

LOWER GREEN RIVER ACEC

Objective

Enhance and protect the delicate riparian community adjacent to the Green River for special status fish, bird, and plant species while maintaining the wild and scenic river qualities of this river segment.

Management Levels

- Level 2 - Cultural sites eligible for or listed on NRHP, primitive/natural areas, special status species habitats, and Desolation Canyon NHL (30%)
- Level 3 - Riparian habitat, raptor habitat, critical watershed, sensitive plant species habitats, potential recreation areas, critical soils, potential bighorn sheep habitat, crucial antelope habitat, and significant cultural and paleontological areas (70%)
- Total Federal Acreage - 7,900 acres
- Refer to Map 3-3

Management Prescriptions

Cultural and Paleontology.

- LGR01** The 1979 "Desolation and Gray Canyons of the Green River Management Plan" contains management actions to protect NHL within DMRA. The management decisions outlined in that plan are continued in the RMP.
- LGR02** Allocate cultural sites including ethnographic properties into three classifications: (1) information potential, (2) public values, and (3) conservation.
- LGR03** Consult with the Ute Tribe for protection of areas and items of traditional lifeways and religious significance.
- LGR04** 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.

LGR05 Paleontological clearances are required on a case-by-case basis.

LGR06 Classify paleontological resources on public lands as shown in Table 2-4.

Fire.

LGR07 Allow fires to burn under prescribed conditions only to enhance the stated values of the ACEC.

Fish and Wildlife.

LGR08 Continue to implement and revise as necessary, the existing Myton Habitat Management Plan as it applies to the ACEC. These decisions are:

- Protect and enhance 22 miles of riparian habitat along the Green River to ensure stabilization of the peregrine falcon's avian prey base, and improve habitat conditions.
- Protect bald eagle winter habitat along 22 miles of the Green River.

LGR09 No construction or surface-disturbing activities (does not apply to casual use) are allowed year 'round within 1/2 mile of known golden eagle or ferruginous hawk nests 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.

LGR10 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 will not apply to maintenance and operation of existing facilities. They do not apply if impacts could be mitigated through other management actions. Site-specific analysis is completed to determine if terrain features adequately protect the nest site from the proposed surface-disturbing activity.

LGR11 Provide habitat and allow for the reintroduction of bighorn sheep and upland game birds.

LGR12 Take opportunities to eliminate domestic sheep grazing within 10 miles of identified bighorn

Chapter 3 - ACEC Management Prescriptions

sheep habitat, by using negotiation of changes in class of livestock (from sheep to cattle), alternative grazing systems, etc.

LGR13 Improve or maintain habitat in bighorn sheep reintroduction areas. Action may include vegetation treatment, road closures, additional water sources, etc.

LGR14 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.

Lands and Realty.

LGR15 Establish a right-of-way avoidance area within level 2 lands. Make level 3 lands available for supporting permitted activities with special restrictions designed to protect the identified resource values. If necessary, encourage rights-of-way placement in the Four Mile Bottom area on level 2 lands, where an existing pipeline crosses the river, if visual intrusions are fully mitigated.

LGR16 Recommend protective withdrawals that preclude entry under the 1872 General Mining Law and the agricultural entry laws, as amended or revised, or other protective measures for the Lower Green River.

LGR17 Acquire fee title or interest in lands (e.g., water rights) within the ACEC as they become available.

Livestock.

LGR18 Level 3 lands are open to livestock grazing. Level 2 lands are open to prescribed grazing designed to maintain or enhance the stated resource values. No grazing is allowed in the Sand Wash Recreation Site.

LGR19 Allow rangeland improvements and grazing prescriptions to maintain or improve the values present in the ACEC.

Minerals.

LGR20 All 7,900 acres are Category 3 (NSO) for leasable minerals.

LGR21 All 7,900 acres are open to geophysical activities with no significant surface disturbance.

LGR22 All 7,900 acres are Category 4 (closed) for mineral material disposal.

LGR23 Until protective withdrawal is in place, any mining activity other than casual use would require a mining plan of operations. Operations would be restricted by stipulations designed to protect the riparian and special status species in the area, within the operating parameters of the 1872 General Mining Law and FLPMA, as amended or revised.

Recreation.

LGR24 Level 3 lands, excluding the critical soils, are open to OHV use with seasonal restrictions designed to protect the stated resource values. Level 1 and 2 areas, excluding the primitive/natural areas, and the critical soils within level 3, are open to OHV use on designated roads and trails. The primitive/natural areas within level 2 are closed to OHV use. This does not apply to permitted BLM activities or authorized administrative uses.

LGR25 Maintain the Sand Wash recreation facility at its present size. Allow development of limited facilities, needed to protect health and human safety, at potential recreation sites within the ACEC.

LGR26 The recreation facility is closed to grazing and surface-disturbing activities not directly related to recreation development. OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails yearlong.

Riparian.

LGR27 Riparian habitat in early and mid ecological stages would be improved by establishing grazing systems and constructing rangeland improvements designed to enhance riparian values.

LGR28 Provide sufficient herbaceous forage biomass to meet requirements of plant vigor maintenance, bank protection, and sediment entrapment.

LGR29 Riparian habitat in early and mid ecological stages would be improved by establishing grazing systems and constructing rangeland

improvements designed to enhance riparian values.

LGR30 Provide sufficient herbaceous forage biomass to meet requirements of plant vigor maintenance, bank protection, and sediment entrapment.

LGR31 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.

Soils and Water.

LGR32 Allow new surface-disturbing activities on critical soils within level 3 areas of the ACEC only if watershed values are maintained.

LGR33 Areas of critical soils and floodplains are closed to OHV use and surface-disturbing activities during periods of saturated soil (usually spring runoff and fall rains).

LGR34 Level 3 would be available for major (larger than 1 acre-foot capacity) water developments with special restrictions designed to maintain the visual qualities of the ACEC. Outside of these areas, major water developments could be permitted if the project is consistent with the area prescriptions.

Special Emphasis Areas.

LGR35 Recommend the lower Green River segment for suitability as a scenic river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Any decision to recommend designation will be delayed and made concurrently with a decision to recommend, or not recommend, designation on the adjoining Desolation Canyon segment in the Price River Resource Area of the Moab District.

In support of this decision, afford adequate protection, subject to valid existing rights, to those identified outstandingly remarkable values which determined the suitability classification. Until the suitability determination is superseded, management activities and authorized uses will not be allowed to adversely affect either suitability or the tentative classification.

LGR36 The following specific management prescriptions are used to protect the river corridor:

Free-flowing values. - To the extent BLM is authorized by law to restrict such uses, the free-flowing characteristics of the river will not be modified by stream impoundments, diversions and rip-rapping.

River values. - Outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river segment or area must be protected (subject to valid existing rights) and enhanced to the extent practicable.

Classification impacts. - Management and development of the identified river and its corridor cannot be modified, subject to valid existing rights, to the degree that its eligibility or classification would be affected (i.e., its classification cannot be changed from wild to scenic, or scenic to recreational, or changed from suitable to unsuitable).

Vegetation.

LGR37 Allow mechanical, fire, biological or chemical control of noxious weeds and insect infestations within the ACEC with restrictions designed to protect ground cover, special status plant species, water quality and the scenic values of the ACEC.

LGR38 Manage the vegetation to attain the ecological stage that would most benefit special status species habitats, riparian, watershed and visual resource values. Manage vegetation in the remaining portion of the area in a way which would result in the highest vegetation species diversity to maintain or enhance the remaining resource values.

LGR39 Do not allow surface-disturbing activities on special status plant species habitat with the ACEC. A site-specific analysis will be completed to determine if site characteristics exclude potential habitat from a proposed surface-disturbing activity.

Visual.

LGR40 Maintain the primitive/natural qualities of the lower Green River viewshed and other VRM Class II lands within the area by allowing only short-term or mitigable visual intrusions.

Woodlands

LGR41 The area will be closed to the sale and/or harvest of woodland products.

Support Needs

sLGR42 Continue to implement the needed actions as outlined in the 1979 Desolation and Gray Canyons on the Green River Management Plan until replaced with the coordinated activity plan.

sLGR43 Develop a coordinated activity plan for the area.

sLGR44 Implement the approved *Sclerocactus glaucus* recovery plan as developed by USF&WS, where necessary.

Lower Green River ACEC Diamond Mountain RMP

- 100 Ft. Contour ———
- Section Lines - - -
- Roads ———
- ACEC Bounds ———

Scale 1:150000

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

