RED MOUNTAIN-DRY FORK ACEC COMPLEX

Objective

Protect cultural sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; protect significant paleontological sites; protect relict vegetation communities; enhance supporting resource values of wildlife habitat, municipal watersheds, riparian, and scenic values, while allowing compatible uses.

Management Levels

- Level 1 - Relict vegetation communities on Red Mountain and in Castle Cove (19%)
- Level 2 - Developed recreation sites and the Red Mountain Potential Recreation Area and cultural sites eligible for or listed on the NRHP (2%)
- Level 3 - Riparian habitat, high sensitivity cultural and paleontological areas, municipal watersheds, critical soils, crucial deer and elk winter habitats, potential bighorn sheep habitat, raptor habitats, and potential recreation sites (79%)
- Total Federal Acreage - 25,800 acres
- Refer to Map 3-7

Management Prescriptions

Cultural and Paleontology.

RD01 Allocate cultural sites including ethnographic properties into one of three management categories using the criteria established in Table 2-2.

RD02 Consult with the Ute Tribe for the protection of areas and items of traditional lifeways and religious significance.

RD03 Allow casual use invertebrate and flora fossil collection, using hand tools, in designated areas only. Based on site-specific analysis, collection of vertebrate fossils by scientific institutions could be considered.

RD04 Classify paleontological resources on public lands as shown in Table 2-4.

RD05 Paleontological clearances are required on a case-by-case basis.

Fire.

RD06 Maintain the natural role of fire within the relict vegetation areas; however, large-scale fires will not be allowed to kill more than 3% of the ponderosa pine on Red Mountain, or 50% of the sagebrush-mountain browse type in Castle Cove relict vegetation areas over the life of the RMP. Outside of the relict vegetation areas, allow fires to burn under prescribed conditions only to enhance the stated resource values.

Fish and Wildlife.

RD07 Do not allow activities that will result in adverse impacts to deer and elk from December 1 through April 30 on crucial deer and elk winter range.

OHV use on 3,800 acres of crucial deer and elk winter range in the Taylor Mountain-Spring Creek area is closed from December 1 through March 31.

RD08 No construction of surface-disturbing activities (does not apply to casual use) is allowed year 'round within 1/2 mile of golden eagle or ferruginous hawk nest sites active within the past 2 years which would adversely affect current use, or limit or preclude potential future use of the nest, or unless a permit to take is obtained from the USF&WS.

RD09 No construction or surface-disturbing activities (does not apply to casual use) are allowed year 'round within 1/2 mile of known bald eagle nests or 1 mile of known peregrine falcon nests. These restrictions do not apply to maintenance and operation of existing facilities. They do not apply if impacts could be mitigated through other management actions. Site-specific analyses are completed to determine if terrain features adequately protect the nest site from the proposed surface-disturbing activity.

RD10 Provide habitat and allow for the reintroduction of 100-200 head of bighorn sheep and upland game birds.

RD11 Permanent human occupation or dwellings will not be allowed on public lands within bighorn sheep habitat. If activities do affect such habitats, mitigation will be required to provide improvements to compensate for habitat loss.

RD12 Improve or maintain habitat in bighorn sheep reintroduction areas. Actions may include vegetation treatments, road closures, additional water sources, etc.

RD13 Take opportunities to eliminate domestic sheep grazing within 10 miles of identified bighorn sheep habitat within the ACEC by using negotiation of changes in class of livestock (from sheep to cattle), alternative grazing systems, etc.

Lands and Realty.

RD14 Acquire public nonmotorized access across established roads and trails to enhance recreational opportunities along Ashley Creek. Acquire legal motorized access to Red Mountain.

RD15 Establish a right-of-way exclusion area in level 1 lands and avoidance areas within level 2 lands. Allow for the placement of permitted land uses with restrictions designed to maintain or enhance the resource values in level 3 lands.

RD16 Recommend protective withdrawals to preclude entry under the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended or revised, and the agricultural entry laws or other protective measures on level 1 and 2 lands and the potential recreation sites.

RD17 Acquire fee title or interest in lands (e.g., water rights, scenic easements) within the area as opportunities become available.

Livestock.

RD18 Level 3 lands are open to livestock grazing. Level 2 lands are open to prescribed grazing with conditions designed to maintain or enhance the area's identified resource values.

RD19 No grazing is allowed in developed recreation sites or in the relict vegetation communities.

RD20 Allow rangeland improvements and grazing prescriptions to maintain or improve the values present on lands within the ACEC.

Minerals.

RD21 About 20,900 acres are Category 2 for leasable minerals; 4,900 acres are Category 3.

RD22 Phosphate exploration and development will not be allowed between the Ashley Creek Gorge and Dry Fork Creek area of the ACEC.

RD23 Exploration and development of phosphate within crucial deer and elk winter range within the remainder of the ACEC are allowed year 'round, but will require management actions designed to mitigate both the short- and long-term loss of habitat.

RD24 About 20,900 acres are restricted for geophysical activities; 4,900 acres are open with no significant surface disturbance; and no acres are closed.

RD25 About 15,000 acres are Category 2 for mineral material disposal and 10,800 acres are Category 4.

RD26 Until a protective withdrawal is in place and in force, any mining activity other than casual use will require a mining plan of operations. Operations are restricted by stipulations designed to protect the natural values of the area within the operating parameters of the 1872 General Mining Law, as amended or revised, and FLPMA. For the level 1 areas, the preceding would be applied until a protective withdrawal is obtained.

Recreation.

RD27 Level 3 lands, except critical soils are open to OHV use with seasonal restrictions; level 1 and 2 lands and critical soils within level 3 are open to OHV use on designated roads and trails.

Maintain the existing trail on Red Mountain. If, however, OHV use occurs off trail after a reasonable program of signing and public education, close the trail.

Close the trail to Moonshine Arch to OHV use.

Limit OHV use on the 1,240-acre Red Mountain Potential Recreation Area to designated roads and trails yearlong. OHV use on 3,800 acres of critical deer and elk winter range in the Taylor Mountain-Spring Creek area is permitted only from April 1 through November 30.

RD28 Develop recreation facilities on Red Mountain outside the relict vegetation area. Expand recreation facilities at Dry Fork Canyon.

RD29 Developed recreation sites are closed to grazing and surface-disturbing activities not related to recreation development. The Red Mountain potential recreation area is closed to surface-disturbing activities no related to recreation development. OHV use is limited to designated roads and trails within these areas.

RD30 Develop an interpretive trail and/or facilities along Brush Creek.

RD31 Develop about 6 miles of nonmotorized trails along Dry Fork, Ashley Creek, and Red Mountain. Establish about 12 miles of mountain bicycle trails using existing rural roads and trails.

RD32 Establish a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) to cover the ACEC complex.

Riparian.

RD33 Provide sufficient herbaceous forage biomass to meet the requirements of plant vigor maintenance, bank protection, and sediment entrapment.

RD34 Allow new surface-disturbing activities within 330' of riparian zones only when it can be shown there are no practical alternatives, that long-term impacts are fully mitigated, or that the construction is an enhancement to the riparian area.

Soil and Water.

RD35 Allow new surface-disturbing activities on critical soils and municipal watersheds within level 3 lands only if watershed values are maintained.

RD36 Area of critical soils, municipal watersheds, and floodplains are closed to OHV use and surface-disturbing activities during periods of saturated soil (usually spring runoff and fall rains). Close Moonshine Arch Trail to OHV use.

RD37 Level 3 lands are available for major (larger than 1 acre foot capacity) water developments with restrictions designed to maintain or enhance the area's resource values. Outside of this level, major water developments could be permitted if the project is consistent with these management prescriptions.

Vegetation.

RD38 Allow mechanical, fire, biological, or chemical control of noxious weeds and insect infestations within the area, except for the relict vegetation areas, with restrictions designed to protect the watershed and water quality values and other resource values of the ACEC. Within the relict vegetation communities, allow only biological control of noxious weeds and insect infestations.

RD39 Outside of the relict vegetation communities, manage the vegetation to attain the ecological stage which results in the highest vegetation species diversity for wildlife and scenic values. Within the relict vegetation communities, allow the areas to maintain their late to climax ecological stages.

RD40 Manipulate 1,000 acres of pinyon-juniper woodlands to increase forage production and improve wildlife habitat.

Visual.

RD41 Maintain the natural/primitive qualities of the VRM Class II areas by allowing only short-term or mitigible visual intrusions.

Woodlands.

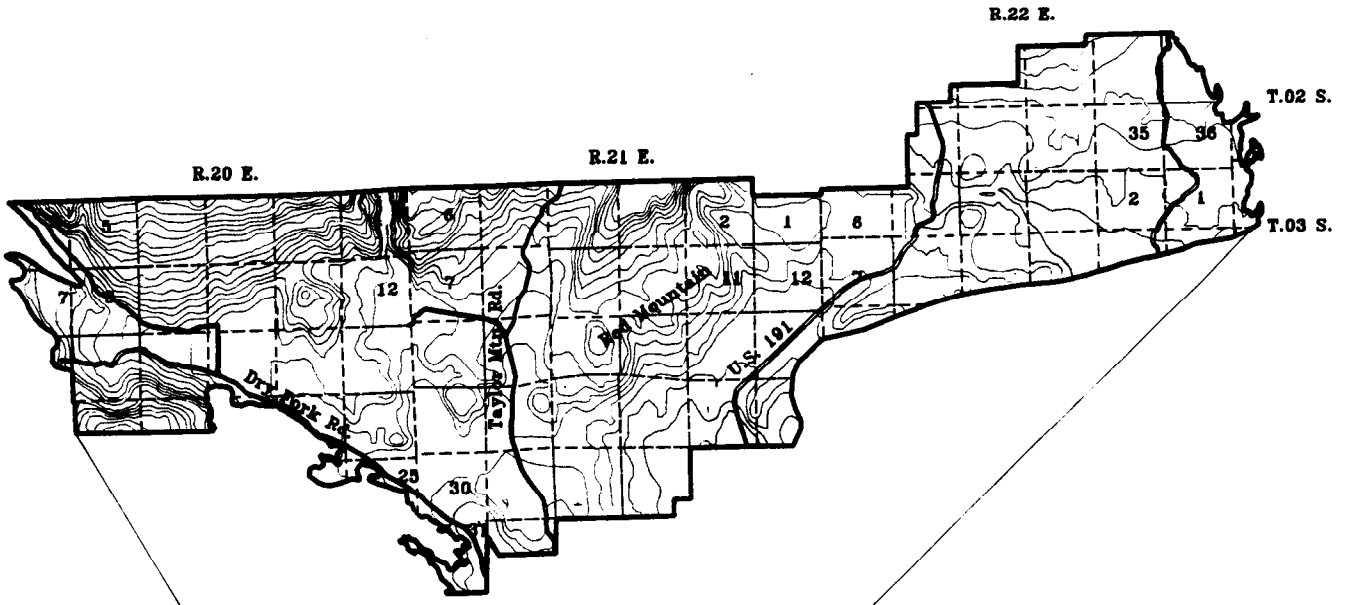
RD42 Level 3 lands are open to the sale and/or harvest of woodland products with restrictions designed to maintain or enhance the resource values of the level. Level 1 and 2 lands are closed to the sale and/or harvest of woodland products.

RD43 Woodland treatments and harvests will continue to be designed in a mosaic pattern, leaving inclusions of live and dead trees within treated or harvested areas. Irregular boundaries of treatment and harvest areas will be required to

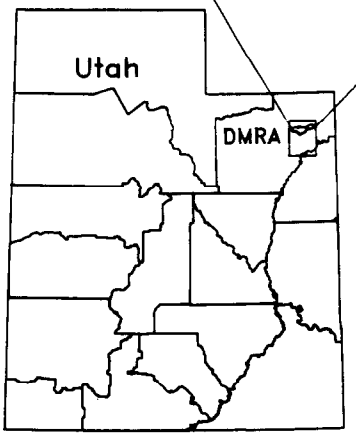
reduce the detrimental impacts to the scenic values.

Support Needs

sRD44 Develop a coordinated activity plan for the ACEC.



Red Mountain ACEC
Diamond Mountain RMP



100 Ft. Contour
Section Lines
Roads
ACEC Bounds

Scale 1:180000

BLM, Vernal District Office
Diamond Mountain Resource Area
Fall, 1994