions of the perimeter of the area that provide important hunting access as limited to designated routes for motorized travel. Limit mechanized travel to designated routes
 - Manage as VRM Class II.
-

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS (CONGRESSIONAL DESIGNATION)

WSR-GOAL-01:

Evaluate eligible river segments and identify suitable segments for inclusion in the NWSRS, protecting them in accordance with the Wild and Scenic River Act and BLM Manual 6400 – Wild and Scenic Rivers.

WSR-OBJ-01:

Implement interim protective management of each suitable segment by protecting its tentative classification, free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORV(s), pending Congressional action or for the duration of the RMP (Figures 2-22 , Appendix A).

WSR-MA-01:

Determine all eligible stream segments as not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS, except for the Dolores River (see action below), and release them from interim management protections afforded eligible segments. This concludes the suitability study phase for these segments. See Table 3-44, Summary of Wild and Scenic River Study Segments, for total segment lengths and segment study corridor acreages, as well as segment lengths on BLM land and segment study corridor acreages on BLM land (a description of each segment is provided in Appendix C)..

WSR-MA-02:

Determine that 10.38 miles of the Dolores River are suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS (tentative recreational classification; ORVs are Scenic, Fish, Recreation, Geologic, Paleontological). Manage the suitable stream miles according to interim protective management guidelines for suitable stream segments until Congressional action occurs. Determine that 8.24 miles are not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. Release stream miles determined not suitable from interim management protection afforded to eligible segments. Refer to Wild and Scenic River Suitability Analysis (Appendix C) for exact description of the stream miles determined to be suitable and not suitable.

WSR-MA-03:

In addition to the actions described in Alternative A, establish the following interim protective management guidelines for segments of the Dolores River determined suitable. All interim protective management is subject to valid existing rights. In addition to actions described in Alternative A:

- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage as ROW avoidance area.
- Allowable Use:

STIPULATION HYDROLOGY RIVER NSO CO: No surface occupancy or use is allowed within 400 meters (1312 feet) of the ordinary high-water mark (bank-full stage) or within 100 meters (328 feet) of the 100-year floodplain (whichever area is greatest) on the following major rivers:

Colorado, Dolores, and Gunnison. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B. See Figure 2-13.

NATIONAL TRAILS (CONGRESSIONAL DESIGNATION)

NTR-GOAL-01:

Enhance, promote, and protect the scenic, natural, recreational, and cultural resource values associated with current and future designated National Scenic and Historic Trails.

NTR-OBJ-01:

Manage the congressionally designated Old Spanish National Historic Trail in consideration of the BLM and National Park Service (NPS) jointly developed trail-wide comprehensive plan and in coordination with the NPS (Figure 2-31, Appendix A). Identify the nature and purposes of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and, to the greatest extent possible, manage the trail in a manner so as to safeguard the nature and purpose of the trail and in a manner that protects the values for which the trail was designated. The interim nature and purpose of the trail is to afford the public the opportunity to connect to the trail resources and the trail story. This nature and purposes statement may be refined with completion of the trailwide comprehensive plan, and updates to the nature and purposes statement within this RMP will occur through plan maintenance.

NTR-MA-01:

Manage the 50-meter wide National Trail Management Corridor for the Old Spanish Trail. After additional cultural resource Class III inventories are conducted revise the corridor as necessary. The congressionally designated Old Spanish Trail route (currently 6.9 miles on BLM lands within the GJFO planning area) is not based on completed field inventories. Where extant portions of the Old Spanish Trail may exist, complete Class III cultural resource inventories on all BLM parcels. Pursue partners for grant funding where practical to conduct surveys on adjacent lands with land owner's permission. The National Historic Trail designation allows for small location changes without congressional authorization. If the location of the trail changes as a result of Class III inventory the management actions in this RMP will apply to the newly mapped location(s) and may be modified to better address the findings of the inventory. That land no longer identified as trail location, as proven through the archaeological survey, will be managed for similar purposes and with similar VRM class to the adjacent public land.

NTR-MA-02:

Establish collaborative partnerships with the Old Spanish Trail Association, academic institutions, professional and non-profit organizations, individual scholars, tribes, and other entities to perform research on Old Spanish Trail-related topics and highway-related auto-tourism interpretive opportunities (e.g., roadside kiosks, brochures, etc.). Coordinate with partner groups, interest groups, interested individuals, local communities, and other stakeholders on Old Spanish Trail issues and projects.

NTR-MA-03:

Recreation opportunities will be provided consistent with the Old Spanish Trail comprehensive plan objectives. Facilities will be developed and placed outside the trail corridor when feasible to protect resource values, provide for visitor safety, and support selected use opportunities. Facilities will be developed within the trail corridor only when needed to protect trail integrity and resources, or to establish an Old Spanish Trail recreation retracement route.

NTR-MA-04:

Scientific and historical studies of cultural landscapes, sites, historic trails, and other resources, including excavation, will be allowed by qualified researchers on a case-by-case basis within the Old Spanish Trail corridor with written authorization.

NTR-MA-05:

Retain or cooperatively manage BLM-administered lands to assure long-term use, protection, and access to areas along the Old Spanish Trail.

NTR-MA-06:

Manage the Old Spanish Trail as VRM Class III (50 meter buffer on either side of the center line).

Manage newly located sections of the trail according to their VRI classification.

NTR-MA-07:

Manage 50 meters on both sides of the Old Spanish Trail as a ROW avoidance area.

NTR-AU-01:

STIPULATION NSO-45: *Old Spanish National Historic Trail.* Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within a 50-meter (164-foot) buffer from the center line. (Refer to Appendix B.) See Figure 2-13 (Alternative B) in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

NTR-MA-08:

Seek to acquire legal access for full-size vehicles along the Tabeguache Trail from Little Park Road to Colorado State Highway 141 near Whitewater.

NATIONAL, STATE, AND BLM BYWAYS (ADMINISTRATIVE DESIGNATION)

BYW-GOAL-01:

Enhance, promote, and protect the scenic, natural, and cultural resource values associated with current and future designated byways.

BYW-OBJ-01:

Support efforts of corridor management plans for the designated byways and provide assistance, where feasible, in the development of byway facilities consistent with other decisions of the RMP (Figures 2-31 , Appendix A).

BYW-MA-01:

Support efforts of corridor management plans for the Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway; provide assistance, where feasible, in the development of byway facilities consistent with other decisions of the RMP.

BYW-MA-02:

Support efforts of corridor management plans for the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway (National Scenic Byway and All American Road); provide assistance, where feasible, in the development of byway facilities consistent with other decisions of the RMP.

BYW-MA-03:

Support efforts of corridor management plans for the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway (Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway); provide assistance, where feasible, in the development of byway facilities consistent with other decisions of the RMP.

BYW-MA-04:

Manage the following byways as VRM Class II:

- A portion of Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway (from the Bookcliffs north);
 - Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway; and
 - Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway.
-

BYW-MA-05:

Manage a portion of Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway (from the Bookcliffs south) as VRM Class III.

BYW-AU-01:

STIPULATION CSU-37: Scenic Byways. Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions to fluid mineral leasing and other surface-disturbing activities within 0.5-mile of either side of centerline of scenic byways. (Refer to Appendix B.) See

Figures 2-14 , in Appendix A. Standard and special exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

IV. SUPPORT

INTERPRETATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

IEE-GOAL-01:

Provide interpretation, education, and information that promote the health of the land, the appreciation and protection of cultural and natural resources to foster greater community stewardship; and enhance users' experience and safety.

IEE-OBJ-01:

Increase outreach efforts and provide the public with environmental education opportunities.

IEE-MA-01:

Develop an interpretive and information services plan that outlines partnership development, product and service delivery methods (media), key messages or themes, and associated markets (audience).

IEE-MA-02:

Seek to develop partnerships with local education institutions, visitor centers, tribes, field institutes, museums, visitor centers, and cooperators.

IEE-MA-03:

Provide opportunities for tribal participation in developing key messages and themes.

IEE-MA-04:

Pursue multicultural interpretation and environmental education opportunities for outreach, development, and implementation programs. Apply learning modalities and incorporate various learning styles in program design and delivery. Encourage the use of multiple intelligence or other theories for program presentations.

IEE-MA-05:

Establish repository of photographs and images that illustrate BLM's mission, including digital photographs and slides for program design.

IEE-MA-06:

Allow interpretation signs, facilities, and other delivery methods that address key messages, themes, or program/resource goals and objectives, including those for recreation, travel management, cultural resources, wildlife, and others.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

TRN-GOAL-01:

Provide a transportation system that is manageable, maintainable, and meets the needs, as defined by the goals and objectives, for resources and resource uses.

TRN-OBJ-01:

Maintain BLM roads and trails to identified maintenance intensity levels (appropriate intensity, frequency, and type of maintenance) consistent with public safety and land use plan objectives.

TRN-MA-01:

All system roads and trails will be given a unique road/trail number to aid in public navigation, safety, Emergency Medical Services, and maintenance.

TRN-MA-02:

Acquire public or administrative access to public lands as opportunities become available.

TRN-MA-03:

Use and improve designated roads where feasible.
