

APPENDIX I—CRITERIA FOR LARGE GROUP AREA DESIGNATION

More likely to designate
➔
 Less likely

Table I-1. Criteria For Large Group Area Designation

Rating/Criteria	I (Likely To Be Designated)	II (Possible Designation)	III (Complex)	IV (Unlikely)
Size and Access Sites must be at least 1/2 acre in size	Accessible from State Hwy, County Class B, BLM system road. Access by all-weather road and oversized RVs.	Accessible from Class B or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) system road. May not have all-weather access.	Access by designated routes (not county or BLM system road). High clearance required.	Access by wash or dirt track. Four-wheel drive required.
Site Resilience and Resistance	Site barren, largely unvegetated because of the nature of the substrate (wash bottom, slickrock, hard pan) or as a result of previous disturbance/activity, such as construction and quarry. Not subject to high erosion or rutting when wet or extreme dust when dry.			Vegetated sites, riparian sites, highly erodible or compactable soils, cryptobiotic cover.
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Class	Urban, rural, roaded natural.	Semi-primitive motorized, high-density use area.	Semi-primitive motorized, low-density use area, semi-primitive non-motorized.	Semi-primitive non-motorized, primitive.
Resource Sensitivity within 1/2-mile of the site	Low resource sensitivity especially for critical resources, such as wilderness; cultural resources; threatened and endangered species; paleontological; riparian; sensitive and critical wildlife habitats; and critical, erosive soils. Designation would help protect a critical resource.	Low to moderate sensitivity for critical resources. Route designation would have minor direct/indirect impact on critical resources.	Moderate to high sensitivity. Route, with some minor design enhancement, would not threaten a critical resource.	High sensitivity. Designation of route would impair one or more critical resources.

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Rangeland Standards and Recreation Guidelines	Standards for rangeland health met. Route comports with recreation guidelines.	Uplands or riparian functioning at risk. Route designation would work towards improving condition.	Uplands or riparian functioning at risk and route designation would not work towards improvement.	Condition non-functioning, or functioning at risk as a result of OHV use on the route.
Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)/Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) Goals and objectives	Designation is consistent with goals and objectives.	Designation would be neutral in terms of meeting objectives.	Designation would tend to be non-conforming or not a "best fit." Mitigation might be needed.	Route designation would be in direct conflict with goals and objectives. <i>Do not designate unless objectives are modified.</i>
Conflict with other resource users (not just recreation, ranching, minerals development, forestry, military)	No Conflict.	Minor conflict, temporal in nature, can be mitigated by users with minimal effort.	More direct conflict, not managed or mitigated without direct BLM management action. <i>May designate only if conflict is mitigated.</i>	Direct, unmitigated, unmanaged conflict. <i>May designate only if conflict is mitigated.</i>