

CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PREFERRED COORDINATED ACTIVITY PLAN

ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION

The basic goal in formulating the Coordinated Activity Plan (CAP) alternatives for this EIS is to provide a basis for comparative impact analysis of an adequate range of reasonable management options and alternatives for the planning area. Each alternative identifies combinations of management options to address or prevent conflicts among the various land and resource values and their uses in the planning area, including: leasing and development of mineral resources, recreational activities and facilities, livestock grazing, crucial and important wildlife habitat, cultural and Native American respected sites, sensitive plant and animal species, and other important land and resource uses. Each alternative represents a complete and reasonable interdisciplinary (or multiple use) approach to management of the public lands and resources in the planning area. The JMHCAP EIS provides for more specific management actions for some resource activities (activity planning level decisions), and provides less specific prescriptions (RMP planning level decisions) for others. Providing specific management direction for some resource activities and more generalized management direction for others also results in varying levels of analysis of impacts that would reflect more detailed effects of the specific management direction, and less detailed effects of the generalized management direction.

Documenting the analysis of impacts that would be associated with the alternatives is required by BLM planning regulations and the NEPA-based CEQ regulations. Documenting the comparison of the differences among the alternatives and the differences in the effects or impacts associated with each alternative is also required. Based upon this comparative analysis, BLM managers are able to choose a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative selected may be one of the initial alternatives considered (e.g., the No Action Alternative and alternatives A and B in this document), it may be made up from portions of two or more of those alternatives, or it may be a completely different alternative.

Four alternatives are described and analyzed in the EIS. One alternative represents the continuation of present management, or the “no action” alternative. This alternative describes existing management and anticipated levels of activities that would occur in the planning area, if the existing management direction were to continue. As part of formulating the No Action Alternative, the interdisciplinary planning team prepared a comprehensive description of the existing management situation for the planning area. The team also identified the management objectives and action decisions

from the Green River RMP that apply to the planning area (see Appendix 3).

The other alternatives provide a range of choices for managing resource and land uses in the planning area including, leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, lands and realty actions, livestock grazing management actions, recreation management actions, and prescriptions for management of other resources present in the planning area. These alternatives are based upon public scoping and analysis of the No Action Alternative. An adequate range of alternatives has been presented. Alternative A would generally reduce the level of land use restrictions and allow more development of mineral resources, recreation activities and facilities and livestock grazing, than either the No Action Alternative, Alternative B, and the Preferred Alternative. Alternative B would increase the level of restrictions on land uses and allow less development of mineral resources, recreation activities and facilities, and livestock grazing than under the No Action or Alternative A.

The BLM’s preferred alternative would generally place greater emphasis on protection of the natural environment compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternative A and provide fewer restrictions on land and resource uses compared to Alternative B. The Preferred Alternative was developed to balance production or commodity uses with protection of the environment. Although the Preferred Alternative is presented first, it is actually the last alternative developed in the planning process. The No Action Alternative was the first alternative developed.

ALTERNATIVES AND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED ANALYSIS

The following alternatives and management options were considered as possible methods of resolving the issues but were eliminated from detailed study because they were unreasonable or not practical due to technical, legal, or policy factors.

Closure to Livestock Grazing

The elimination of livestock grazing from all public lands in the planning area was considered as a possible method of resolving some of the planning issues related to vegetative resources in the Green River RMP EIS, and was dropped from

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detailed analysis in that document. The same reasons for eliminating the “no grazing” option from detailed study apply to the JMHCAP EIS.

Resource conditions on the BLM-administered public lands in the planning area, including range vegetation, watershed, and wildlife habitat, do not warrant prohibition of livestock grazing throughout the planning area. However, reduction or elimination of livestock grazing may be necessary in specific situations where livestock grazing would significantly conflict with other management objectives. Such determinations would be made during site-specific activity planning and would be based on several factors, including monitoring studies and ability to meet the standards for healthy rangelands.

Closure to Mineral Leasing

Closing the planning area to mineral leasing was considered to resolve conflicts with other resource uses. Since much of the planning area has already been leased for federal minerals and portions of the area are developed, this option would not help resolve issues in the short term. Resource conflicts tend to be located in specific areas, not planning area wide, and closing the entire area would not be reasonable. Additionally, resource management in the planning area should respond to the needs for oil and gas resources. This proposal was eliminated from further analysis because it would be contrary to BLM policy, that, “except for congressional withdrawals, public lands shall remain open and available for mineral exploration unless (to do otherwise)... is clearly justified in the national interest” (May 24, 1987). In addition, this would be directly contrary to the BLM’s multiple use management mandate in FLPMA.

Closing the area to leasing of oil and gas resources was also considered in the Big Sandy/Salt Wells Oil and Gas Environmental Assessment (EA) (USDI 1981a) and again in the Green River RMP EIS (USDI 1997). At those times, this option was determined to be unacceptable. Another review of this option, during consideration of possible management options and alternatives for this JMHCAP EIS, revealed that closure to leasing of federal oil and gas resources in the planning area continues to be unacceptable and closure to leasing of the other federal minerals in the area is also unacceptable. The entire planning area does not have conflicts with oil and gas development and, thus, the issue of no mineral leasing or development in the entire planning area is not appropriate. However, not leasing portions of the planning area, in response to other identified resource needs, is addressed in the alternatives analyzed in detail. The alternatives analyzed in detail do include various considerations for eliminating or maximizing individual resource values or uses in specific areas where conflicts exist.

Maximum, Unconstrained Alternatives

Alternatives and general management options that proposed maximum development, production, or protection of one resource at the expense of other resources were not analyzed in detail. Generally, promoting a single land and

resource use by eliminating all others does not meet the objectives of the BLM’s multiple use management mandate and responsibilities (FLPMA Sec. 202 (c) and (e)). Additionally, this approach would not meet the direction developed for the planning area. This direction is described in the Record of Decision for the Green River RMP EIS. However, the alternatives analyzed in detail do include various considerations for eliminating or maximizing individual resource values or uses in specific areas where conflicts exist.

Applying Standard Lease Notice #1 as the Only Mitigation for Surface Disturbance and Disrupting Activities

Application of standard lease notice #1 as the only mitigation for surface disturbing activities, was not considered in detail. Lease Notice #1 is an oil and gas term for the standard lease notice that is included in all federal oil and gas leases. This notice provides guidance for use or occupancy, and in some cases, prohibition of surface disturbing activities on areas with slopes in excess of 25 percent; within 500 feet of water and/or riparian areas; construction with frozen material or during periods when the soil material is saturated or when watershed damage is likely to occur; within 500 feet of interstate highways and 200 feet of other rights-of-way; within 1/4 mile of occupied dwellings; or on material sites. The mitigation described in this lease notice applies to all surface disturbing and disruptive activities whether or not they are related to oil and gas exploration and development activities (i.e., range improvement projects, recreation structures, rights-of-way, etc.). This option was addressed in the Green River RMP EIS. The analysis in that EIS identified potentially significant impacts to resources and uses in the planning area would still result, demonstrating that minimal mitigation would not be sufficient to meet resource objectives or BLM’s multiple use management mandate and responsibilities. However applying the prescription as mitigation for surface disturbance in portions of the planning area, in response to other identified resource needs, is addressed in the alternatives analyzed in detail.

Authorizing Activities with a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) Requirement (For All Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities) On the Entire Planning Area

An NSO requirement precludes surface use of an area by surface disturbing and disruptive activities. Applying this requirement to the entire planning area as project mitigation and mineral lease mitigation (such as oil and gas leases) was considered but dropped from detailed analysis.

Much of the planning area is already leased for oil and gas. Exploration and development activities could (and likely will) occur on some of those leased areas. It is not reasonable to assume that all unleased or undeveloped areas contain the sensitive or significant resources that warrant this most re-

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strictive stipulation. For oil and gas, the issuance of any lease implies that there is some accessibility to the mineral resource. Extensive areas with NSO prescriptions would deny accessibility to the resource for oil and gas development and any other surface disturbing activity (e.g., range improvement projects, recreation structures, rights-of-way, etc.). This could also cause impacts to areas with sensitive resources on adjacent leased areas as activity would be moved to these adjacent areas. However, applying the NSO prescription as mitigation for surface disturbance and disruptive activities in portions of the planning area, in response to other identified resource needs, is addressed in the alternatives analyzed in detail.

Prohibiting Oil and Gas Activity on Existing Leased Areas

During scoping it was suggested that an alternative be considered that would evaluate impacts of a prohibition of further exploration or development of federal lands and minerals that are already leased for oil and gas. Under this option, activities would continue on private and state lands and minerals but not on federal lands and minerals. After review of the leases issued for federal minerals, the BLM determined that this alternative was not reasonable. Outright denial of proposals to develop a valid lease would violate the lessees' contractual rights. A lease grants the "right and privilege to drill from, mine, extract, remove, and dispose of all oil and gas deposits" in the leased lands, subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the lease. BLM can not directly or indirectly prohibit all development on a lease, unless the lease is issued with a No Surface Occupancy stipulation. Authority for complete denial can be granted only by Congress.

On federal lands, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Sierra Club vs. Peterson* (717 F. 2d 1409, 1983) found that "*on land leased without a No Surface Occupancy stipulation, the Department (Interior) cannot deny the permit to drill...once the land is leased the Department no longer has the authority to preclude surface disturbing activity even if the environmental impact of such activity is significant. The Department can only impose mitigation measures upon a lessee who pursues surface disturbing exploration and/or drilling activities.*" The court goes on to say "*notwithstanding the assurance that a later site-specific environmental analysis will be made, in issuing these leases the Department has made an irrevocable commitment to allow some surface disturbing activities, including drilling and road building.*" By issuing the leases, BLM has accepted the possibility of impacts to the environment.

Withdrawing the Entire Core Area From Mineral Location

Pursuing a withdrawal of all public lands in the 80,410-acre core area from mineral location under the 1872 mining law was considered as a possible method of resolving some of the planning issues related to locatable mineral exploration and development activity. After staff review of the area, the potential for such activity is considered to be low; therefore, a major issue did not exist. However, pursuing withdrawals

of sensitive areas for protection from surface disturbance and disruptive activities in portions of the planning area, in response to other identified resource needs, is addressed in the alternatives analyzed in detail.

Identification of New Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

During scoping, identification of new WSAs was identified as an issue. In keeping with the ROD for the Green River RMP EIS, BLM will not consider any additions or changes to the existing WSAs in the planning area. The ROD for the Green River RMP states: "The Bureau's recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the Green River Resource Area have been made under separate documentation. These areas were addressed in separate Wilderness EIS and Wilderness report documents which are also on file in the Green River Resource Area Office. The decisions regarding wilderness area designations are made by Congress. When Congress makes the Wilderness decisions for the WSAs in the Green River Resource Area, they will be incorporated into the Green River RMP" (see Appendix 1). Additionally, in response to a protest on the Green River RMP, it was noted that the initial wilderness inventory included all BLM-administered public lands in Wyoming and began in 1978. All public lands in the Green River RMP planning area were evaluated in this initial intensive wilderness inventory. In 1979, the results of these reviews were made available to the public. Those areas not retained as WSAs were found not to possess one or more of the wilderness characteristics such as naturalness, and the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. This same situation exists today. The draft and final EISs for the Green River RMP noted that no other areas in the planning area (i.e., other than those that have already been reviewed and evaluated in the intensive wilderness inventory) have been identified for wilderness review. Therefore BLM will not consider any additions or changes to the existing WSAs in the Jack Morrow Hills planning area.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN DETAIL

Appendix 3 is a listing of all the general objective and management action decisions that apply to all alternatives addressed in this EIS. These decisions are not subject to consideration for change in this planning effort. However, for clarification and understanding, some of these objectives and actions may be repeated in describing the alternatives.

In addition to what is in Appendix 3), this document describes the analysis leading to the oil and gas leasing decisions and mineral location decisions that were deferred in the Green River RMP for the core area. Also described and addressed are other management options, identified from new information obtained during this impact analysis, which have potential for amending some of the Green River RMP decisions.

This document also addresses activities or management options that are in conformance and consistent with the Green

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River RMP decisions that would not result in amending the Green River RMP.

The descriptions of the four alternatives addressed in this EIS are summarized in Table 2-1. Management objectives and management actions that are common to all alternatives can be identified in Table 2-1 by noting where they are the same across all alternatives. They are not repeated in the text unless needed for clarity and understanding. The management actions that would occur in the planning area under each alternative are described by resource or resource program component. Following these descriptions for the general planning area, this same format is used to describe the management actions for the core area and each proposed special management area in each alternative. Where the objective and actions are the same for the overall planning area and for the core or special management areas, they are not repeated unless needed for clarity.

The comparisons of the expected environmental consequences of the alternatives are summarized in Table 4-1. The detailed descriptions of the expected environmental consequences expected from implementation of each alternative are described in Chapter 4.

No Action Alternative-This alternative would continue present management direction and practices based on implementation of the approved Green River RMP decisions and would close the core area to oil and gas leasing.

This alternative emphasizes implementation of resource management decisions contained in the Green River RMP (August 1997) and provides for multiple use management of the public lands and resources to meet foreseeable needs and emphasize environmental integrity. This alternative proposes no new management actions, from the status quo. This is done to ensure a good comparison of the different management options among the alternatives, and because the management actions to be implemented have not yet been determined. Other management options, which include mineral leasing in the core area, and identification of areas to be withdrawn from mineral location, are addressed in the other alternatives.

Alternative A-This alternative allows for maximizing resource uses such as mineral development, livestock grazing and similar actions, while staying within the framework of the *Record of Decision and Approved Green River RMP* (August 1997) as much as possible. Management emphasis of the public lands and resources would be primarily for use, development, and intensive management while resource values would, still be protected to the extent required by applicable laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. Compared to Alternative B and the Preferred Alternative, oil and gas leasing would occur in the core area and throughout the planning area, and fewer withdrawals from mineral location would be pursued. Compared to the No Action Alternative, Alternative B or the Preferred Alternative, wildlife habitat protection and recreation quality, including the amount of ORV use, would be more limited, and some Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes would be lower. More livestock grazing improvements would be developed to enhance livestock grazing use, compared to the No Action Alternative, Alternative B, or the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative B-This alternative allows for the maximum protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat, recreation use, watershed, riparian, and cultural resources, Native American concerns, and other sensitive resources, while staying within the framework of the *Record of Decision and Approved Green River RMP* (August 1997) as much as possible. Oil and gas leasing could occur outside the core area and big game migratory corridors; however, the core area and migratory corridors would be closed to mineral leasing. Compared to the other alternatives, more mineral location withdrawals would be pursued and there would be more limitations on range improvements. Compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternative A, there would be more emphasis on vegetation use for watershed and wildlife habitat needs.

Preferred Alternative-This alternative provides for resource tradeoffs, which could favor resource utilization and resource protection or a compromise between them, while staying within the framework of the *Record of Decision and Approved Green River RMP* (August 1997) as much as possible. Compared to the other alternatives, this alternative provides for staged oil and gas leasing and related development. Portions of the planning area would be available for leasing consideration, with appropriate mitigation, upon completion of the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan. Before other areas would be leased for oil and gas development, they would be withheld from leasing consideration until it could be ensured that adequate big game habitat would remain available for use. This could mean that certain areas would not be leased and subsequently developed until other areas have been developed and habitat restored. In addition an evaluation would be done to aid in determining how much habitat should be withheld, and what mitigation measures would be necessary to ensure habitat objectives are met. Habitat fragmentation is one of the major issues to be addressed in the planning area. This alternative provides one means of ensuring that sufficient habitat is available for big game use (particularly elk) while other areas are developed. Range improvements would be limited, and some guidelines for vegetation use would be provided. Compared to Alternative A, more mineral location withdrawals would be pursued and there would be more limitations on range improvements. Compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternative A, there would be more emphasis on vegetation use for watershed and wildlife habitat needs. Compared to Alternative B, there would be less emphasis on vegetation use for watershed and wildlife habitat needs.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Overall Planning Area Management Management Actions Common to All Land and Resource Programs in the Preferred Alternative

Upon completion of the JMHCAP, crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for various multiple use activities so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects. This

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would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of the various activities and related reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance may be required before additional surface disturbing activities would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas. Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Subject to future monitoring and evaluation, portions of the JMHCAP planning area would be temporarily closed to mineral leasing, long-term surface disturbing and disruptive activity, rights-of-way, fencing, powerlines, pipelines, long-term and permanent structures or facilities, rangeland improvements, land treatments, mineral leasing, long-term and permanent land and resource use commitments or allocations. This would be done to satisfy immediate needs for adequate wildlife habitat and use of that habitat (crucial winter range, calving/fawning, migration corridors, etc.), protection of other sensitive resources, and for public health and safety. In particular, in portions of Steamboat Mountain ACEC, Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, the White Mountain and Split Rock areas, and the core and connectivity areas, these types of actions would not be authorized until monitoring and evaluation of ongoing activity in these areas determine that rates and levels of activities and reclamation would allow further activity, would not cause fragmentation and abandonment of habitat, and would still meet stated management objectives. This determination would be based on the effects on elk and their movement patterns, elk use of habitat, effects on other wildlife species and habitats, and effects on other sensitive resources.

The evaluation would incorporate information from the elk study initiated in 1999; application of the standards and guidelines for healthy rangelands; proper functioning condition determinations for riparian areas; and other activities and uses. After the initial phase of the evaluation (about four years), a determination would be made on whether or not areas may become available for consideration of future activities. Should these areas become available, appropriate mitigation would be applied to meet planning area management objectives. If the evaluation concludes that planning area management objectives are not being met, these areas would remain unavailable. As areas become available for consideration of future activities, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the planning area management objectives could be met.

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: NRHP-eligible sites would be avoided by 100 feet.

Expansion Era Roads - The most historically important examples of each Expansion Era Road and the Indian Gap Trail would be preserved for their historic resource values, in their historic context guidance (Map 5). Therefore, surface disturbing activities proposed to affect any segment of an Expansion Era Road or the Indian Gap Trail would be required

to address the effects to the entire Road. The effects to a portion of the road would need to be evaluated against the integrity (according to NRHP guidelines) of the entirety of the road (see Appendix 3). Distance restrictions for surface disturbing activities and visual intrusion would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Activities would avoid Native American respected places. Traditional tribal elders would be consulted regarding the importance of specific features identified, and for their recommendations of appropriate avoidance distances concerning visual or noise intrusions. Avoidance distances may range from 100 feet to 2-1/2 miles depending on the importance of the features involved and their topographic setting. Viewshed (vista) and noise analyses may be conducted to help determine appropriate avoidance distances.

Activities would be excluded within a 1/2-mile viewshed (vista-same as GRRMP) of the White Mountain Petroglyphs (Appendix 3). Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be prohibited within a 1/2-mile viewshed of all rock art sites. A vista and noise analysis may be conducted for each site.

Surface disturbing activities would avoid the paleosol deposition area. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if adverse effects could be mitigated by authorized users or permittees. Mitigation could include recovery of scientific data, as well as stabilization of remaining, undisturbed resources. Recovery of scientific data within the paleosol deposition area would be guided by research designs developed by BLM in consultation with the SHPO. See recreation section for guidance on back country byway interpretive sites, and project planning for Crookston Ranch and the White Mountain Petroglyphs.

Fire Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Additional fire prescriptions including full suppression for big sagebrush-scurfpea vegetation associations would be applied on a case-by-case basis as necessary.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The public lands within the planning area, with the exception of defined exclusion and avoidance areas, would be open to consideration of granting of rights-of-way, permits, and leases (Map 6, Map 7, and Table 2-2). Location of rights-of-way, permits, and leases would be concentrated in certain areas and avoided or excluded in others, to protect sensitive resources. In particular, these actions would avoid the big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation associations to minimize effects to big game habitat. Portions of Indian Gap and the face of Steamboat Mountain (the steep slopes around the perimeter of Steamboat Mountain) would be closed (exclusion areas) to these actions.

Major transportation and utility line rights-of-way would be confined to established ROW concentration areas. Areas designated as utility windows, ROW concentration areas, and existing communication sites would be preferred locations for future grants. Additional right-of-way windows would be

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established to limit the areas disturbed by ROW activity, and to concentrate these types of facilities. Rights-of-way would be located in the windows identified. *Exceptions may be considered if mitigation can be developed to meet area objectives and to alleviate impacts to the sensitive resources in the area.* In particular, pipelines and other linear facilities would follow existing roads and pipelines, and offsite facilities (tank batteries, etc.) would be clustered or located in the same geographic areas. The placement of the offsite facilities may be concentrated in different areas than the linear facilities if area objectives can be met.

In addition to existing guidance (Green River RMP), transportation planning would include the locations of rights-of-way. Linear rights-of-way would follow existing roads and trails in accordance with transportation planning. Areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to rights-of-way for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow existing improved roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards. Activity in the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, and White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC would follow the prescriptions in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3).

Steamboat Mountain ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, and Continental Peak would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat and visual values. Communication sites could be considered on Essex Mountain or Pacific Butte with restrictions on the height (where no strobe light would be necessary), visual intrusion (not readily visible), road access, etc. Actions on Pacific Butte would conform to the existing management prescriptions for the South Pass Historic Landscape.

The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-3 would be pursued. In addition to the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3), withdrawals would be pursued for two elk calving areas, the top of Steamboat Mountain, a cultural site, and three Native American respected places (about 9,000 acres) (Map 8). Future withdrawals would also be pursued to protect important resource values as needs are identified.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3): 1) improve forage production and ecological conditions for the benefit of livestock use, wildlife habitat, watershed, and riparian areas; 2) maintain, improve, or restore riparian habitat to enhance forage conditions, wildlife habitat, and stream quality; and 3) achieve proper functioning condition or better on riparian areas (this is the first priority for vegetation management). Additional objectives include maintaining or improving the vegetative resource (particularly mountain shrub communities), and providing for the maintenance or improvement of wildlife habitat, watershed values and riparian habitat using appropriate vegetation and livestock grazing management practices to

meet the objectives for the planning area (providing the necessary habitat for big game and other wildlife species).

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Authorized grazing use would not exceed the recognized permitted use. For analysis purposes, anticipated actual use would range from approximately 9,851 AUMs (5-year average 1994-1998) to the total permitted use of 26,032 AUMs. The average between the two amounts is 17,941 AUMs (15,814 cattle and 2,127 sheep). Again, for analysis purposes, this grazing level was held constant throughout the planning period.

Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (S&Gs) would be implemented, and specific grazing allotment management prescriptions would be developed on a case-by-case basis. Appropriate measures would be taken to meet the standards for healthy rangelands. If standards are not being met, then guidelines would be used and appropriate action would be taken. Actions that would meet the objectives and benefit resources could be considered on a case-by-case basis. For this analysis, the levels of livestock use may be reduced (where appropriate) as one of the appropriate actions taken to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

Livestock turnout dates would be modified on a case-by-case basis to ensure growing season rest. No livestock use would be allowed before range readiness. Range readiness would be determined on a case-by-case basis and could include boot stage of key grass species, soil moisture, and wildlife habitat needs. Livestock grazing plans are required to avoid livestock grazing in an area/pasture/allotment season-long; therefore, season-long use would not occur.

Applications for changes in class of livestock would be considered on a case-by-case basis and would only be approved where such a conversion would aid in achieving management objectives for the planning area.

Livestock grazing suitability reviews would be conducted on a case-by-case basis. Livestock forage use would not be allocated for unsuitable areas and would be removed from the forage base.

Plowing of roads in winter for livestock accessibility and feeding would not be allowed except in emergency situations. Any such activity would conform with transportation planning (see the Travel Management section).

Livestock grazing use on upland key grass species would be limited to 1) no more than 40 percent of the current growth (seasonal utilization); and 2) minimum heights throughout the growing season (to be determined for individual key species), whichever is reached first. Livestock would be removed when either seasonal utilization or minimum height is reached in a given area/pasture/allotment.

Livestock grazing management plans that address riparian and upland areas would be required. Riparian and upland areas would be managed primarily for wildlife and watershed needs. New riparian pastures would be established only if watershed resources and wildlife habitat would be enhanced.

Livestock grazing use in riparian areas would be limited (1) for key riparian shrub species, to no more than 30 percent of

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the stems browsed or (2) for herbaceous plants, to a seasonal utilization of 40 percent or no less than a 6-inch minimum height, whichever occurs first. Key species and plant height monitoring would be conducted throughout the grazing season.

Livestock salt licks would be located no closer than 1/2 mile to water and no closer than 1/4 mile to sensitive plant species locations.

All range improvements would be designed to accommodate multiple resource needs (e.g., watershed, wildlife, etc.).

The connectivity area (migration corridor) is considered big game crucial habitat. Range improvements would be considered in crucial big game habitats only if they would either benefit or not conflict with big game use.

Livestock water development would be prohibited or restricted in crucial wildlife ranges and the connectivity area. Developments must conform with plan objectives and actions, benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat, conform with surface use requirements and transportation planning, and ensure continued use of big game crucial ranges (migration routes, crucial winter ranges, parturition areas, etc.). A grazing plan and ID team review would be required. Livestock water developments could be fenced and offsite water facilities would be developed (pipelines and troughs). Natural water sources (e.g., springs and seeps) would be protected from excessive use.

Livestock water developments would be prohibited in the core area unless the proposed resource evaluation (see oil and gas section) determines that an exception could be granted.

Water developments would not be placed within 1.5 miles (plus 1/4 mile) of active sage grouse leks. Activities, such as occur with pipeline construction, could be granted exceptions in certain circumstances.

Vegetation treatments would be considered on a case-by-case basis. A livestock grazing plan would be prepared prior to treatment. Areas proposed for vegetation treatments may be rested one full year prior to treatment and would be rested two full years after treatment. If optimal vegetation cover exists prior to a treatment, a full year of rest prior to treatment would not be necessary.

Minerals Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3).

Leasable Minerals

Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) allow leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) allow orderly and timely development of oil and gas reserves; and 3) manage objectives 1 and 2 to provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and to protect sensitive resources (e.g., animals, plants, cultural, visual).

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Table 2-4 lists public lands and federal minerals in the planning area with fluid mineral lease requirements that are necessary to protect other resource values.

Areas closed to leasing (discretionary closures) would include portions of the core area and connectivity area, and portions of White Mountain and Split Rock. Approximately 37,240 acres of federal mineral estate would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (Map 9).

The remainder of the federal fluid mineral estate in the planning area could be open to consideration for leasing with conditional requirements that would apply to certain areas. A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-4 and Map 10). About 56,040 acres would be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy requirement.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 347,250 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, raptor habitat, and game fish spawning area (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-4 and Map 12). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on 416,160 acres.

Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of federal fluid mineral leasing, exploration, development, and reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory abandonment of oil and gas wells and surface disturbance reclamation may be required before additional fluid mineral leasing and development would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas. Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Upon completion of the JMHCAP, fluid mineral leasing, exploration and development would be allowed in portions of the planning area, including portions of the core and connectivity areas. These areas would be open to leasing consideration, with necessary mitigation, which could include CSU, NSO, other stipulations or conditional requirements, and temporary lease suspension. Because there are pre-existing leases in some of the crucial big game habitat areas and other sensitive areas, development in these areas could cause other areas to become crucial habitat or sensitive. Thus, some portions of the planning area may remain permanently closed to leasing and development because other portions of the area with crucial habitat and sensitive resources are already leased.

Subject to future monitoring and evaluation, portions of the planning area would be temporarily closed to leasing to satisfy immediate needs for adequate habitat and use of that

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habitat (crucial winter range, calving/fawning, migration corridors, etc.), protection of sensitive resources, and for public health and safety. The entire planning area would not be leased at the same time, and exploration and development activities would not be allowed to occur at the same time over the entire planning area. In particular, unleased portions of Steamboat Mountain ACEC, Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, the White Mountain and Split Rock areas, and the core and connectivity areas would not be leased until monitoring and evaluation of ongoing exploration and development activity in these areas determine that rates and levels of development and reclamation would allow further leasing and development, would not cause fragmentation and abandonment of habitat, and would still meet stated management objectives. This determination would be based on the effects on elk and their movement patterns, elk use of habitat, effects on other wildlife species and habitats, and effects on other sensitive resources.

The evaluation would incorporate information from the elk study initiated in 1999; application of the standards and guidelines for healthy rangelands; proper functioning condition determinations for riparian areas; and other activities and uses. After the initial phase of the evaluation (about four years), a determination would be made on whether or not unleased areas that may become available for future leasing consideration, would be offered for lease. Should these areas be offered for lease, appropriate mitigation would be applied to meet planning area management objectives. If the evaluation concludes that planning area management objectives are not being met, these areas would either remain unleased, or would be leased with an NSO stipulation.

As areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would be reviewed to determine if the planning area management objectives could be met, if they were leased and developed. To facilitate this and promote consistency in implementing the JMHCAP management decisions, areas determined suitable for leasing consideration within the core and connectivity areas, White Mountain, and Split Rock areas would only be considered once a year. This would allow consideration of each of these areas in their entirety rather than piecemeal consideration of individual lease applications that may be submitted throughout the year.

Exploration and development proposals related to leases in effect before approval of the JMHCAP would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

- surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-4;

- transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 2 miles of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

- remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

- multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

- limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

- directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-4 and Figure 1), where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

- clustering or centrally locating tank batteries to limit traffic and disturbance;

- shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

- application of geotechnical materials for construction; and

- unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Areas closed to coal exploration would remain the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997). On lands open to coal exploration, exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. Exploration activities in crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values (Figure 1) would avoid these areas unless a plan could be developed to mitigate adverse impacts to these resource values (Map 13). Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails within these areas in conformance with transportation planning.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: to provide for both short- and long-range development of federal sodium resources in an orderly and timely manner (same as stated in the Green River RMP, see Appendix 3). In addition, to provide for exploration activities outside the core area, in conformance with objectives to provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Areas closed to sodium exploration would remain the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997). On lands open to development, exploration and development proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and appropriate mitigation would be applied. Exploration and development activities would avoid sensitive areas (Figure 1). Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration and development activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails within these areas in conformance with transportation planning.

Should trona water development occur, surface facilities such as plants or refineries, or waste water ponds would not be allowed in the planning area. Well locations could be allowed in the planning area and would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

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Salables (Mineral Materials)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The areas identified as closed to mineral material sales in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) would remain closed to mineral material sales. The areas identified in Table 2-6 would be closed to mineral material sales (Map 14).

Mineral material sale would only occur when in support of project development within the core, connectivity, White Mountain, and Split Rock areas. This activity would not detract from the important resource values of these areas. Appropriate mitigation would be applied. New road construction and upgrading of existing roads for mineral material extraction would only be allowed if in accordance with transportation planning.

The remainder of the planning area would be open to consideration of mineral material sales on a case-by-case basis. Sale areas and community pits would be established in conformance with other resource objectives.

Locatable Minerals

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-3 would be pursued. In addition to the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3), withdrawals would be pursued for two elk calving areas, the top of Steamboat Mountain, a cultural site, and three Native American respected places (about 9,000 acres) (Map 8). Future withdrawals would also be pursued to protect important resource values as needs are identified.

Geophysical

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Most of the planning area would be open to consideration of geophysical exploration activities. Based on site specific analysis, geophysical exploration activities would be authorized with appropriate conditional requirements such as limiting the use of vehicles and explosive charges (Table 2-7).

An interdisciplinary team review would be initiated for all geophysical proposals within the planning area. Exploration activities in crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values (Figure 1) would avoid these areas unless a plan could be developed to mitigate adverse impacts to these resource values. Mitigation measures would be applied to protect these sensitive resources (timing limitations, avoidance, restrictions on vehicle use and explosive charges, etc.). Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to off-road vehicle use and explosive charges. In areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities, the core area, crucial habitats, and other sensitive areas (Figure 1 and Table 2-4), exploration activities, without use of explosive charges, could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning.

Areas of Native American concern would be closed to geophysical vehicles and explosive charges.

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities, such as oil

and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc., that are no longer needed may be required before additional facilities or disturbance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas.

Special Status Species Management

The Special Status Plant Species ACEC would not be expanded to include *Lesquerella macrocarpa*. This species would continue to be managed as a special status plant species. Known locations of *Lesquerella macrocarpa* would be avoidance areas for rights-of-way (Table 2-2).

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values totaling 56,040 acres (see Table 2-4 and Map 10). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, cultural resource site, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, South Pass Historic Landscape (area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail), Special Status Plant Species Habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and sites for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 347,250 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, raptor habitat, and game fish spawning areas (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Controlled surface use restrictions would be applied to 416,160 acres (Table 2-4). Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes, waters and floodplains, and big sagebrush habitat (Map 15). On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement could be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-4 and Map 12.

Based on site-specific analyses, surface-disturbing activities would be limited during wet weather, on frozen soils, and on slopes greater than 20 percent (70,310 acres).

NRHP-eligible sites would be avoided by 100 feet.

Activities would avoid Native American respected places. Traditional tribal elders would be consulted regarding the importance of specific features identified, and for their recommendations of appropriate avoidance distances concerning visual or noise intrusions. Avoidance distances may range from 100 feet to 2-1/2 miles depending on the importance of the features involved and their topographic setting. Viewshed (vista) and noise analysis may be conducted to help determine appropriate avoidance distances.

Activities would be excluded within a 1/2-mile viewshed (vista-same as GRRMP) of the White Mountain Petroglyphs

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(Appendix 3). Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be prohibited within a 1/2-mile viewshed of all rock art sites. A vista and noise analysis may be conducted for each site.

Surface disturbing activities would avoid the paleosol deposition area. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if adverse effects could be mitigated by authorized users or permittees. Mitigation could include recovery of scientific data, as well as stabilization of remaining, undisturbed resources. Recovery of scientific data within the paleosol deposition area would be guided by research designs developed by BLM in consultation with the SHPO. The area would be reviewed for consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 9) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section). Activity in the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, and White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC would follow the prescriptions in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: To provide opportunity for off-road vehicle use in conformance with other resource management objectives (see Appendix 3). In addition, to provide motorized vehicle and non-motorized vehicle use along appropriate routes in conformance with other resource management objectives.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: General winter vehicular access in the planning area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Where access on other roads is necessary, routes would be determined on a case-by-case basis and would be limited to over-the-snow vehicles only.

Specific roads and trails designated as “limited to designated roads and trails” would be identified on a case-by-case basis as time allows. A few specific trails may be closed to vehicle use. The existing seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

Road and trail construction or upgrading would be prohibited through woodland habitat (i.e., juniper, limber pine, aspen) or springs and seeps (pre-existing improved roads may be used).

Transportation planning would identify appropriate access routes and provide maximum protection for crucial habitats and sensitive resources (Appendix 5). Time of year and site conditions would be taken into consideration. Future site specific activity or implementation planning would address any needed requirements for motorized vehicular use, nonmotorized vehicular use, or non-motorized mechanical transport and also address any needed requirements for transportation planning.

Factors to be considered in development of transportation plans include:

- Historic use levels of roads and trails.

- Use of required construction specifications.

- Rehabilitating, obliterating, or barricading unused roads and trails, and closure or maintenance of those causing resource damage. The transportation plan and affected maps would be corrected to reflect closed roads and trails.

- Seasonal or administrative road closures/gating in crucial habitats (for single use destination roads or trails) to limit traffic and disrupting activities.

- Concentrating stream and riparian area crossings to key locations to restrict numbers of crossings and to benefit resource management objectives. Exceptions may be granted if proposed crossings would reduce adverse effects, benefit area objectives, and reduce miles of road (and/or frequency of use). Some crossings (2-tracks) would be closed. Commercial and service vehicles would be restricted to identified upgraded crossings. Bridges may be required on Pacific, Jack Morrow, Parnell, and Rock Cabin creeks.

- Limiting the number and location of access routes that bisect wildlife habitats and migration routes.

- Limiting the number and miles of road in crucial habitats.

- Limiting the number and miles of all-weather road, and the level of use on these roads during crucial wildlife and watershed periods (November-June).

- Grouping and offsite location of ancillary facilities away from crucial habitats and sensitive areas.

- Limiting all-season use to primarily identified roads.

- Posting speed limits, as necessary, to protect wildlife and public health and safety, and to meet planning area management objectives.

- In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile):

 - Core and connectivity areas = 2.0 miles or less

 - White Mountain area = 2.0 miles or less

 - All other areas of crucial elk habitat = more than 2.0 miles.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Desired Plant Community objectives would be established to enhance wildlife habitat,

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watershed, and biodiversity values. Maintaining or enhancing important wildlife (elk, sage grouse, mountain plover, fisheries, etc.) habitat is one of the aspects to be addressed.

Vegetation treatments would be designed to protect water and stream quality, dissipate erosion, and maintain or enhance mountain shrub and woodland communities. Treatment areas in aspen communities would be fenced to protect new plant growth from grazing activity.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: VRM classes would be managed according to the classifications shown in Table 2-8.

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC and Split Rock would be managed as a Class II VRM areas (Map 16).

Portions of White Mountain would be managed as a Class II VRM area.

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Limiting the number of well pads, roads, and other rights-of-way (and overall surface disturbance) may be required in sensitive areas (see the surface disturbance management section).

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The existing wild horse herd management area and appropriate management levels would remain unchanged (Map 17).

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the planning area. See Travel Management and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for enhancement of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Special consideration would be given to management needs of amphibians. Fences may be constructed to control livestock grazing and movement in these areas.

Priority would be given to maintaining or enhancing mountain plover and sage grouse habitat. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect these habitats (see Vegetation Management and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management Sections). Livestock water developments would not be placed within 1.5 miles (in addition to the lek proper) of sage grouse leks.

In and around the “hay meadow enclosures” on Pacific Creek, riparian and fish habitat would be managed for trout.

Riparian and upland vegetation types would be managed with emphasis on enhancing wildlife habitat, watershed, and

biodiversity values. Wildlife improvements could be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Core Area (Steamboat Mountain ACEC, eastern portion of the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, and adjacent overlapping crucial big game habitat)

Management objectives and management actions for these resource and land use programs are the same as described in the Green River RMP and for the general JMHCAP area. The following management objectives and management actions are either specifically important to the core area and are repeated, or are different from those for the general JMHCAP area.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: to 1) enhance and maintain water quality, vegetative composition, soil condition, and wildlife and wildlife habitat; 2) ensure biological diversity and a healthy ecosystem in the area; 3) maintain unique and diverse habitat components; 4) provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd, other big game populations, and other important and sensitive wildlife species; and 5) provide for mineral exploration and development activity, livestock grazing, recreation, public health and safety, and other uses, while meeting all other resource management objectives for the core area.

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource management actions for the overall planning area.

Fire Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fire management actions for the overall planning area.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Rights-of-way would avoid the big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation associations to minimize effects to big game habitat. Portions of Indian Gap and the face of Steamboat Mountain (the steep slopes around the perimeter of Steamboat Mountain) would be closed (exclusion areas) to these actions (Map 6, Map 7, and Table 2-2).

Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat and visual values. Communication sites could be considered on Essex Mountain.

The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-3 would be pursued. In addition to the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3), withdrawals would be pursued for the top

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of Steamboat Mountain, a cultural site, and two Native American respected places (about 1,480 acres) (Map 8).

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would be prohibited in the core area unless the proposed resource monitoring and evaluation (see oil and gas section) determines that an exception could be granted. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the core area would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals

Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms with the management objectives for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Portions of the core area would be closed to fluid mineral leasing. Approximately 14,130 acres of federal mineral estate would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (Map 9).

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-4 and Map 10). About 12,100 acres would be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy requirement.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 80,410 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Map 11 and Table 2-5). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values in the core area (see Map 12, Table 2-4, and Figure 1). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on 80,410 acres.

Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of federal fluid mineral leasing, exploration, development, and reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory abandonment of oil and gas wells and surface disturbance reclama-

tion may be required before additional fluid mineral leasing and development would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas. Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Upon completion of the JMHCAP, fluid mineral leasing, exploration and development would be allowed in portions of the planning area, including portions of the core and connectivity areas. These areas would be open to leasing consideration, with necessary mitigation, which could include CSU, NSO, other stipulations or conditional requirements, and temporary lease suspension. Because there are pre-existing leases in some of the crucial big game habitat areas and other sensitive areas, development in these areas could cause other areas to become crucial habitat or sensitive. Thus, some portions of the planning area may remain permanently closed to leasing and development because other portions of the area with crucial habitat and sensitive resources are already leased.

Subject to future monitoring and evaluation, portions of the planning area would be temporarily closed to leasing to provide adequate habitat and use of that habitat (crucial winter range, calving/fawning, migration corridors, etc.) and protection of sensitive resources and public health and safety. The entire planning area would not be leased at the same time, and exploration and development activities would not be allowed to occur at the same time over the entire planning area. In particular, unleased portions of Steamboat Mountain ACEC, Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, the White Mountain and Split Rock areas, and the core and connectivity areas would not be leased until monitoring and evaluation of ongoing exploration and development activity in these areas determine that rates and levels of development and reclamation would allow further leasing and development, would not cause fragmentation and abandonment of habitat, and would still meet stated management objectives. This determination would be based on the effects on elk and their movement patterns, elk use of habitat, effects on other wildlife species and habitats, and effects on other sensitive resources.

The evaluation would incorporate information from the elk study initiated in 1999; application of the standards and guidelines for healthy rangelands; proper functioning condition determinations for riparian areas; and other activities and uses. After the initial phase of the evaluation (about four years), a determination would be made on whether or not unleased areas that may become available for future leasing consideration, would be offered for lease. Should these areas be offered for lease, appropriate mitigation would be applied to meet planning area management objectives. If the evaluation concludes that planning area management objectives are not being met, these areas would either remain unleased, or would be leased with an NSO stipulation.

As areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would be reviewed to determine if the planning area management objectives could be met, if they were leased and developed. To facilitate this and promote consistency in implementing the JMHCAP management decisions, areas determined suitable for leasing consideration within the core

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and connectivity areas, White Mountain, and Split Rock areas would only be considered once a year. This would allow consideration of each of these areas in their entirety rather than piecemeal consideration of individual lease applications that may be submitted throughout the year.

Exploration and development proposals related to leases in the core area that existed before approval of the JMHCAP would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

- surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-4;

- transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 2 miles of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

- remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

- multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

- limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

- directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-4 and Figure 1), where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

 - clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

- shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

- application of geotechnical materials for construction; and

- unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Areas closed to coal exploration would remain the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. Exploration activities in crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values (Figure 1) would avoid these areas unless a plan could be developed to mitigate adverse impacts to these resource values. Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails within these areas in conformance with transportation planning.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area.

Salables (Mineral Materials)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. The areas identified in Table 2-6 would be closed to mineral material sales. In addition:

Mineral material sale would only occur when in support of project development within the core area. Appropriate mitigation would be applied to insure this activity would not detract from the important resource values of the area. New road construction and upgrading of existing roads for mineral material extraction would only be allowed if in accordance with transportation planning.

Locatable Minerals

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-3 would be pursued. In addition to the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3), withdrawals would be pursued for the top of Steamboat Mountain, a cultural site, and two Native American respected places (about 1,360 acres).

Future withdrawals from mineral location in the core area would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Geophysical

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the core area, exploration activities, without use of explosive charges, could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning (Table 2-7). Exploration activities in crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values (Table 2-4 and Figure 1) would avoid these areas unless a plan could be developed to mitigate adverse impacts to these resource values.

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities, such as oil and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc., that are no longer needed in the core area, may be required before additional facilities or disturbance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas in the core area.

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Special Status Species Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Special Status Species management actions for the overall planning area.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (on about 12,100 acres) (see Map 10 and Table 2-4). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, South Pass Historic Landscape (area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail), Special Status Plant Species Habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and sites for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 80,410 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Map 11 and Table 2-5).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned on about 80,410 acres to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes, and big sagebrush habitat. On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement could be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-4 and Map 12.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety (Map 9). However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet core area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: General winter vehicular access in the planning area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Where access on other roads is necessary, routes would be determined on a case-by-case basis and access would be limited to over-the-snow vehicles only.

Specific roads and trails to be designated as “limited to designated roads and trails” would be identified on a case-by-case basis as time allows. A few specific trails may be closed to vehicle use. The existing seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

Road and trail construction or upgrading would be prohibited through woodland habitat (i.e., juniper, limber pine, aspen) or springs and seeps (pre-existing improved roads may be used).

Transportation planning would identify appropriate access routes and provide maximum protection for crucial habitats and sensitive resources (Appendix 5). Time of year and site conditions would be taken into consideration. Future site specific activity or implementation planning would address any needed requirements for motorized vehicular use, nonmotorized vehicular use, or nonmotorized mechanical transport and also address any needed requirements for transportation planning.

Factors to be considered in development of transportation plans include:

- Historic use levels of roads and trails.

- Use of required construction specifications.

- Rehabilitating, obliterating, or barricading unused roads and trails, and closure or maintenance of those causing resource damage. The transportation plan and affected maps would be corrected to reflect closed roads and trails.

- Seasonal or administrative road closures/gating in crucial habitats (for single use destination roads or trails) to limit traffic and disrupting activities.

- Concentrating stream and riparian area crossings to key locations to restrict numbers of crossings and to benefit resource management objectives. Exceptions may be granted if proposed crossings would reduce adverse effects, benefit area objectives, and reduce miles of road (and/or frequency of use). Some crossings (2-tracks) would be closed. Commercial and service vehicles would be restricted to identified upgraded crossings. Bridges may be required on Pacific, Jack Morrow, Parnell, and Rock Cabin creeks.

- Limiting the number and location of access routes that bisect wildlife habitats and migration routes.

- Limiting the number and miles of road in crucial habitats.

- Limiting the number and miles of all-weather roads, and the level of use on these roads during crucial wildlife and watershed periods (November-June).

- Grouping and offsite location of ancillary facilities away from crucial habitats and sensitive areas.

- Limiting all-season use to primarily identified roads.

- Posting speed limits, as necessary, to protect wildlife and public health and safety, and to meet planning area management objectives.

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In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile):

- Core and connectivity areas = 2.0 miles or less
- White Mountain area = 2.0 miles or less
- All other areas of crucial elk habitat = more than 2.0 miles.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC and Split Rock would be managed as Class II VRM areas (Map 16 and Table 2-8).

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area.

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the core area. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for enhancement of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Special consideration would be given to management needs of amphibians. Fences may be constructed to control livestock grazing and movement in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage.

Greater Sand Dunes ACEC (38,650 acres in the planning area)

The western portion of the ACEC is within the Buffalo Hump and Sand Dunes WSAs and lies outside the core area. The western portion would be managed under the "Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review" (USDI 1995). The eastern portion of the ACEC is inside the core area and for consistency in management of the ACEC, the

following discussion presents the actions for the entire ACEC. Actions that apply solely to either the eastern or western portion are so noted.

Management objectives and management actions for these resource and land use programs are the same as those for the general JMHCAP and for the core area. The following management objectives and management actions are either specifically important to the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC and are repeated, or are different from those for the core area.

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource management actions for the overall planning area.

Fire Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fire management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional fire prescriptions including full suppression for big sagebrush-scurfpea vegetation associations would be applied on a case-by-case basis as necessary.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area (Appendix 3). In addition:

Rights-of-way would avoid the big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation associations to minimize effects to big game habitat. The base of Steamboat Mountain and the steep slopes around the perimeter of Steamboat Mountain (i.e., those portions which are within the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC) would be closed (exclusion areas) to these actions (Map 6, Map 7, and Table 2-2).

Within the eastern portion of the ACEC (inside the core area), both stabilized and active sand dunes would be closed to construction and development types of activities and related surface disturbance, unless analysis indicates that the management objectives for the area could be met. In situations where there are pre-existing authorizations and ongoing development in the area, new linear facilities such as pipelines and phone lines would be laid on the surface, or buried adjacent to access roads, or within existing concentration areas containing such lines, in conformance with transportation planning. Surface pipelines would be monitored by the operators to identify potential hazards to public health and safety, particularly in the open ORV area. Identified hazards would be marked to improve visibility. A recreation user map would be developed in cooperation with oil and gas operators to show the location of aboveground facilities (e.g., pipelines, well production facilities, snow fences, etc.).

The entire ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat, visual values, and geologic features.

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Areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet ACEC objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

The proposed withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC (Table 2-3) would be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Livestock Grazing management objective for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would be prohibited in the ACEC unless the proposed resource evaluation (see oil and gas section) determines that an exception could be granted. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE (within the eastern portion of the ACEC): 1) to provide maximum protection to the relevant and important ACEC values, provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protect other sensitive resources; and 2) to provide for continued ORV use and public health and safety by closing the eastern portion of the ACEC to leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.).

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing. Approximately 3,400 acres of currently unleased federal mineral estate would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (Map 9).

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (Map 10 and Table 2-4).

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also

see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values in the ACEC (see Table 2-4, Figure 1, and Map 12).

Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of federal fluid mineral leasing, exploration, development, and reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory abandonment of oil and gas wells and surface disturbance reclamation may be required before additional fluid mineral leasing and development would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas. See the Fluid Minerals section of the core Area for a description of management actions involving timing and sequencing of leasing exploration and development.

Exploration and development proposals related to leases in the ACEC in effect before approval of the JMHCAP, would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

- surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-4;

- transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 2 miles of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

- remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

- multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

- limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

- directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-4 and Figure 1), where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

- clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

- shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

- application of geotechnical materials for construction; and

- unitization of areas prior to exploration and development.

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As development of the coalbed methane wells occurs, BLM would monitor the health and safety issues associated with increased development in the ORV open area. Efforts would be made to mitigate hazards by working with industry to notify ORV users of the locations of hazards. Efforts would be made to not reduce the size of the open area, but that would be dictated by the level of new development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Areas closed to coal exploration would remain the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. Exploration activities in crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values (Figure 1) would avoid these areas unless a plan could be developed to mitigate adverse impacts to these resource values. Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails within these areas in conformance with transportation planning.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Mineral location withdrawals would be pursued for Crookston Ranch and the western portion of the ACEC for the protection of cultural and historic values, visual resource values, geologic features, pond (flockets) areas, important wildlife habitat, and Native American respected places (about 23,890 acres).

The proposed withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC (Table 2-3) would be pursued.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the eastern portion of the ACEC, exploration activities, without use of explosive charges, could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning (Table 2-7). The ORV parking area would also be closed.

A few specific trails may be closed to vehicle use.

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities (e.g., oil and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc.) that are no longer needed in the ACEC, may be required before additional facilities or distur-

bance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas, and on stabilized dunes in the ACEC.

Special Status Species Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Special Status Species management actions for the overall planning area.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-4 and Map 10). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, Crookston Ranch site, developed recreation sites, the ORV parking lot, raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation communities, sites for interpretive signs, and important cultural sites.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes, and big sagebrush habitat. On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement could be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-4 and Map 12.

In the eastern portion, areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 9) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet core area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

In the eastern portion, general winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. However, access on other

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roads could be authorized for over-the-snow vehicles only. The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the ACEC would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed. Specific roads and trails designated as “limited to designated roads and trails” in the ACEC would be identified on a case-by-case basis as time allows. A few specific trails may be closed to vehicle use

In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile): the ACEC and connectivity area = 2.0 miles or less.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Native vegetation would be maintained and protected on the BLM-administered public lands to allow natural plant succession to continue. Revegetation of disturbed areas with big sagebrush, other adaptable shrubs, and native vegetation would be required to maintain or improve big game habitat.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area.

The ACEC would continue to be managed as a Class II VRM area (Map 16).

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. The integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas and winter ranges would be maintained. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for enhancement of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Special consideration would be given to management needs of amphibians. Fences may be constructed to control livestock grazing and movement in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage in the eastern portion of the ACEC.

The relatively pristine portion of the eastern area that has no developments (approximately 8,800 acres), including the base of Steamboat Rim, would be managed to protect big

game habitat, vegetation communities, and visual and recreation resources.

To support and improve the diversity of wildlife species within the area, wildlife habitat on the BLM-administered public lands would be protected, maintained, or enhanced. Crucial elk winter range in the area would be maintained as an essential component of the elk habitat.

Projects to improve the interdunal ponds for bird, amphibian, and mammal habitat would be considered and evaluated for development on the BLM-administered public lands. The ponds would not be used as water sources for development activities.

Steamboat Mountain ACEC (43,310 acres in the planning area)

Management objectives and management actions for these resource and land use programs are the same as those for the general JMHCAP and for the core area. The following management objectives and management actions are either specifically important to the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC and are repeated, or are different from those for the core area.

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource management actions for the overall planning area.

Fire Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fire management actions for the overall planning area.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be an avoidance area for rights-of-way. In particular, rights-of-way would avoid the big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation associations to minimize effects to big game habitat. Steamboat Rim, portions of Indian Gap and the face of Steamboat Mountain (the steep slopes around the perimeter of Steamboat Mountain), Johnson Gap, and the big sagebrush-scurfpea vegetation type at the base of Steamboat Mountain would be exclusion areas for all rights-of-way, no exceptions (Map 6, Map 7, and Table 2-2).

Where right-of-way activity cannot avoid the ACEC, transportation planning would be used to determine right-of-way locations. Linear rights-of-way would follow existing roads and trails in accordance with transportation planning. Existing right-of-way routes would be used whenever possible. Areas closed to mineral leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to the location of additional rights-of-way. Within these areas and in conformance with transportation planning, pre-existing rights-of-way as of the date of approval of the JMHCAP could remain in place and

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continue to be used. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas could be authorized only if they: 1) follow pre-existing improved roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards.

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat and visual values.

Withdrawals would be pursued for the top of Steamboat Mountain and two Native American respected places (about 1,040 acres). Future withdrawals from mineral location in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Livestock Grazing management objective for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would be prohibited in the ACEC unless the proposed resource evaluation (see oil and gas section) determines that an exception could be granted. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves in the ACEC; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms with the management objectives for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Portions of the ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (approximately 8,000 acres of federal mineral estate) (Map 9).

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-4 and Map 10). About 7,845 acres would be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy requirement.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat within the ACEC (about 43,950 acres) (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important

resource values in the ACEC (about 43,950 acres) (see Table 2-4, Figure 1, and Map 12).

We're in Steamboat: Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of federal fluid mineral leasing, exploration, development, and reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory abandonment of oil and gas wells and surface disturbance reclamation may be required before additional fluid mineral leasing and development would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas. See the Fluid Minerals section of the core Area for a description of management actions involving timing and sequencing of leasing exploration and development.

Exploration and development proposals related to leases in the ACEC in effect before approval of the JMHCAP would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

- surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-4;

- transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 2 miles of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

- remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

- multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

- limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

- directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-4 and Figure 1), where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

- clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

- shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore habitat and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

- application of geotechnical materials for construction; and

- unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

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Areas closed to coal exploration would remain the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. Exploration activities in crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values (Figure 1) would avoid these areas unless a plan could be developed to mitigate adverse impacts to these resource values. Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails within these areas in conformance with transportation planning.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. The areas identified in Table 2-6 would be closed to mineral material sales.

The top of Steamboat Mountain proper (lava material) would be closed to mineral material sale (Map 14). In the remaining portion of the ACEC, mineral material sales would only occur when in support of project development within the ACEC. Appropriate mitigation would be applied to insure this activity would not detract from the relevant and important values of the area. New road construction and upgrading of existing roads for mineral extraction would only be allowed if in accordance with transportation planning.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Withdrawals would be pursued for the top of Steamboat Mountain and two Native American respected places (about 1,040 acres). Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the ACEC, exploration activities, without use of explosive charges, could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning (Table 2-7).

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities, such as oil and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc., that are no longer needed in the ACEC, may be required before additional facilities or disturbance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas in the ACEC.

Special Status Species Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Special Status Species management actions for the overall planning area.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-4 and Map 10). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, Special Status Plant Species Habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and locations for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), and big sagebrush habitat. On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement could be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-4 and Map 12.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 9) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet ACEC objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. However, access on other roads could be authorized for over-the-snow vehicles only. The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the ACEC would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

Specific roads and trails designated as "limited to designated roads and trails" in the ACEC would be identified on a

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case-by-case basis as time allows. A few specific trails may be closed to vehicle use. Time of year and site conditions would be taken into consideration. Future site specific activity or implementation planning in the ACEC would address any needed requirements for motorized vehicular use, non-motorized vehicular use, and non-motorized mechanical transport.

Transportation planning would identify appropriate access routes and provide maximum protection to crucial habitats and sensitive resources (see Appendix 5) for specific access routes that apply to the ACEC.

In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile): The ACEC and connectivity areas = 2.0 miles or less.

Road construction and new access may not be feasible for much of the ACEC. To prevent conflicts with big game and big game habitat, recreation users, and other resource and land use activities, alternative access methods may be needed (use of existing or designated roads or pads, seasonal travel requirements or restrictions, use of helicopters, etc.) (see Appendix 3).

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be managed as a Class II VRM area (Map 16 and Table 2-8).

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

All activities would be designed to place priority consideration on elk habitat over conflicting land uses to ensure continued elk use in the ACEC. Steamboat Rim and the base of the rim would be managed to protect big game habitat, vegetation communities, and visual and recreation resources.

Other Special Management Areas

Oregon Buttes ACEC (3,450 acres in the planning area)

The Oregon Buttes ACEC lies within portions of the Oregon Buttes, White Horse Creek, and Honeycomb Buttes WSAs and lies outside the core area. The ACEC would be managed under the “Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review” (USDI 1995). The management decisions are the same as described in the Green River RMP and for the general JMHCAP planning area. The following management objectives and management actions are either specifically important to the ACEC and are repeated or are different from the general JMHCAP planning area.

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource management actions for the overall planning area.

Fire Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fire management actions for the overall planning area.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat, historic, geological, and visual values.

Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The ACEC would remain closed to fluid mineral leasing (nondiscretionary closure is approximately 3,450 acres of federal mineral estate).

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Mineral Materials management objective for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would remain closed to mineral material sales.

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Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Future withdrawals from mineral location in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

The ACEC is closed to sodium exploration and development.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the ACEC, exploration activities, without use of explosive charges or motorized vehicles, could occur in conformance with ACEC objectives (Table 2-7).

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area.

Special Status Species Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Special Status Species management actions for the overall planning area.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The ACEC is closed to surface disturbing activities that could adversely affect resource values in the area.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The ACEC would remain closed to motorized vehicle use (Appendix 3).

Future site specific activity or implementation planning in the ACEC would address any needed requirements for non-motorized vehicular use and non-motorized mechanical transport.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area.

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC.

South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC (45,830 acres in the planning area)

Management objectives and management actions for these resource and land use programs are the same as described in the Green River RMP and for the general JMHCAP area. The following management objectives and management actions are either specifically important to the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC and are repeated, or are different from those for the general JMHCAP area.

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource management actions for the overall planning area.

Fire Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fire management actions for the overall planning area.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Communication sites could be considered on Pacific Butte with restrictions on the height (no strobe light necessary), visual intrusion, road access, etc. Actions on Pacific Butte would conform to the existing management prescriptions for the South Pass Historic Landscape (Table 2-2 and Appendix 3).

Withdrawals would be pursued for two elk calving areas (about 5,020 acres) in addition to those withdrawals listed in the Green River RMP. Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Livestock Grazing management objective for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would be prohibited in the ACEC unless the proposed resource evaluation (see oil and gas section) determines that an exception could be granted and the ACEC management objectives and action would be met. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be main-

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tained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves in the ACEC; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms with the management objectives for the South Pass Historic Landscape, and for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat within the ACEC (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values in the ACEC (about 23,140 acres) (see Table 2-4, Figure 1, and Map 12).

A no surface occupancy requirement would continue to be used to protect historic resources and certain important resource values (area visible within 3 miles of the Oregon Trail) (about 24,600 acres) (see Table 2-4 and Map 10). Other resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, and locations for interpretive signs.

The historic values in the landscape, crucial habitats, and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as they would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of federal fluid mineral leasing, exploration, development and reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory abandonment of oil and gas wells or surface disturbance reclamation may be required before additional fluid mineral leasing and development could occur in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas. See the Fluid Minerals section of the overall planning area for a description of management actions involving timing and sequencing of leasing exploration and development.

Exploration and development proposals related to leases in the ACEC in effect before approval of the JMHCAP would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-4;

transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 2 miles of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-4 and Figure 1), where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore habitat and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

application of geotechnical materials for construction; and

unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general coal management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Areas closed to coal exploration would remain the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. Exploration activities in crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values (Figure 1) would avoid these areas unless a plan could be developed to mitigate adverse impacts to these resource values. Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails in these areas in conformance with transportation planning.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The no surface occupancy portions of the ACEC would be closed to sodium exploration and development activities.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. The areas identified as closed to mineral material sales in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) would remain closed to mineral material sales. In addition:

Mineral material extraction would only be considered in those portions of the ACEC not visible from the historic trail (vista). This activity would not detract from the relevance and

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importance values of the ACEC. Sale proposals would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and appropriate mitigation would be required. Road construction and upgrading of roads for mineral material extraction would only be allowed in accordance with transportation planning.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Withdrawals would be pursued for two elk calving areas (about 5,020 acres) in addition to those withdrawals listed in the Green River RMP. Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area.

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities, such as oil and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc., that are no longer needed in the ACEC, may be required before additional facilities or disturbance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas in the ACEC.

Special Status Species Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Special Status Species management actions for the overall planning area.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect historic resources and certain important resource values (area visible within 3 miles of the Oregon Trail) (about 23,640 acres) (see Table 2-4 and Map 10). Other resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, Special Status Plant Species Habitat, and locations for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and

nesting and breeding areas), and big sagebrush habitat (about 22,190 acres). On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement would be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-4 and Map 12.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 9) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural and historic resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet ACEC objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. However, access on other roads could be authorized for over-the-snow vehicles only.

Specific roads and trails designated as “limited to designated roads and trails” in the ACEC would be identified on a case-by-case basis as time allows. A few specific trails may be closed to vehicle use. Where necessary, seasonal closures would be considered for protection of other resource values as needed. Time of year and site conditions would be taken into consideration. Future site specific activity or implementation planning in the ACEC would address any needed requirements for motorized vehicular use, non-motorized vehicular use, and non-motorized mechanical transport.

In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile): connectivity area = 2.0 miles or less.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area.

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area.

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area.

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The wild horse herd management area would not be expanded.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC (20 acres in the planning area)

Management objectives and management actions for these resource and land use programs are the same as described in the Green River RMP and for the general JMHCAP area. The following management objectives and management actions are either specifically important to the White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC and are repeated, or are different from those for the general JMHCAP area.

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource management actions for the overall planning area.

Fire Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fire management actions for the overall planning area.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The pre-existing withdrawal would be retained.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Livestock Grazing management objective for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would be prohibited in the ACEC unless the proposed resource evaluation (see oil and gas section) determines that an exception could be granted and the ACEC management objectives and action would be met. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves in the ACEC; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms with the management objectives for protection of cultural, and visual resources, Native American concerns, and for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat within the ACEC (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

The ACEC would remain closed to surface disturbance activities associated with fluid mineral development. Map 10 shows those portions of the ACEC that would be closed to surface occupancy and that would be subject to conditional requirements. See the Fluid Minerals section of the core Area for a description of management actions involving timing and sequencing of leasing exploration and development.

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the ACEC management objectives could be met, if they were to be leased and developed. To facilitate this and promote consistency in implementing the JMHCAP management decisions, areas determined suitable for leasing consideration within the ACEC and connectivity areas, overlapping parturition and crucial winter ranges, would only be considered once a year.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be closed to sodium exploration and development activities.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The pre-existing withdrawal would be retained.

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Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the ACEC, exploration activities, without use of explosive charges or vehicles, could occur (Table 2-7).

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area.

Special Status Species Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Special Status Species management actions for the overall planning area.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would remain closed to surface disturbing activities that could adversely affect the ACEC. A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (Map 10).

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

No surface occupancy areas would be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed. The ACEC would remain closed to off-road vehicle travel.

Future site specific activity or implementation planning in the ACEC would address any needed requirements for nonmotorized vehicular use and non-motorized mechanical transport.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area.

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

Red Desert Watershed Area (169,010 acres in the planning area)

Management objectives and management actions for these resource and land use programs are the same as described in the Green River RMP and for the general JMHCAP area. The following management objectives and management actions are either specifically important to the Red Desert Watershed Area and are repeated, or are different from those for the general JMHCAP area.

About two thirds of the Oregon Buttes ACEC occurs in the Red Desert Watershed Area. A portion of the Steamboat Mountain ACEC, and therefore, the core area, Split Rock, and the connectivity areas also occur in the watershed area. Where the Red Desert Watershed Area overlaps these areas, the management objectives and actions are discussed in those specific areas and not repeated here. In addition:

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource management actions for the overall planning area.

Fire Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fire management actions for the overall planning area.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Rights-of-way would avoid the big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation associations to minimize effects to big game habitat (Map 6, Map 7, and Table 2-2).

The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-3 would be pursued. Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

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Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Livestock Grazing management objective for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water development would be prohibited or restricted in crucial wildlife ranges and the connectivity area. Developments must conform with plan objectives and actions, benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat, conform with surface use requirements and transportation planning, and ensure continued use of big game crucial ranges (migration routes, crucial winter ranges, parturition areas, etc.). A grazing plan and ID team review would be required. Water developments would be fenced and offsite water facilities could be developed (pipelines and troughs). Existing water sources (springs and seeps) in the core area would be protected.

Livestock water developments would be prohibited in the core area unless the proposed resource evaluation (see oil and gas section) determines that an exception could be granted.

Water developments would not be placed within 1.5 miles (plus 1/4 mile) of active sage grouse leks. Activities, such as occur with pipeline construction, could be granted exceptions in certain circumstances.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves, inside and outside the core area; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms with the management objectives for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Approximately 3,460 acres of federal mineral estate would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (Map 9).

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-4 and Map 10). About 9,040 acres would be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy requirement.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 56,500 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important

resource values (see Table 2-4, and Figure 1, and Map 12). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on about 169,010 acres.

Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of federal fluid mineral leasing, exploration, development, and reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory abandonment of oil and gas wells and surface disturbance reclamation may be required before additional fluid mineral leasing and development would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas. See the Fluid Minerals section of the overall planning area for a description of management actions involving timing and sequencing of leasing exploration and development.

Exploration and development proposals related to leases in effect before approval of the JMHCAP would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

- surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-4;

- transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 2 miles of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

- remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

- multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

- limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

- directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-4 and Figure 1), where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

- clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

- shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

- application of geotechnical materials for construction; and

- unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

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The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the core area would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

Specific roads and trails designated as “limited to designated roads and trails” in the ACEC would be identified on a case-by-case basis as time allows. A few specific trails may be closed to vehicle use. Time of year and site conditions would be taken into consideration. Site specific activity or implementation planning in the Red Desert would address any needed requirements for motorized vehicular, non-motorized vehicular use, and non-motorized mechanical transport.

In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile): core and connectivity areas = 2.0 miles or less.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area.

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area.

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the planning area. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Where the management objectives and actions are the same as described for the Preferred Alternative, they generally are not repeated. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

An evaluation to acquire additional resource information for evaluating land and resource use proposals would not be conducted prior to leasing portions of the planning area. Monitoring would occur as described in the Monitoring section (Table 2-1) and Appendix 6.

Overall Planning Area Management

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: NRHP-eligible sites would be avoided by 100 feet.

Expansion Era Roads - Expansion Era Roads would be managed in their historical context. Distance restrictions for surface disturbing activities would be determined on a case-by-case basis (Appendix 3).

Activities would avoid Native American respected places by 100 feet. Viewshed (vista) and noise analyses may be conducted to help determine appropriate avoidance distances.

Activities would be excluded within a 1/2-mile viewshed (vista-same as GRRMP) of the White Mountain Petroglyphs (Appendix 3). All other rock art sites would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and an appropriate avoidance distance for surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be determined. A vista and noise analysis may be conducted for each site.

Surface disturbing activities would avoid individual sites located within the paleosol deposition area by 100 feet. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if adverse effects could be mitigated. Mitigation could include recovery of scientific data, as well as stabilization of remaining, undisturbed resources. Recovery of scientific data within the paleosol deposition area would be guided by research designs developed by BLM in consultation with the SHPO.

See recreation section for guidance on back country byway interpretive sites, and project planning for Crookston Ranch and the White Mountain Petroglyphs.

Fire Management

Full suppression of the big sagebrush-scurfpea vegetation associations would not occur.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3), except as noted.

The public lands within the planning area, with the exception of defined exclusion and avoidance areas, would be open to consideration of granting of rights-of-way, permits, and leases (Map 18, Map 19, and Table 2-9).

Areas designated as utility windows, ROW concentration areas, and existing communication sites would be preferred locations for future grants. Additional right-of-way windows would not be established.

Steamboat Mountain ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, and Continental Peak would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat and visual values. Communication sites could be considered on Essex Mountain or Pacific Butte. Actions on Pacific Butte would conform to the existing

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management prescriptions for the South Pass Historic Landscape.

Pursue the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3 and Map 25-A). Additional withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as stated for the Green River RMP.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Authorized grazing use would not exceed the recognized permitted use. For analysis purposes, anticipated actual use would range from approximately 13,038 AUMs (1998 base year usage) to the total permitted use of 26,032 AUMs. The average between the two amounts is 19,535 AUMs (17,379 cattle and 2,156 sheep). Again, for analysis purposes, this grazing level was held constant throughout the planning period.

Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (S&Gs) would be implemented, and specific grazing allotment management prescriptions would be developed on a case-by-case basis. Appropriate measures would be taken to meet the standards for healthy rangelands. If standards are not being met, then guidelines would be used and appropriate action would be taken. Actions that would meet the objectives and benefit resources could be considered on a case-by-case basis. For this analysis, the levels of livestock use may be reduced (where appropriate) if this is the only appropriate action that can be taken to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

Livestock turnout dates and established seasons of use would continue; however, modifications could be considered. Earlier seasons of use would not be considered.

Applications for changes in class of livestock would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Livestock grazing suitability reviews would be conducted on a case-by-case basis. Livestock forage use would not be allocated for unsuitable areas and would be removed from the forage base.

Plowing of roads in winter for livestock accessibility and feeding would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any such activity would conform with transportation planning (see the Travel Management section).

Livestock grazing use on upland key grass species would be limited to 1) no more than 50 percent of the current annual growth and 2) minimum heights at the end of the growing season (to be determined for individual key species), whichever is reached first.

Livestock grazing management plans that address riparian and upland areas would be required. New riparian pastures would not be established.

Livestock grazing use in riparian areas would be limited to 1) no more than 50 percent of the stems browsed on key riparian shrub species or 2) for herbaceous plants, minimum heights of

6 inches at the end of the growing season or 50 percent utilization. Key species and plant height monitoring would be conducted at the end of the grazing season.

Livestock salt licks would be located no closer than 500 feet to water and no closer than 500 feet to sensitive plant species locations.

No new range improvements would be authorized. Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the planning area. Springs and seeps would be protected from excessive use. Vegetation treatments would not be authorized.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals

Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves, outside the core area; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms with the management objectives for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Table 2-10 lists public lands and federal minerals in the planning area with fluid mineral lease requirements that are necessary to protect other resource values.

Areas closed to leasing (discretionary closures) would include the core area. Approximately 82,220 acres of federal mineral estate would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (Map 20).

The remainder of the federal fluid mineral estate in the planning area would be open to consideration for leasing with conditional requirements that would apply to certain areas. A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-10 and Map 21). About 30,580 acres would be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy requirement.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 347,250 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, raptor habitat, and game fish spawning areas (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-10 and Map 22). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on 320,580 acres.

Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through applying appropriate requirements to mitigate

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surface disturbing and disruptive activities. Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Fluid mineral leasing could occur in portions of the planning area including portions of the connectivity area. Upon completion of the CAP, these areas would be open to leasing consideration, with necessary mitigation, which could include CSU, NSO, and other stipulations or conditional requirements. The core area would be closed to leasing.

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, outside the core area, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in effect before approval of the CAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in the RMP (see Table 2-10);

transportation planning, prior to implementing any new activity;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries to limit traffic and disturbance;

standard reclamation practices to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat; or

application of geotechnical materials for construction.

Solid Leasables (Coal) Areas closed to coal exploration would be the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) (Map 23). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be applied. The Steamboat Mountain area (outside area with coal recommendations) would be closed to coal exploration activities (USDI 1997).

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Same as GRRMP (see Appendix 3).

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Areas closed to sodium exploration would be the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997). Exploration and development proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and appropriate mitigation would be applied.

Should trona water development occur, waste water ponds would not be allowed in the planning area. Well locations could be allowed in the planning area and would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Salables (Mineral Materials)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The areas identified as closed to mineral material sales in the Green River RMP (USDI

1997) would remain closed to mineral material sales. The Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be closed to mineral material sales (Map 24).

The remainder of the planning area would be open to consideration of mineral material sales on a case-by-case basis. Sale areas and community pits would be established in conformance with other resource objectives. Adequate mine and reclamation plans for use areas would be required.

Locatable Minerals

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Pursue the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3 and Map 25). Additional withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would not be pursued.

Geophysical

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Most of the planning area would be open to consideration of geophysical exploration activities (USDI 1997). Based on site specific analysis, geophysical exploration activities would be authorized with appropriate conditional requirements such as limiting the use of vehicles and explosive charges.

An interdisciplinary team review would be initiated for all geophysical proposals within the planning area. Exploration activities in sensitive areas would be limited and mitigation measures would be applied to protect sensitive resources (timing limitations, avoidance, restrictions on vehicle use and explosive charges, etc.).

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

Same as described in the Preferred Alternative.

Special Status Species Management

Same as described in the Preferred Alternative.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-10 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, cultural site, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, South Pass Historic Landscape (area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail), Special Status Plant Species Habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and sites for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 347,250 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, raptor habitat, and game fish spawning areas (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural

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values, geologic features; crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes. For more information, see Table 2-10 and Map 22.

Based on site-specific analyses, surface-disturbing activities would be limited during wet weather, on frozen soils, and on slopes greater than 25 percent.

NRHP-eligible sites would be avoided by 100 feet.

Activities would avoid Native American respected places by 100 feet. A vista and noise analysis may be conducted for each site.

Activities would be excluded within a 1/2-mile viewshed (vista-same as GRRMP) of the White Mountain Petroglyphs (Appendix 3). All other rock art sites would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and an appropriate avoidance distance for surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be determined. A vista and noise analysis may be conducted for each site.

Surface disturbing activities would avoid sites located in the paleosol deposition area by 100 feet. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if adverse effects could be mitigated. Mitigation could include recovery of scientific data, as well as stabilization of remaining, undisturbed resources. Recovery of scientific data within the paleosol deposition area would be guided by research designs developed by BLM in consultation with the SHPO. The area would be reviewed for consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 20) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Activity in the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, and White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC would follow the prescriptions in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as Preferred, except:

General winter vehicular access in the planning area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles including, over-the-snow vehicles.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat would apply. Additional seasonal closures would not apply.

Transportation planning would identify appropriate access routes. Future site specific activity or implementation planning would also address any needed requirements for motorized vehicular use, non-motorized vehicular use, or non-

motorized mechanical transport and also address any need requirements for transportation planning.

Factors to be considered in development of transportation plans include:

Concentrating stream and riparian area crossings to key locations to restrict numbers of crossings and to benefit resource management objectives. Exceptions may be granted if proposed crossings would reduce adverse effects, benefit area objectives, and reduce miles of road (and/or frequency of use). Some crossings (2-tracks) would be closed. Commercial and service vehicles may not be restricted to identified upgraded crossings. Bridges may not be required on Pacific, Jack Morrow, Parnell, and Rock Cabin creeks.

No road density guidelines would be applied. Numbers and miles of roads in crucial habitats, or that bisect wildlife habitats, would not be limited.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Desired Plant Community objectives would be established to enhance wildlife habitat, watershed, and biodiversity values.

Vegetation treatments would not be conducted.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: VRM classes would be managed according to the classifications shown in Table 2-8.

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Limiting the number of well pads, roads, and other rights-of-way (and overall surface disturbance) would not be required in sensitive areas (see the surface disturbance management section).

Wild Horse Management

Same as described in the Preferred Alternative.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in the core area. See Travel Management and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for maintenance of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage.

Priority would be given to maintaining mountain plover and sage grouse habitat. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect these habitats (see Vegetation Management and Surface Disturbing

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and Disruptive Management Sections).

In and around the “hay meadow exclosures” (currently 4) on Pacific Creek, riparian and fish habitat would be managed for all wildlife species

Riparian and upland vegetation types would be managed to maintain wildlife habitat, watershed values, and biodiversity values.

See the Travel Management and Reclamation sections for other requirements concerning wildlife habitats.

Core Area (Steamboat Mountain ACEC, eastern portion of the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, and adjacent overlapping crucial big game habitat)

Management objectives and management actions for these resource and land use programs are the same as described in the Green River RMP and for the general JMHCAP area. The following management objectives and management actions are either specifically important to the core area and are repeated, or are different from those for the general JMHCAP area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: to 1) maintain water quality, vegetative composition, soil condition, and wildlife and wildlife habitat; 2) ensure biological diversity and a healthy ecosystem in the area; 3) maintain unique and diverse habitat components; 4) provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd, other big game populations, and other important and sensitive wildlife species; and 5) provide for mineral exploration and development activity, livestock grazing, recreation, and other uses, while meeting the above and other resource management objectives for the core area.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Rights-of-way would avoid the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, Steamboat Mountain ACEC, and the locations described in Table 2-9 and Map 18.

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat and visual values. Communication sites could be considered on Essex Mountain.

Pursue the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3). Additional withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments and range improvements would not be allowed in the core area. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the core area would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals

Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE : to provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protect other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The core area would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (Map 20). Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would not occur in the core area.

For purposes of analysis, it is assumed that exploration and development activities related to leases in the core area that existed before approval of the CAP would not occur.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

About 35,580 acres would be closed to coal exploration. Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The Boars Tusk, Crookston Ranch, Steamboat Mountain Area, and the Tri-Territory Marker would be closed to sodium exploration and development activities.

Salables (Mineral Materials)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The areas identified as closed to mineral material sales in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) would remain closed to mineral material sales. The Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be closed to mineral material sales (Map 24).

Locatable Minerals

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) would not be pursued.

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Geophysical

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the core area, exploration for minerals other than oil and gas, with the use of explosive charges, could occur throughout the area with the exception of the areas identified in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997).

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-10 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, Special Status Plant Species Habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and sites for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 80,410 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features; crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes. For more information, see Table 2-10 and Map 22.

Controlled surface use (CSU) requirements on oil and gas leasing in the core area would apply to about 37,840 acres.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 20) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the core area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles. The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer partu-

rition habitat in the core area would apply. Additional seasonal closures would not be considered.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use throughout the core area. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for maintenance of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage.

Greater Sand Dunes ACEC (38,650 acres in the planning area)

The western portion of the ACEC is within the Buffalo Hump and Sand Dunes WSAs and lies outside the core area. The western portion would be managed under the "Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review" (USDI 1995). The eastern portion of the ACEC is inside the core area; for consistency in management of the ACEC, the following discussion presents the actions for both the eastern and western portions of the ACEC. Some of the general JMHCAP proposed decisions are repeated, where they apply to the entire ACEC or where they are needed to complement understanding of the discussion. Actions that apply solely to either the eastern or western portion are so noted.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Within the eastern portion of the ACEC (inside the core area), both stabilized and active sand dunes would be closed to construction and development types of activities and related surface disturbance, unless analysis indicates that the management objectives for the area could be met. Surface pipelines would be monitored by the operators to identify potential hazards to public health and safety, particularly in the open ORV area. Identified hazards would be marked to improve visibility. A recreation user map would be developed in cooperation with oil and gas operators to show the location of above ground facilities (e.g., pipelines, well production facilities, snow fences, etc.).

The western portion of the ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat, visual values and geologic features.

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Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Livestock Grazing management objective for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the ACEC. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the core area would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE (within the eastern portion of the ACEC): 1) to provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting other sensitive resources and 2) to provide for public health and safety.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The eastern portion of the ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.

For analysis purposes exploration and development activities related to leases in the ACEC that existed before approval of the JMHCAP, would not occur.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

About 23,980 acres are closed to coal exploration. Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Should trona water development occur, well locations and waste water ponds would not be allowed in the ACEC. Boars Tusk and Crookston Ranch would be closed to sodium exploration and development activities.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition: Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the eastern portion of the ACEC, exploration activities could occur providing resource damage would not occur and the activity is in conformance with transportation planning.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-10 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, Crookston Ranch site, developed recreation sites, the ORV parking lot, raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, sites for interpretive signs, and important cultural sites.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes. For more information, see Table 2-10 and Map 22.

In the eastern portion, areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 20) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

In the eastern portion, general winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the ACEC would apply. Additional seasonal closures would not be considered.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Native vegetation would be maintained and protected on the BLM-administered public lands to allow natural plant succession to continue. Revegetation of disturbed areas with big sagebrush and other adaptable shrubs would be required to maintain or improve big game habitat.

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Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area.

The ACEC would be managed as a Class II VRM area (Map 26).

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. The integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas and winter ranges would be maintained. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for maintenance of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage in the eastern portion.

The relatively pristine portion of the eastern area that has no developments (approximately 8,800 acres), including the base of Steamboat Rim, would be managed to protect big game habitat, vegetation communities, and visual and recreation resources.

To support and improve the diversity of wildlife species within the area, wildlife habitat on the BLM-administered public lands would be protected, maintained, or enhanced. Crucial elk winter range in the area would be maintained as an essential component of the elk habitat.

Projects to improve the interdunal ponds for bird, amphibian, and mammal habitat would be considered and evaluated for development on the BLM-administered public lands. The ponds would not be used as water sources for development activities.

Steamboat Mountain ACEC (43,310 acres in the planning area)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be an avoidance area for rights-of-way. Maintenance of existing facilities would be allowed. The ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat and visual values.

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Livestock Grazing management objective for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the ACEC. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: to provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protect other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (approximately 43,310 acres of federal mineral estate (Map 20).

For analysis purposes, exploration and development activities related to leases in the ACEC that existed before approval of the CAP would not occur.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

About 33,530 acres would be closed to coal exploration. Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The Steamboat Mountain area (outside area with coal recommendation) would be closed to sodium exploration and development activities.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be closed to mineral material sales (Map 24).

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the ACEC, exploration activities, could occur in most of the ACEC, with appropriate mitigation.

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Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-10 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and locations for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, and crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas). On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement would be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-10 and Map 22.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the ACEC would apply. Additional seasonal closures would not apply.

Road construction and new access may not be feasible for much of the ACEC. To prevent conflicts with big game and big game habitat, recreation users, and other resource and land use activities, alternative access methods may be needed (use of existing or designated roads or pads, seasonal travel requirements or restrictions, use of helicopters, etc.).

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Part of the Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be managed as a Class II VRM area and part would be managed as a Class III VRM area (Map 26 and Table 2-8).

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

All activities would be designed to place priority consideration on elk habitat over conflicting land uses to ensure continued elk use in the ACEC. Steamboat Rim and the base of the rim would be managed to protect big game habitat, vegetation communities, and visual and recreation resources.

Other Special Management Areas

Oregon Buttes ACEC (3,450 acres in the planning area)

The ACEC is within the Oregon Buttes, White Horse Creek, and Honeycomb Buttes WSAs and lies outside the core area. The ACEC would be managed under the "Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review" (USDI 1995). The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except as discussed for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP. In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

No specific closure for communication sites would be established. However, since the entire ACEC is closed to surface disturbing and disrupting activities, communication sites could not be constructed.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general livestock grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

No livestock management facilities would be constructed.

Locatable Minerals

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general locatable minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

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South Pass Historic Landscape (45,830 acres in the planning area)

The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Communication sites could be considered on Pacific Butte with restrictions on the height (no strobe light necessary), visual intrusion, road access, etc. Actions on Pacific Butte would conform to the existing management prescriptions for the South Pass Historic Landscape (Appendix 3).

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat within the ACEC (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

The historic values in the landscape, crucial habitats, and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as they would be protected from irreversible adverse effects. Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values in the ACEC (see Table 2-10, Map 22, Map 21, and Figure 1). See the Fluid Minerals section of the overall planning area for a description of management actions involving fluid mineral leasing exploration and development.

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the ACEC management objectives could be met, if lands were to be leased and developed.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in the ACEC that existed before approval of the CAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-10;

transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

standard reclamation practices to restore habitat and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat; or

application of geotechnical materials for construction.

Solid Leasables (Coal) About 23,640 acres would remain closed to coal exploration. Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. The areas identified as closed to mineral material sales in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) would remain closed to mineral material sales. In addition:

Portions of the ACEC (area within the vista and elk calving areas) would remain closed to mineral material sales.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect Historic resources and certain important resource values (see Table 2-10 and Map 21). Other resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, and locations for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural and historic values, geologic features, and crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas). For more information, see Table 2-10 and Map 22.

Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural and historic resources,

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special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles.

Additional seasonal closures would not be applied.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC (20 acres in the planning area)

The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

Lands and Realty Management

Same as stated in the Preferred Alternative.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the ACEC. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Fluid mineral leasing could occur in the ACEC. Upon completion of the JMHCAP, the ACEC would be open to

leasing consideration, with an NSO stipulation. Map 21 shows those portions of the ACEC that would be closed to surface occupancy. See the Fluid Minerals section of the Overall Planning Area for a description of management actions involving fluid mineral leasing exploration and development.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would remain closed to surface disturbing activities that could adversely affect the ACEC (Map 21).

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Red Desert Watershed Area (169,010 acres in the planning area)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general management actions for the overall planning area and described in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). About two thirds of the Oregon Buttes ACEC occurs in the Red Desert Watershed Area. A portion of the Steamboat Mountain ACEC, and therefore, the core area, Split Rock, and the connectivity areas also occur in the watershed area. Where the Red Desert Watershed Area overlaps these areas, the management objectives and actions are discussed in those specific areas and not repeated here. In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Livestock Grazing management objective for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the core area, crucial big game ranges or the connectivity area.

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Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves, outside the core area; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms with the management objectives for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Approximately 2,060 acres of federal mineral estate would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (Map 20).

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 56,500 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-10 and Map 22). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on 114,130 acres.

Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as they would be protected from irreversible adverse effects. See the Fluid Minerals section of the overall planning area for a description of management actions involving fluid mineral leasing exploration and development.

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the planning area management objectives could be met, if they were to be leased and developed.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in effect before approval of the CAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-10;

transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

shrub reclamation to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat; or

application of geotechnical materials for construction.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Areas closed to coal exploration would be the same as established in the Green River RMP. Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. The areas identified as closed to mineral material sales in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) would remain closed to mineral material sales.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Most of the Red Desert Watershed area would be open to consideration of geophysical exploration activities (USDI 1997). Based on site specific analysis, geophysical exploration activities would be authorized with appropriate conditional requirements such as limiting the use of vehicles and explosive charges.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area.

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-10 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Special Status Plant Species Habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and sites for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 56,500 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, and crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas). For more information, see Table 2-10 and Map 22.

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Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the Red Desert Watershed Area, for any purpose, would be limited to specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles. The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the core area would apply. Additional seasonal road closures would not be applied.

Specific roads and trails designated as “limited to designated roads and trails” would be identified on a case-by-case basis as time allows. Time of year and site conditions would be taken into consideration. Future site specific activity or implementation planning in the Red Desert would address any needed requirements for motorized vehicular use, nonmotorized vehicular use, and non-motorized mechanical transport.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The entire watershed area would be managed as a VRM Class III area.

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for the overall planning area.

Wild Horse Management

Same as described in the Preferred Alternative.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in the Red Desert Watershed Area. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

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Where the management objectives and actions are the same as described for the Preferred Alternative, they generally are not repeated. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

An evaluation to acquire additional resource information for evaluating land and resource use proposals would not be conducted prior to leasing portions of the planning area. Monitoring would occur as described in the Monitoring section (Table 2-1) and Appendix 6.

Overall Planning Area Management

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: NRHP-eligible sites would be avoided by 100 feet.

Expansion Era Roads - Expansion Era Roads would be managed in their historical context. Distance restrictions for surface disturbing activities would be determined on a case-by-case basis (Appendix 3).

Activities would avoid Native American respected places by 1/4 mile. Viewshed (vista) and noise analyses may be conducted to help determine appropriate avoidance distances.

Activities would be excluded within a 1/2-mile viewshed (vista-same as Green River RMP) of the White Mountain Petroglyphs (Appendix 3). Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would avoid all other rock art sites by 100 feet.

Surface disturbing activities would avoid individual sites located within the paleosol deposition area by 100 feet. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if adverse effects could be mitigated. Mitigation could include recovery of scientific data, as well as stabilization of remaining, undisturbed resources. Recovery of scientific data within the paleosol deposition area would be guided by research designs developed by BLM in consultation with the SHPO.

See Recreation Management section for guidance on back country byway interpretive sites, and project planning for Crookston Ranch and the White Mountain Petroglyphs.

Fire Management

Full suppression of the big sagebrush-scurfpea vegetation associations would not occur.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as Preferred, except:

The public lands within the planning area, with the exception of defined exclusion and avoidance areas, would be open to consideration of granting of rights-of-way, permits, and leases (Map 27, Map 28, and Table 2-11).

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Areas designated as utility windows, ROW concentration areas, and existing communication sites would be preferred locations for future grants. Additional right-of-way windows would not be established. The Steamboat Mountain ACEC would not be an avoidance area and would be open for consideration of rights-of-way.

Oregon Buttes ACEC and Continental Peak would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat and visual values. Communication sites could be considered on Essex Mountain or Pacific Butte. Actions on Pacific Butte would conform to the existing management prescriptions for the South Pass Historic Landscape.

Pursue the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3, and Map 25). Additional withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as stated for the Green River RMP.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Authorized grazing use would not exceed the recognized permitted use. For analysis purposes, anticipated actual use would be 26,032 AUMs (22,767 cattle and 3,265 sheep). This grazing level was held constant throughout the planning period.

Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (S&Gs) would be implemented, and specific grazing allotment management prescriptions would be developed on a case-by-case basis. Appropriate measures would be taken to meet the standards for healthy rangelands. If standards are not being met, then guidelines would be used and appropriate action would be taken. Actions that would meet the objectives and benefit resources could be considered on a case-by-case basis. For this analysis, the levels of livestock use may be reduced (where appropriate) if this is the only appropriate action that can be taken to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

Livestock turnout dates and established seasons of use would continue; however, modifications could be considered, including earlier seasons of use.

Applications for changes in class of livestock would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Livestock grazing suitability reviews would be conducted on a case-by-case basis. Livestock forage use would not be allocated for unsuitable areas and would be removed from the forage base.

Plowing of roads in winter for livestock accessibility and feeding would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any such activity would conform with transportation planning (see the Transportation Planning Section).

Livestock grazing use on upland key grass species would be limited to 1) no more than 50 percent of the current annual growth; and 2) minimum heights at the end of the growing season (to be determined for individual key species), whichever is reached first.

Livestock grazing management plans that address riparian and upland areas could be required. New riparian pastures could be established to enhance livestock grazing management.

Livestock grazing use in riparian areas would be limited to 1) no more than 50 percent of the stems browsed on key riparian shrub species or 2) for herbaceous plants, minimum heights of 6 inches at the end of the growing season or 50 percent utilization. Key species and plant height monitoring would be conducted at the end of the grazing season.

Livestock salt licks would be located no closer than 500 feet to water and no closer than 500 feet to sensitive plant species locations.

New range improvements could be authorized and existing improvements reconstructed as appropriate. Livestock water developments could be allowed in the planning area. Springs and seeps would be protected from excessive use. Vegetation treatments could be authorized. Livestock water developments would be prohibited within 1/4 mile of sage grouse leks.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals

Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves, inside and outside the core area; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms with the management objectives for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: All BLM-administered lands would be open to leasing consideration. Table 2-12 lists public lands and federal minerals in the planning area with fluid mineral lease requirements that are necessary to protect other resource values.

The remainder of the federal fluid mineral estate in the planning area would be open to consideration for leasing with conditional requirements that would apply to certain areas. A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21). About 30,580 acres would be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy requirement.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 347,250 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, raptor habitat, and game fish spawning areas (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 22). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on 320,580 acres.

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Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through applying appropriate requirements to mitigate surface disturbing and disruptive activities. Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Fluid mineral leasing could occur throughout the planning area including portions of the core and connectivity area. Upon completion of the JMHCAP, these areas would be open to leasing consideration, with necessary mitigation, which could include CSU, NSO, and other stipulations or conditional requirements.

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in effect before approval of the JMHCAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

- surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in the Green River RMP (see Table 2-12);

- transportation planning, prior to implementing any new activity;

- remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

- multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

- clustering or centrally locating tank batteries to limit traffic and disturbance;

- standard reclamation practices to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat; or

- application of geotechnical materials for construction.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Areas closed to coal exploration would be the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) (Map 29) with the exception of the Steamboat ACEC. Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. The core area (including Steamboat Mountain ACEC) would be open to coal exploration activities. Exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails in the core area.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as Green River RMP (see Appendix 3).

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Areas closed to sodium exploration would be the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) with the exception of the Steamboat Mountain ACEC which would be open to exploration activities. Exploration and development proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and appropriate mitigation

would be applied. The core area would be open to sodium exploration and development activities. Exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails in the core area.

Should trona water development occur, waste water ponds would not be allowed in the planning area. Well locations could be allowed in the planning area and would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Salables (Mineral Materials)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The areas identified as closed to mineral material sales in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) would remain closed to mineral material sales with the exception that a portion of the Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be open to mineral material sales (Map 30).

The remainder of the planning area would be open to consideration of mineral material sales on a case-by-case basis. Sale areas and community pits would be established in conformance with other resource objectives. Adequate mine and reclamation plans for use areas would be required.

Locatable Minerals

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Pursue the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3). Additional withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would not be pursued.

Geophysical

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Most of the planning area would be open to consideration of geophysical exploration activities (USDI 1997). Based on site specific analysis, geophysical exploration activities would be authorized with appropriate conditional requirements such as limiting the use of vehicles and explosive charges.

An interdisciplinary team review would be initiated for all geophysical proposals within the planning area. Exploration activities in sensitive areas would be limited and mitigation measures would be applied to protect sensitive resources (timing limitations, avoidance, restrictions on vehicle use and explosive charges, etc.) (Figure 1).

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

Satisfactory abandonment of oil and gas wells or surface disturbance reclamation would not be required before additional mineral leasing and development could occur in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, South Pass Historic Landscape

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(area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail), Native American respected places, special status plant species habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and sites for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 347,250 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, raptor habitat, and game fish spawning areas (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes, and big sagebrush habitat. For more information, see Table 2-12 and Map 22).

Based on site-specific analyses, surface-disturbing activities would be limited during wet weather, on frozen soils, and on slopes greater than 25 percent.

NRHP-eligible sites would be avoided by 100 feet.

Activities would avoid Native American respected places by 1/4 mile. A vista and noise analysis may be conducted for each site.

Activities would be excluded within a 1/2-mile viewshed (vista-same as GRRMP) of the White Mountain Petroglyphs (Appendix 3). All other rock art sites would be avoided by 100 feet. A vista and noise analysis may be conducted for each site.

Surface disturbing activities would avoid sites located in the paleosol deposition area by 100 feet. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if adverse effects could be mitigated. Mitigation could include recovery of scientific data, as well as stabilization of remaining, undisturbed resources. Recovery of scientific data within the paleosol deposition area would be guided by research designs developed by BLM in consultation with the SHPO.

Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Activity in the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, and White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC would follow the prescriptions in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: General winter vehicular access in the planning area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be considered on a case-by-case basis and authorized for all types of vehicles including over-the-snow vehicles.

Specific roads and trails designated as “limited to designated roads and trails” would be identified on a case-by-case basis as time allows. The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat would not apply. New seasonal closures would not be applied.

Road and trail construction or upgrading would be allowed through woodland habitat (i.e., juniper, limber pine, aspen) or springs and seeps (pre-existing improved roads may be used).

Transportation planning would identify appropriate access routes. Future site specific activity or implementation planning would also address any needed requirements for motorized vehicular use, non-motorized vehicular use, or non-motorized mechanical transport and also address requirements for transportation planning.

Factors to be considered in development of transportation plans include:

Historic use levels of roads and trails.

Use of required construction specifications.

Rehabilitating, obliterating, or barricading unused roads and trails, and closure or maintenance of those causing resource damage.

Grouping and offsite location of ancillary facilities away from crucial habitats and sensitive areas.

Posting speed limits, as necessary, to protect wildlife and public health and safety, and to meet planning area management objectives.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Desired Plant Community objectives would be established to enhance livestock grazing, watershed, and biodiversity values. Maintaining or enhancing important wildlife (elk, sage grouse, mountain plover, fisheries) habitat may not be addressed.

Vegetation treatments would be designed to protect water quality and to dissipate erosion.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: VRM classes would be managed according to the classifications shown in Table 2-8).

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Limiting the number of well pads, roads, and other rights-of-way (and overall surface disturbance) would not be required in sensitive areas (see the surface disturbance management section).

Wild Horse Management

Same as described in the Preferred Alternative.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors,

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birthing areas, and winter ranges would not be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in portions of the planning area. See Transportation Management and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for maintenance of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage.

Priority would be given to maintaining mountain plover and sage grouse habitat. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect these habitats (see Vegetation Management and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management Sections).

In and around the “hay meadow exclosures” (currently 4) on Pacific Creek, riparian and fish habitat would be managed for all wildlife species

Riparian and upland vegetation types would be managed with emphasis on resource values other than wildlife habitat.

See the Travel Management and Reclamation sections for other requirements concerning wildlife habitats.

Core Area (Steamboat Mountain ACEC, Eastern portion of the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, and adjacent overlapping crucial big game habitat)

Management objectives and management actions for these resource and land use programs are the same as described in the Green River RMP and for the general JMHCAP area. The following management objectives and management actions are either specifically important to the core area and are repeated, or are different from those for the general JMHCAP area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: to 1) maintain water quality, vegetative composition, soil condition, and wildlife and wildlife habitat; 2) ensure biological diversity and a healthy ecosystem in the area; 3) maintain unique and diverse habitat components; 4) provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd, other big game populations, and other important and sensitive wildlife species; and 5) provide for mineral exploration and development activity, livestock grazing, recreation, and other uses, while meeting the above and other resource management objectives for the core area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: An evaluation to acquire additional resource information for evaluating land and resource use proposals would not be conducted.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Rights-of-way would avoid the portions of the core area, including the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC (Table 2-11).

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be open to consideration for location of communication sites.

Communication sites could be considered on Essex Mountain.

Pursue the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3). Additional withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments and range improvements could be allowed in the core area. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the core area would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals

Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves, inside the core area; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms, where possible, with the management objectives for the planning area (to provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting other sensitive resources).

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals Management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The core area would be open to fluid mineral leasing consideration. Fluid mineral exploration and development activities could occur in the core area.

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21). About 30,580 acres would be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy requirement.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 80,410 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 22). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on 320,580 acres.

Existing leases would be developed under their existing lease stipulations. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any

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additional mitigation needs would be included as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements (see Table 2-12);

transportation planning, prior to implementing any new activity;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries to limit traffic and disturbance;

standard reclamation practices (to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat; or

application of geotechnical materials for construction.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

About 10,390 acres would remain closed to coal exploration. Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The Boars Tusk, Crookston Ranch, and the Tri-Territory Marker would remain closed to sodium exploration and development activities.

Salables (Mineral Materials)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

A portion of the Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be open to mineral material sales (Map 30).

Locatable Minerals

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals would not be pursued.

Geophysical

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the core area, exploration activities, with the use of explosive charges, could occur throughout the area with the exception of the areas identified in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997).

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, cultural site, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and sites for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 80,410 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned on about 37,840 acres to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features; crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes. For more information, see Table 2-12 and Map 22.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the core area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the core area would not apply. Additional seasonal closures would not be applied.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in portions of the core area. See Reclamation and

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Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for maintenance of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage.

Greater Sand Dunes ACEC (38,650 acres in the planning area)

The western portion of the ACEC is within the Buffalo Hump and Sand Dunes WSAs and lies outside the core area. The western portion would be managed under the "Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review" (USDI 1995). The eastern portion of the ACEC is inside the core area and for consistency in management of the ACEC, the following discussion presents the actions for both the eastern and western portions of the ACEC. Some of the general JMHCAP proposed decisions are repeated, where they apply to the entire ACEC or where they are needed to complement understanding of the discussion. Actions that apply solely to either the eastern or western portion are so noted.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3).

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Within the eastern portion of the ACEC (inside the core area), both stabilized and active sand dunes would be closed to construction and development types of activities and related surface disturbance, unless analysis indicates that the management objectives for the area could be met. Surface pipelines would be monitored by the operators to identify potential hazards to public health and safety, particularly in the open ORV area. Identified hazards would be marked to improve visibility. A recreation user map would be developed in cooperation with oil and gas operators to show the location of above ground facilities (e.g., pipelines, well production facilities, snow fences, etc.).

The western portion of the ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat, visual values and geologic features.

Pursue the withdrawals identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3). Additional withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments could be allowed in the ACEC. Functional, pre-existing water developments could

be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the core area would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE (within the eastern portion of the ACEC): 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves inside the core area; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms, where possible, with the management objectives for the planning area (to provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protect other sensitive resources, and to provide for public health and safety.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The eastern portion of the ACEC would be open to fluid mineral leasing consideration. Approximately 14,780 acres of federal mineral estate would be open to fluid mineral leasing.

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21).

Seasonal conditional requirements for surface disturbing activities would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Surface disturbing activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values in the ACEC (see Table 2-12, Figure 1, and Map 22).

Exploration and development activities related to leases in the ACEC that existed before approval of the JMHCAP could occur. Conditions of Approval could be applied as described in the fluids management section for the core area.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

About 23,980 acres remain closed to coal exploration (USDI 1997). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Should trona water development occur, well locations and waste water ponds would not be allowed in the ACEC. Boars Tusk and Crookston Ranch would remain closed to sodium exploration and development activities.

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Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the eastern portion of the ACEC, exploration activities could occur providing resource damage would not occur.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, Crookston Ranch site, developed recreation sites, the ORV parking lot, raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, sites for interpretive signs, and important cultural sites.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes. For more information, see Table 2-12 and Map 22.

In the eastern portion, areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

In the eastern portion, general winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the ACEC would not apply. Additional seasonal closures would not apply.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Native vegetation would be maintained and protected on the BLM-administered public lands to allow natural plant succession to continue. Revegetation of disturbed areas with big sagebrush and other adaptable shrubs would be required to maintain or improve big game habitat.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area.

The ACEC would be managed as a Class II VRM area (Map 31).

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. The integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas and winter ranges would be maintained. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for maintenance of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage in the eastern portion.

The relatively pristine portion of the eastern area that has no developments (approximately 8,800 acres), including the base of Steamboat Rim, would be managed to protect big game habitat, vegetation communities, and visual and recreation resources.

To support and improve the diversity of wildlife species within the area, wildlife habitat on the BLM-administered public lands would be protected, maintained, or enhanced. Crucial elk winter range in the area would be maintained as an essential component of the elk habitat.

Projects to improve the interdunal ponds for bird, amphibian, and mammal habitat would be considered and evaluated for development on the BLM-administered public lands. The ponds would not be used as water sources for development activities.

Steamboat Mountain ACEC (43,310 acres in the planning area)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

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The ACEC would not be an avoidance area for rights-of-way. The ACEC would be open to consideration for the location of communication sites.

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments could be allowed in the ACEC. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves in the ACEC, inside the core area; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms, where possible, with the management objectives for the planning area (to provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protect other sensitive resources).

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be open to fluid mineral leasing consideration (approximately 43,310 acres of federal mineral estate).

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21).

Seasonal conditional requirements for surface disturbing activities would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat within the ACEC (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Surface disturbing activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values in the ACEC (see Table 2-12 and Map 22).

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the ACEC management objectives could be met, if they were to be leased and developed.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in the ACEC that existed before approval of the JMHCAP could occur. Conditions of Approval could be applied as described in the fluids management section for the core area.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be open to coal exploration with the exception of about 3,380 acres which would remain closed to protect sage grouse leks, raptor nests, and floodplains (USDI 1997). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be open to sodium exploration with the exception of about 3,380 acres which would remain closed to protect sage grouse leks, raptor nests, and floodplains (USDI 1997).

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

A portion of the ACEC would be open to mineral material sales (Map 30). A portion of the lava material on Steamboat Mountain proper (in SE1/4 of sec. 10; W1/2W1/2 of sec. 11; N1/2N1/2 of sec. 15; T. 23 N., R. 102 W.) would be available for mineral material sale. The remainder of the ACEC would be closed to mineral material sales. Sale proposals in the area open to mineral material sales would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and appropriate mitigation would be required.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Exploration activities could occur in most of the ACEC, with appropriate mitigation.

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and locations for interpretive signs.

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Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, and crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas). For more information, see Table 2-12 and Map 22.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the ACEC would not apply. Additional seasonal closures would not apply.

Road construction and new access may not be feasible for much of the ACEC. To prevent conflicts with big game and big game habitat, recreation users, and other resource and land use activities, alternative access methods may be needed (use of existing or designated roads or pads, seasonal travel requirements or restrictions, use of helicopters, etc.).

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Part of the Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be managed as a Class II VRM area and part would be managed as a Class III VRM area (Map 31 and Table 2-8).

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

All activities would be designed to place priority consideration on elk habitat over conflicting land uses to ensure continued elk use in the ACEC. Steamboat Rim and the base of the rim would be managed to protect big game habitat, vegetation communities, and visual and recreation resources.

Other Special Management Areas

Oregon Buttes ACEC (3,450 acres in the planning area)

The ACEC is within the Oregon Buttes, White Horse Creek, and Honeycomb Buttes WSAs and lies outside the core area. The ACEC would be managed under the “Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review” (USDI 1995). The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except as discussed for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat, historic, geological, and visual values (Table 2-11). The ACEC would remain closed to surface disturbing activities.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water development could not be constructed in the ACEC.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The ACEC would remain closed to fluid mineral leasing (Nondiscretionary closure - approximately 3,450 acres of federal mineral estate).

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would remain closed to mineral material sales.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the ACEC, exploration activities, without use of explosive charges or motorized vehicles, could occur in conformance with ACEC objectives.

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Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC.

South Pass Historic Landscape (45,830 acres in the planning area)

The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except as discussed for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Communication sites could be considered on Pacific Butte with restrictions on the height (no strobe light necessary), visual intrusion, road access, etc. Actions on Pacific Butte would conform to the existing management prescriptions for the South Pass Historic Landscape (Appendix 3).

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments could be allowed in the ACEC in accordance with ACEC objectives and surface disturbance requirements. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat within the ACEC (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

The historic values in the landscape, crucial habitats, and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to

consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as they would be protected from irreversible adverse effects. Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values in the ACEC (see Table 2-12, Figure 1, Map 21, Map 22).

Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Fluid mineral leasing could occur in portions of the ACEC, including connectivity areas. Upon completion of the JMHCAP, these areas would be open to leasing consideration, with necessary mitigation, which could include CSU, NSO, and other stipulations or conditional requirements. See the Fluid Minerals section of the overall planning area for a description of management actions involving fluid mineral leasing exploration and development.

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the ACEC management objectives could be met, if they were to be leased and developed.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in the ACEC that existed before approval of the JMHCAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

- surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-12);

- transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity;

- remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

- multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

- clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

- standard reclamation practices to restore habitat and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat; or

- application of geotechnical materials for construction.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would remain closed to mineral material sales in the vista.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

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Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect Historic resources and certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21). Other resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, and locations for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural and historic values, geologic features, and crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas). For more information, see Table 2-12 and Map 22.

Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural and historic resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles.

Seasonal closures would not be applied for protection of other resource values.

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area.

The wild horse herd management area would not be expanded.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity

and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC (20 acres in the planning area)

The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except as discussed for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the ACEC. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Fluid mineral leasing could occur in the ACEC. Upon completion of the JMHCAP, the ACEC would be open to leasing consideration, with an NSO stipulation, and other stipulations or conditional requirements. The ACEC would remain closed to surface disturbance activities associated with fluid mineral development. Map 21 and Map 11 show those portions of the ACEC that would be closed to surface occupancy, and that would be seasonally conditioned.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would remain closed to surface disturbing activities that could adversely affect the ACEC values (Map 21).

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public

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health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

Red Desert Watershed Area (169,010 acres in the planning area)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general management actions for the overall planning area and described in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). About two thirds of the Oregon Buttes ACEC occurs in the Red Desert Watershed Area. A portion of the Steamboat Mountain ACEC, and therefore, the core area, Split Rock, and the connectivity areas also occur in the watershed area. Where the Red Desert Watershed Area overlaps these areas, the management objectives and actions are discussed in those specific areas and not repeated here. In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Additional withdrawals from those identified in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3) would not be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments could be allowed in the core area, crucial big game ranges or the connectivity area. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves, inside and outside the core area; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms, where possible, with the management objectives for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and

other big game populations, and protecting other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The entire area would be open to fluid mineral leasing. Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 56,500 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12, Map 21, and Map 22). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on 114,130 acres.

Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as they would be protected from irreversible adverse effects. See the Fluid Minerals section of the overall planning area for a description of management actions involving fluid mineral leasing exploration and development.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in effect before approval of the JMHCAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

- surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in (see Table 2-12);

- transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity;

- remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

- multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

- clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

- shrub reclamation to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat; or

- application of geotechnical materials for construction.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

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Most of the Red Desert Watershed area would be open to consideration of geophysical exploration activities (USDI 1997). Based on site specific analysis, geophysical exploration activities would be authorized with appropriate conditional requirements such as limiting the use of vehicles and explosive charges.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-12 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Special Status Plant Species Habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and sites for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 56,500 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation values, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, and crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas). For more information, see Table 2-12 and Map 22.

Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the Red Desert Watershed Area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. Access on other roads could be authorized for all types of vehicles, including over-the-snow vehicles.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the core area would not apply.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The entire watershed area would be managed as a VRM Class III area.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the degree of activity and use in the Red Desert Watershed Area. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

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Overall Planning Area Management

Where the management objectives and actions are the same as described for the Preferred Alternative, they generally are not repeated. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the preferred alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

An evaluation to acquire additional resource information for evaluating land and resource use proposals would not be conducted prior to leasing portions of the planning area. Monitoring would occur as described in the Monitoring section (Table 2-1 and Appendix 6).

Cultural, Natural History, and Paleontological Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: NRHP-eligible sites would be avoided by 300 feet.

Expansion Era Roads - Expansion Era Roads and the Indian Gap Trail would be preserved for their historic resource values, pursuant to Green River RMP guidance. Surface disturbing activities proposed to affect any segment of an Expansion Era Road or the Indian Gap Trail would be prohibited within 1/4 mile (see Appendix 3).

Activities would avoid Native American respected places by 1 mile. Viewshed (vista) and noise analyses may be conducted to help determine appropriate avoidance distances.

Activities would be excluded within a 1/2-mile viewshed (vista-same as GRRMP) of the White Mountain Petroglyphs (Appendix 3). Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be prohibited within 1/2 mile of all rock art sites. A noise analysis may be conducted for each site.

Surface disturbing activities would be prohibited within the paleosol deposition area. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if adverse effects could be mitigated by authorized users or permittees

See Recreation Management for guidance on back country byway interpretive sites, and project planning for Crookston Ranch and the White Mountain Petroglyphs.

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Fire Management

Same as described in the Preferred Alternative.

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Preferred Alternative except:

The public lands within the planning area, with the exception of defined exclusion and avoidance areas, would be open to consideration of granting of rights-of-way, permits, and leases (Map 32, Map 33, and Table 2-13). Location of rights-of-way, permits, and leases would be concentrated in certain areas and avoided or excluded in others, to protect sensitive resources. In particular, these actions would avoid the big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation associations to minimize effects to big game habitat. Portions of Indian Gap and the face of Steamboat Mountain (the steep slopes around the perimeter of Steamboat Mountain) would be closed (exclusion areas) to these actions.

Major transportation and utility line rights-of-way would be confined to established ROW concentration areas. Areas designated as utility windows, ROW concentration areas, and existing communication sites would be preferred locations for future grants (Map 32 and Map 33). Additional right-of-way windows would be established to limit the areas disturbed by ROW activity, and to concentrate these types of facilities. Rights-of-way would be located in the windows identified. In particular, pipelines and other linear facilities would follow existing roads and pipelines, and offsite facilities (tank batteries, etc.) would be clustered or located in the same geographic areas. The placement of the offsite facilities may be concentrated in different areas than the linear facilities if area objectives can be met.

In addition to existing guidance from the Green River RMP, transportation planning would include the locations of rights-of-way. Linear rights-of-way would follow existing roads and trails in accordance with transportation planning. Areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to rights-of-way for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow existing improved roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards. Activity in the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, and White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC would follow the prescriptions in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3).

Steamboat Mountain ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, Essex Mountain, Pacific Buttes, and Continental Peak would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat and visual values.

The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-14 would be pursued. Withdrawals would be pursued for the core, connectivity area, elk calving areas (all elk calving areas), the Steamboat Mountain ACEC, the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, cultural site, and portions of White Mountain (the Native Ameri-

can Respected Places) (about 267,590 acres) (Map 34). Future withdrawals would also be pursued to protect important resource values as needs are identified.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as stated in the Preferred Alternative.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Authorized grazing use would not exceed the recognized permitted use. For analysis purposes, anticipated actual use would be based on the 5-year average actual use of 9,851 AUMs (8,861 cattle and 990 sheep). This grazing level was held constant throughout the planning period.

Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (S&Gs) would be implemented, and specific grazing allotment management prescriptions would be developed on a case-by-case basis. Appropriate measures would be taken to meet the standards for healthy rangelands. If standards are not being met, then guidelines would be used and appropriate action would be taken. Actions that would meet the objectives and benefit resources could be considered on a case-by-case basis. For this analysis, the levels of livestock use may be reduced (where appropriate) as one of the appropriate actions taken to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

Livestock turnout dates would be delayed to provide for more growing season rest (i.e., mid to late June); season-long use would not occur. Livestock grazing plans would be required.

Applications for changes in class of livestock to sheep use would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Changes to cattle use would not be considered.

Livestock grazing suitability reviews would be conducted on a case-by-case basis. Livestock forage use would not be allocated for unsuitable areas and would be removed from the forage base.

Plowing of roads in winter for livestock accessibility and feeding would not be allowed except in emergency situations. Any such activity would conform with transportation planning (see the Transportation Planning section).

Livestock grazing use on upland key grass species would be limited to 1) no more than 40 percent of the current growth (seasonal utilization); and 2) minimum heights throughout the growing season (to be determined for individual key species), whichever is reached first. Livestock would be removed when either seasonal utilization or minimum height is reached in a given area/pasture/allotment.

Livestock grazing management plans that address riparian and upland areas would be required. Riparian and upland areas would be managed primarily for wildlife and watershed needs. New riparian pastures would be established only if watershed resources and wildlife habitat would be enhanced.

Livestock grazing use in riparian areas would be limited (1) for key riparian shrub species, to no more than 30 percent of the stems browsed or (2) for herbaceous plants, to a seasonal

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utilization of 40 percent or no less than a 6-inch minimum height, whichever occurs first. Key species and plant height monitoring would be conducted throughout the grazing season.

Livestock salt licks would be located no closer than 1/2 mile to water and no closer than 1/4 mile to sensitive plant species locations.

Range improvements would be considered only when they would benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat.

The connectivity area (migration corridor) is considered big game crucial habitat. Range improvements would be considered in crucial big game habitats only if they would benefit wildlife.

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the core area or in crucial big game winter ranges, including the connectivity area. Livestock water developments would be fenced and offsite water facilities would be developed (pipelines and troughs). Springs and seeps would be protected from excessive use. Livestock water developments would not be placed within 2 miles of active sage grouse leks.

Vegetation treatments would be considered on a case-by-case basis. A livestock grazing plan would be prepared prior to treatment. Areas proposed for vegetation treatments may be rested one full year prior to treatment and would be rested two full years after treatment.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals

Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: 1) to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, coalbed methane, etc.) while protecting other resource values; 2) to permit in an orderly and timely manner, the development of oil and gas reserves, outside the core and connectivity areas; and 3) to conduct 1 and 2 in a manner that conforms with the management objectives for providing suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protecting sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Table 2-15 lists public lands and federal minerals in the planning area with fluid mineral lease requirements that are necessary to protect other resource values.

Areas closed to leasing (discretionary closures) would include the core area and connectivity area, and White Mountain and Split Rock (Map 35). Approximately 220,790 acres of federal mineral estate would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.

The remainder of the federal fluid mineral estate in the planning area would be open to consideration for leasing with conditional requirements would apply to certain areas. A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-15 and Map 21). About 36,010 acres would be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy requirement.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 347,250 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, raptor habitat, and game fish spawning areas (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-15 and Map 36). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on about 462,560 acres.

Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of federal fluid mineral leasing, exploration, development and reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory abandonment of oil and gas wells and surface disturbance reclamation may be required before additional fluid mineral leasing and development could occur in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas. Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Fluid mineral leasing could occur in portions of the planning area. Upon completion of the JMHCAP, these areas would be open to leasing consideration, with necessary mitigation, which could include CSU, NSO, and other stipulations or conditional requirements.

Other portions of the planning area would be closed to leasing to provide adequate habitat and use of that habitat (crucial winter range, calving/fawning, migration corridors, etc.) and protection of sensitive resources and public health and safety. The entire planning area would not be leased at the same time. In particular, portions of Steamboat Mountain ACEC, Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, White Mountain, Split Rock area, and the core and connectivity areas would not be leased.

As additional areas (outside the core, connectivity, White Mountain and Split Rock areas) become available for future leasing consideration, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the planning area management objectives could be met, if they were to be leased and developed.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in effect before approval of the JMHCAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in the Green River RMP (see Table 2-15);

transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, and road densities may be established with an objective of no more than 0.5 to 1 mile of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat;

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remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-15 and Figure 1), where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries to limit traffic and disturbance;

shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

application of geotechnical materials for construction;

unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Areas closed to coal exploration would remain the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) (Map 23). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be applied. Exploration activities would avoid sensitive areas (Figure 1). Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails in accordance with transportation planning.

Solid Leasables (Sodium/Trona) MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: to provide suitable habitat to maintain the continued existence of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The entire planning area would be closed to sodium exploration activities.

The planning area would be closed to trona water development activities.

Salables (Mineral Materials)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The areas identified as closed to mineral material sales in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997) would remain closed to mineral material sales (Table 2-16 and Map 37).

The core and connectivity areas, White Mountain, and the Split Rock area would be closed to mineral material sale activity. Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities, elk calving areas, mountain shrub communities, including big sagebrush/scurfpea communities and special status species habitats would be closed to mineral material sales. Activities would avoid sensitive areas (Figure 1). Sale proposals would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and appropriate mitigation would be applied. Road construction and upgrading of roads for mineral material extraction would only be allowed if in accordance with transportation planning.

The remainder of the planning area would be open to consideration of mineral material sales on a case-by-case basis. Sale areas and community pits would be established in conformance with other resource objectives. Adequate mine and reclamation plans for use areas would be required.

Locatable Minerals

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-14 would be pursued. Withdrawals would be pursued for the core, connectivity area, elk calving areas (all elk calving areas), the Steamboat Mountain ACEC, the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, cultural site, and portions of White Mountain (the Native American Respected Places) (about 267,590 acres) (see Map 34).

Future withdrawals would also be pursued to protect important resource values as needs are identified.

Geophysical

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Most of the planning area would be open to consideration of geophysical exploration activities. Based on site specific analysis, geophysical exploration activities would be authorized with appropriate conditional requirements such as limiting the use of vehicles and explosive charges (Table 2-7).

An interdisciplinary team review would be initiated for all geophysical proposals within the planning area. Exploration activities in sensitive areas would be limited and mitigation measures would be applied to protect sensitive resources (timing limitations, avoidance, restrictions on vehicle use and explosive charges, etc.). Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to vehicle use and explosive charges. In areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities, the core area, and sensitive areas (Figure 1), exploration activities, without use of explosive charges, could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning.

Areas of Native American concern would be closed to geophysical vehicles and explosive charges.

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities, such as oil and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc., that are no longer needed in the core area, may be required before additional facilities or disturbance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas in the core area.

Recreation Resource Management

Same as described in the Preferred Alternative.

Special Status Species Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The Special Status Plant ACEC, designated in the Green River RMP, would be expanded to include 2,660 acres of *Lesquerella macrocarpa*

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(Map 38). Known locations of *Lesquerella macrocarpa* would be exclusion areas for rights-of-way (Table 2-13).

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-15). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, South Pass Historic Landscape (area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail), special status plant species habitat, and Tri-Territory Marker. Additionally, surface disturbing activities would not be allowed on federal surface designated as no lease areas for oil and gas activity. Exceptions could be granted for designated right of way concentration areas. An NSO restriction would be applied to activities that may affect these areas.

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: (visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, etc.); crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes, and big sagebrush habitat. On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement would be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-15, Map 35, Map 21, Map 11, and Map 36.

Based on site-specific analyses, surface-disturbing activities would be limited during wet weather, on frozen soils, and on slopes greater than 20 percent.

NRHP-eligible sites would be avoided by 300 feet.

Native American Respected Places - Activities would avoid Native American respected places by 1 mile. Viewshed (vista) and noise analysis may be conducted to help determine appropriate avoidance distances.

Rock Art Sites - Activities would be excluded within a -mile viewshed (vista-same as GRRMP) of the White Mountain Petroglyphs (Appendix 3). Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be prohibited within mile of all rock art sites.

Surface disturbing activities would be prohibited within the entire paleosol deposition area. The area would be reviewed for consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same

resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section). Activity in the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, and White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC would follow the prescriptions in the Green River RMP (Appendix 3).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: General winter vehicular access in the planning area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. However, access on other roads could be authorized for over-the-snow vehicles only.

Specific roads and trails designated "limited to designated roads and trails" would be identified on a case-by-case basis. The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

Road and trail construction or upgrading would be prohibited through woodland habitat (i.e., juniper, limber pine, aspen) or springs and seeps (pre-existing improved roads may be used).

Transportation planning would identify appropriate access routes and provide maximum protection for crucial habitats and sensitive resources (Appendix 5). Future site specific activity or implementation planning would also address any needed requirements for motorized vehicular use, non-motorized vehicular use, and non-motorized mechanical transport and also address any needed requirement for transportation planning.

Factors to be considered in development of transportation plans include:

- Historic use levels of roads and trails.

- Use of required construction specifications.

- Rehabilitating, obliterating, or barricading unused roads and trails, and closure or maintenance of those causing resource damage. The transportation plan and affected maps would be corrected to reflect closed roads and trails.

- Seasonal or administrative road closures/gating in crucial habitats (for single use/well destination roads) to limit traffic and disrupting activities.

- Concentrating stream and riparian area crossings to key locations to restrict numbers of crossings and to benefit resource management objectives. New crossings would not be allowed. Exceptions may be granted if proposed crossings would reduce adverse effects, benefit area objectives, and reduce miles of road (and/or frequency of use). Some crossings (2-tracks) would be closed. Commercial and service vehicles would be restricted to identified upgraded crossings. Bridges would be required for all perennial streams.

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The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-14 would be pursued. Withdrawals would be pursued for the core and connectivity areas, elk calving areas, the Steamboat Mountain ACEC, and the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, (about 80,410 acres) (Map 34). Future withdrawals would also be pursued to protect important resource values as needs are identified.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the core, or connectivity areas, or in crucial winter ranges. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the core area would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals

Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: to provide for the maximum protection of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protect other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The core and connectivity areas would be closed to fluid mineral leasing. Approximately 80,410 acres of federal mineral estate would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (Map 35).

Under this alternative, the following could occur:

Fluid mineral leasing could not occur in core and connectivity areas to provide adequate habitat and use of that habitat (crucial winter range, calving/fawning, migration corridors, etc.) and protection of sensitive resources and public health and safety.

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the core area management objectives could be met, if they were to be leased and developed.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in the core area that existed before approval of the JMHCAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in (see Table 2-15);

transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than mile of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas and 1 mile in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-15 and Figure 1) where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

application of geotechnical materials for construction; or

unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Areas closed to coal exploration would remain the same as those established in the Green River RMP (USDI 1997). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. Exploration activities would avoid sensitive areas (Figure 1). Activities in the core area would be limited to foot traffic except for on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning. The Steamboat Mountain area (outside area with coal recommendations) would be closed to exploration activities.

Salables (Mineral Materials)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The areas identified in Table 2-16 would be closed to mineral material sales.

The core area would be closed to mineral material sale.

Locatable Minerals

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Withdrawals would be pursued for the core and connectivity areas, elk calving areas, Steamboat Mountain ACEC, the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, and Native American respected places (about 80,410 acres) (Map 34 and Table 2-14). Future withdrawals from mineral location in the core area would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

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Geophysical

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the core area, exploration activities, without use of explosive charges, could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning (Table 2-7).

Areas of Native American concern would be closed to geophysical vehicles and explosive charges.

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities, such as oil and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc., that are no longer needed in the core area, may be required before additional facilities or disturbance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas in the core area.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-15 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, South Pass Historic Landscape (area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail), special status plant species habitat, and the Tri-Territory Marker.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 80,410 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned on about 80,410 acres to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: (visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes, and big sagebrush habitat. On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement would be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-15 and Map 36).

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed manage-

ment objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet core area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the core area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified for winter use. However, access on other roads could be authorized for over-the-snow vehicles only.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the core area would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile):

Core and connectivity areas = 0.5 miles or less
Greater Sand Dunes ACEC = 1.0 mile or less.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area.

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC and Split Rock would be managed as a Class II VRM area (Map 39).

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The boundary of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would be expanded. No more than 100 horses would occupy the expansion area portion of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area. The Appropriate Management Level for the expanded Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would not change.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the core area. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

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The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for enhancement of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Special consideration would be given to management needs of amphibians. Fences may be constructed to control livestock grazing and movement in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage.

Greater Sand Dunes ACEC (38,650 acres in the planning area)

The western portion of the ACEC is within the Buffalo Hump and Sand Dunes WSAs and lies outside the core area. The western portion would be managed under the “Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review” (USDI 1995). The eastern portion of the ACEC is inside the core area and for consistency in management of the ACEC, the following discussion presents the actions for both the eastern and western portions of the ACEC. Some of the general JMHCAP proposed decisions are repeated, where they apply to the entire ACEC or where they are needed to complement understanding of the discussion. Actions that apply solely to either the eastern or western portion are so noted.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Rights-of-way would avoid the big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation associations to minimize effects to big game habitat. The base of Steamboat Mountain and the steep slopes around the perimeter of Steamboat Mountain (i.e., those portions which are within the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC) would be closed (exclusion areas) to these actions (Map 32, Map 33, and Table 2-13).

Within the eastern portion of the ACEC (inside the core area), both stabilized and active sand dunes would be closed to construction and development types of activities and related surface disturbance unless analysis indicates that the management objectives for the area could be met. In situations where there are pre-existing authorizations and ongoing development in the area, new linear facilities such as pipelines and phone lines would be laid on the surface, or buried adjacent to access roads, or within existing concentration areas containing such lines, in conformance with transportation planning. Surface pipelines would be monitored by the operators to identify potential hazards to public health and safety, particularly in the open ORV area. Identified hazards would be marked to improve visibility. A recreation user map would be developed in cooperation with oil and gas operators to show the location of above ground facilities (e.g., pipelines, well production facilities, snow fences, etc.).

The entire ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat, visual values and geologic features.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to rights-of-way for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow existing improved roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards.

The proposed withdrawals from mineral location in the ACEC (Table 2-14) would be pursued.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the ACEC. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the core area would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE (within the eastern portion of the ACEC): provide maximum protection to preserve and protect the integrity of the unique values in the ACEC and to provide maximum protection of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and protect other sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Under this alternative, in the eastern portion, the following could occur:

The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing to maximize habitat and use of that habitat (crucial winter range, calving/fawning, migration corridors, etc.) and protection of sensitive resources and public health and safety.

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would not be leased.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in the ACEC that existed before approval of the JMHCAP, would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-15);

transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 1 mile of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

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multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-15 and Figure 1) where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

application of geotechnical materials for construction; or

unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

About 23,980 acres would remain closed to coal exploration (USDI 1997). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. Exploration activities would avoid sensitive areas (Figure 1). Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails within these areas in conformance with transportation planning.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Mineral location withdrawals would be pursued for the entire ACEC including Crookston Ranch and the western portion of the ACEC, for the protection of cultural and historic values, visual resource values, geologic features, pond (flockets) areas, important wildlife habitat, and Native American respected places (about 38,650 acres) (Map 34 and Table 2-14). Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the eastern portion of the ACEC, exploration activities, without use of explosive charges, could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning (Table 2-7). The ORV parking area would be closed.

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring objectives for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities, such as oil and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc., that are no longer needed in the ACEC, may be required before additional facilities or disturbance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas, and on stabilized dunes in the ACEC.

Recreation Resource Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Same as general Recreation Resource management objectives for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Recreation Resource management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Activities would not be permitted to disrupt access to or use of developed and semi-developed recreation sites. Activities that are incompatible with recreation sites would be managed to avoid these sites.

See the Surface Disturbance section for management prescriptions relating to surface disturbing activities.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management objective for overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-15 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: Boars Tusk, Crookston Ranch site, developed recreation sites, the ORV parking lot, raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation communities, and important cultural sites.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes, and big sagebrush habitat. On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement would be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-15 and Map 36.

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In the eastern portion, areas closed to oil and gas leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet core area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition in the eastern portion:

General winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited only specific roads identified for winter use. However, access on other roads could be authorized for over-the-snow vehicles only.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the ACEC would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile): The ACEC = 1.0 mile or less.

Vegetation Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Vegetation management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Native vegetation would be maintained and protected on the BLM-administered public lands to allow natural plant succession to continue. Revegetation of disturbed areas with big sagebrush and other adaptable shrubs would be required to maintain or improve big game habitat.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area.

The ACEC would be managed as a Class II VRM area (Map 39).

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Surface water, soils, and shallow aquifers would be protected from contamination by practices such as closed drilling systems or installation of pit liners. Pit liners would be removed prior to reserve pit reclamation.

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The boundary of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would be expanded. No more than 100 horses would occupy the expansion area portion of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area. The Appropriate Management Level for the expanded Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would not change.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. The integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas and winter ranges would be maintained. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

The pond (flockets) areas in the sand dunes would be managed for enhancement of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Special consideration would be given to management needs of amphibians. Fences may be constructed to control livestock grazing and movement in these areas. Interpretive signs would be used to direct ORV use around the ponds to prevent resource damage in the eastern portion.

The relatively pristine portion of the eastern area that has no developments (approximately 8,800 acres), including the base of Steamboat Rim, would be managed to protect big game habitat, vegetation communities, and visual and recreation resources.

To support and improve the diversity of wildlife species within the area, wildlife habitat on the BLM-administered public lands would be protected, maintained, or enhanced. Crucial elk winter range in the area would be maintained as an essential component of the elk habitat.

Ponds in the sand dunes (flockets) would be managed for wildlife and vegetation enhancement. Special consideration would be given to amphibians. Surface uses would be restricted in these areas. Fencing may occur for livestock management. Interpretive signs would be considered to direct ORV use around ponds.

Projects to improve the interdunal ponds for bird, amphibian, and mammal habitat would be considered and evaluated for development on the BLM-administered public lands. The ponds would not be used as water sources for development activities.

Steamboat Mountain ACEC (43,310 acres in the planning area)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

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The existing Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be expanded to 65,630 acres (Map 38).

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be an avoidance area for rights-of-way. In particular, rights-of-way would be required to avoid the big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation associations to minimize effects to big game habitat. Steamboat Rim, portions of Indian Gap and the face of Steamboat Mountain (the steep slopes around the perimeter of Steamboat Mountain), Johnson Gap, and the big sagebrush-scurfpea vegetation type at the base of Steamboat Mountain would be closed (exclusion areas) to all rights-of-way, no exceptions (Map 32, Map 33, and Table 2-13).

Where right-of-way activity cannot avoid the ACEC, transportation planning would be used to determine right-of-way locations. Linear rights-of-way would follow roads and trails in accordance with transportation planning. Existing right-of-way routes would be used whenever possible. Areas closed to mineral leasing and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to the location of additional rights-of-way. Within these areas and in conformance with transportation planning, pre-existing rights-of-way as of the date of approval of the JMHCAP could remain in place and continue to be used. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas could be authorized only if they: 1) follow pre-existing improved roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

The ACEC would be closed to communication sites to protect wildlife habitat and visual values.

Withdrawals would be pursued for all of the existing Steamboat Mountain ACEC (Map 34 and Table 2-14).

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the ACEC. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: to provide for the maximum protection of the Steamboat elk herd and other big game populations, and to protect sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Under this alternative, the following could occur:

The ACEC would be closed to leasing to maximize habitat and use of that habitat (crucial winter range, calving/fawning, migration corridors, etc.) and to provide for protection of sensitive resources and public health and safety. The entire ACEC would not be leased (see Table 2-15, Map 35, and Figure 1).

As additional areas become available for future leasing consideration, they would not be leased.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in the ACEC that existed before approval of the JMHCAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-15;

transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 0.5 miles of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-15 and Figure 1) where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore habitat and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

application of geotechnical materials for construction; or

unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management objectives for the overall planning area.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

About 33,530 acres would remain closed to coal exploration (USDI 1997). Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. Exploration activities would avoid sensitive areas

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(Figure 1). Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails within these areas in conformance with transportation planning.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. The areas identified in Table 2-16 would be closed to mineral material sales. In addition:

The ACEC would be closed to mineral material sales.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Withdrawals would be pursued for the existing Steamboat Mountain ACEC (Map 34 and Table 2-14).

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would be closed to the use of vehicles and explosive charges. Activity could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning (Table 2-7).

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities, such as oil and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc., that are no longer needed in the ACEC, may be required before additional facilities or disturbance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas in the ACEC.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-15 and Map 21). Resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, Tri-Territory Marker, and locations for interpretive signs.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats

(crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), and big sagebrush habitat. On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement would be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-15 and Map 36.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 35) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet ACEC objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited only to specific roads identified for winter use. However, access on other roads could be authorized for over-the-snow vehicles only.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the ACEC would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile): the ACEC and connectivity area = 0.5 miles or less.

Road construction and new access may not be feasible for much of the ACEC. To prevent conflicts with big game and big game habitat, recreation users, and other resource and land use activities, alternative access methods may be needed (use of existing or designated roads or pads, seasonal travel requirements or restrictions, use of helicopters, etc.).

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The Steamboat Mountain ACEC and Split Rock would be managed as Class II VRM areas (Map 39; Table 2-8).

Watershed/Water Quality Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Watershed/Water Quality management actions for overall planning area.

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Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The boundary of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would be expanded. No more than 100 horses would occupy the expansion area portion of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area. The Appropriate Management Level for the expanded Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would not change.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

All activities would be designed to place priority consideration on elk habitat over conflicting land uses to ensure continued elk use in the ACEC. Steamboat Rim and the base of the rim would be managed to protect big game habitat, vegetation communities, and visual and recreation resources.

Other Special Management Areas

Oregon Buttes ACEC (3,450 acres in the planning area)

The ACEC is within the Oregon Buttes, White Horse Creek and Honeycomb Buttes WSAs and lies outside the core area. The ACEC would be managed under the “Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review” (USDI 1995). The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except as discussed for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the ACEC.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The ACEC would remain closed to fluid mineral leasing (nondiscretionary closure-approximately 3,450 acres of federal mineral estate).

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The areas identified in Table 2-16 would be closed to mineral material sales.

The ACEC would remain closed to mineral material sales

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

In the ACEC, exploration activities, without use of explosive charges or motorized vehicles, could occur in conformance with ACEC objectives (Table 2-7).

Special Status Plant ACEC Expansion

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Same as stated in the Green River RMP.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the general management section of the Preferred Alternative. In addition:

The Special Status Plant ACEC, designated in the Green River RMP, would be expanded to include 2,660 acres of *Lesquerella macrocarpa* (Map 38).

South Pass Historic Landscape (45,830 acres in the planning area)

The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except as discussed for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

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Communication sites could not be considered on Pacific Buttes (Table 2-13). Actions on Pacific Butte would conform to the existing management prescriptions for the South Pass Historic Landscape (Appendix 3).

Withdrawals would be pursued for elk calving areas in addition to those withdrawals listed in the Green River RMP (Map 34 and Appendix 3). Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the ACEC.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat within the ACEC (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values in the ACEC (see Table 2-15, Figure 1, Map 35, Map 21, and Map 36).

The historic values in the landscape, crucial habitats, and other areas of sensitive resource values outside the connectivity area would be open to consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as they would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). See the Fluid Minerals section of the overall planning area for a description of management actions involving fluid mineral leasing exploration and development.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in the ACEC that existed before approval of the JMHCAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in Table 2-15;

transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 0.5 miles of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-15 and Figure 1), where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore habitat and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

application of geotechnical materials for construction; or

unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The areas identified in Table 2-16 would be closed to mineral material sales. The connectivity portion of the ACEC would be closed to mineral material sales. That portion of the ACEC seen from the historic trail (vista) would remain closed to mineral material sales. Other mineral material sale activity would conform with the prescriptions established for the South Pass Historic Landscape in the Green River RMP. This activity would not detract from the relevance and importance values of the ACEC. Sale proposals would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and appropriate mitigation would be required. Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities, elk calving areas, and mountain shrub communities (including big sagebrush/scurfpea communities and special status species habitats) would be closed to mineral material sales. Road construction and upgrading of roads for mineral material extraction would only be allowed in accordance with transportation planning.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Withdrawals would be pursued for elk calving areas in addition to those withdrawals listed in the Green River RMP (Map 34 and Appendix 3). Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws in the ACEC would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Shothole activity would not be allowed along the trails. Other geophysical operations would be allowed within the historic trails corridors if site specific analysis determines that no effects adverse to the visual integrity of the trails would occur.

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Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to vehicle use and explosive charges. In areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities and sensitive areas (Figure 1), exploration activities, without use of explosive charges, could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning.

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect historic resources and certain important resource values (see Table 2-15 and Map 21). Other resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, South Pass Historic Landscape (area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail, and special status plant species habitat.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), , and big sagebrush habitat. On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement would be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-15 and Map 36.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 35) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural and historic resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. In areas closed to leasing, outside the vista, small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they: 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet ACEC objectives and management actions; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the ACEC, for any purpose, would be limited only to specific roads identified for winter use. However, access on other roads could be authorized for over-the-snow vehicles only.

Seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile): the overlapping connectivity area in the ACEC = 0.5 mile or less.

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The boundary of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would be expanded. No more than 100 horses would occupy the expansion area portion of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area. The Appropriate Management Level for the expanded Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would not change.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC (20 acres in the planning area)

The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except as discussed for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). In addition:

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the ACEC. Functional, pre-existing water developments could be maintained and natural water sources (springs and seeps) in the ACEC would be protected.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would remain closed to leasing and surface disturbance activities associated with fluid mineral development (Map 35).

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Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The ACEC would remain closed to surface disturbing activities that could adversely affect the ACEC.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 35) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the ACEC. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

Red Desert Watershed Area (169,010 acres in the planning area)

The management objectives and actions would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative except as discussed for the following resources. Some of the actions in these resource management sections may be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative but are repeated here for understanding and clarification.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general management actions for the overall planning area and described in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3). About two thirds of the Oregon Buttes ACEC occurs in the Red Desert Watershed Area. A portion of the Steamboat Mountain ACEC, and therefore, the core area, Split Rock, and the connectivity areas also occur in the watershed area. Where the Red Desert Watershed Area overlaps these areas, the management objectives and actions are discussed in those specific areas and not repeated here. In addition:

Lands and Realty Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Lands and Realty management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Rights-of-way would avoid the big sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation associations to minimize effects to big game habitat (Map 32, Map 33, and Table 2-13).

The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-14 would be pursued. Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Livestock Grazing Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Livestock Grazing management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Livestock water developments would not be allowed in the core area, crucial big game ranges, or the connectivity area.

Minerals Management

Leasable Minerals-Fluid Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Fluid Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Approximately 12,950 acres of federal mineral estate would be closed to fluid mineral leasing (Map 35).

A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-15 and Map 21). About 5,200 acres would be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy requirement.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 56,500 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11). Also see Appendix 4 for procedures for processing authorizations in areas with seasonal requirements.

Fluid mineral exploration and development activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-15, Map 36, and Figure 1). Surface disturbance conditional requirements would be placed on 169,010 acres.

Crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to consideration for fluid mineral leasing and development so long as they would be protected from irreversible adverse effects (Figure 1). This would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of federal fluid mineral leasing, exploration, development, and reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory abandonment of oil and gas wells or surface disturbance reclamation may be required before additional fluid mineral leasing and development could occur in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas. See the Fluid Minerals section of the overall planning area for a description of management actions involving fluid mineral leasing exploration and development.

Exploration and development activities related to leases in effect before approval of the JMHCAP would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Besides the existing lease stipulations, any additional mitigation needs would be included (to the

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extent allowed by regulation) as conditions of approval for APDs. Conditions of approval may include, but would not be limited to:

surface disturbance conditional requirements identified in (see Table 2-15);

transportation planning, prior to implementing any activity, with an objective of no more than 0.5 miles of all-weather (improved) road per section in big game crucial habitat areas;

remote control of fluid mineral production facilities to limit traffic into the area;

multiple-well pads to limit the amount of use, access, and disturbance in the area;

limiting the number of well pads to no more than four per section in sensitive areas;

directional drilling in crucial wildlife habitats and other sensitive areas (Table 2-15 and Figure 1) where access and surface disturbance or disruptive activity would create irreversible adverse effects;

clustering or centrally locating tank batteries or other ancillary facilities to limit traffic and disturbance;

shrub reclamation (containerized stock, transplanting, etc.) where necessary to restore and to reduce the long-term loss of important habitat;

application of geotechnical materials for construction; or

unitization of potential oil and gas field areas prior to exploration and development.

Solid Leasables (Coal) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Solid Leasable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Exploration proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate mitigation would be required. Exploration activities would avoid sensitive areas (Figure 1). Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to exploration activities; however, exploration activities could occur on existing roads and trails within these areas in conformance with transportation planning.

Salables (Mineral Materials) MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Mineral Materials management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The areas identified in Table 2-16 would be closed to mineral material sales. Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities, elk calving areas, and mountain shrub communities (including big sagebrush/scurfpea communities and special status species habitats) would be closed to mineral material sales. In areas that remain open, sale proposals would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and appropriate mitigation would be required. Road construction and upgrading of roads for mineral material extraction would only be allowed in accordance with transportation planning.

Locatable Minerals MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Locatable Minerals management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

The proposed withdrawals in Table 2-14 would be pursued. Future withdrawals from mineral location and entry under the land laws would be pursued to protect important resource values, as needs are identified.

Geophysical MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Geophysical management actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Most of the planning area would be open to consideration of geophysical exploration activities. Based on site specific analysis, geophysical exploration activities would be authorized with appropriate conditional requirements such as limiting the use of vehicles and explosive charges (Table 2-7). Exploration activities in sensitive areas would be limited and mitigation measures would be applied to protect sensitive resources (timing limitations, avoidance, restrictions on vehicle use and explosive charges, etc.). Areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be closed to off-road vehicle use and explosive charges. In areas closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities, the core area, and sensitive areas, exploration activities, without the use of explosive charges, could occur on existing roads and trails in conformance with transportation planning.

Areas of Native American respected places would be closed to geophysical vehicles and explosive charges.

Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Reclamation and Reclamation Monitoring actions for the overall planning area. In addition:

Satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance and abandonment of facilities, such as oil and gas wells, range improvements, roads, trails, etc., that are no longer needed in the Red Desert, may be required before additional facilities or disturbance would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes and birthing areas in the Red Desert.

Special Status Plant ACEC Expansion

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Same as stated in the Green River RMP.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as stated in the general management section of the Preferred Alternative. In addition:

The Special Status Plant ACEC designated in the Green River RMP would be expanded to include 2,660 acres of *Lesquerella macrocarpa* (Map 38).

Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Surface Disturbing and Disruptive management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

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A no surface occupancy requirement would be used to protect certain important resource values (see Table 2-15 and Map 21). Sensitive resources and areas to be protected include but are not limited to: raptor nesting sites, special status plant species habitat, and Tri-Territory Marker.

Seasonal conditional requirements would be placed on about 56,500 acres of big game winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and raptor habitat (Table 2-5 and Map 11).

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be appropriately conditioned to protect certain important resource values. These resources include but are not limited to: visual values, recreation opportunities, public health and safety, cultural values, geologic features, crucial wildlife habitats (crucial winter ranges, migration routes, parturition areas, and nesting and breeding areas), stabilized and unstabilized sand dunes, and big sagebrush habitat. On areas where several of these resources overlap, an NSO requirement would be applied (Figure 1). For more information, see Table 2-15 and Map 36.

Areas closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 35) and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities would also be closed to surface disturbing activities for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, watershed management objectives, and for public health and safety. However, exceptions could be considered for such surface disturbing activities as fencing, interpretive signs, or other types of actions that would be conducted for the benefit of these same resources and uses. Small feeder utility lines (4 inch or less) in these areas would be prohibited, unless they 1) follow roads or right-of-way concentration areas in conformance with transportation planning; 2) meet area objectives; and 3) do not create safety hazards (see the Lands and Realty Management section).

Travel Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Travel Management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

General winter vehicular access in the planning area, for any purpose, would be limited to only specific roads identified

for winter use. However, access on other roads could be authorized for over-the-snow vehicles only.

The seasonal vehicle closure for protection of elk and deer parturition habitat in the core area would apply. Additional seasonal closures may be applied for protection of other resource values as needed.

In all crucial elk habitats, the road density guideline for all-weather (improved) roads would be (in miles of road per square mile): core area and connectivity area = 0.5 miles or less.

Visual Resource Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Visual Resource management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The entire watershed area would be managed as a Class II VRM area (Map 39).

Wild Horse Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wild Horse management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

The boundary of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would be expanded. No more than 100 horses would occupy the expansion area portion of the Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area. The Appropriate Management Level for the expanded Divide Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area would not change.

Wildlife Management

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Same as general Wildlife management actions for overall planning area. In addition:

Avoiding fragmentation of habitat and maintaining the integrity of migration corridors, birthing areas, and winter ranges would be addressed by limiting the number of roads and access, and limiting the degree of activity and use in the Red Desert portion of the planning area. See Reclamation and Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Management sections for related management actions.

**TABLE 2-1
SUMMARY COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL RESOURCE OR LAND USE PROGRAMS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
	<p>Upon completion of the JMHCAP, crucial habitats and other areas of sensitive resource values would be open to further consideration for various multiple use activities so long as crucial habitats and other sensitive resource values would be protected from irreversible adverse effects. This would be accomplished in part through controlled timing and sequencing of the various activities and related reclamation in these areas. For example, satisfactory reclamation of surface disturbance may be required before additional surface disturbing activities would be allowed in big game crucial ranges, migration routes, and birthing areas. Under this alternative, the following could occur:</p>	No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.

TABLE 2-1 (continued)

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL LAND AND RESOURCE PROGRAMS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
	<p>S Subject to future monitoring and evaluation, portions of the JMHCAP planning area would be temporarily closed to mineral leasing, long-term surface disturbing and disruptive activity, rights-of-way, fencing, powerlines, pipelines, long-term and permanent structures or facilities, rangeland improvements, land treatments, mineral leasing, long-term and permanent land and resource use commitments or allocations. This would be done to satisfy immediate needs for adequate wildlife habitat and use of that habitat (crucial winter range, calving/fawning, migration corridors, etc.), protection of other sensitive resources, and for public health and safety.</p>	No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.

TABLE 2-1 (continued)

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL LAND AND RESOURCE PROGRAMS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
	-In particular, in portions of Steamboat Mountain ACEC, Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, the White Mountain and Split Rock areas, and the core and connectivity areas, these types of actions would not be authorized until monitoring and evaluation of ongoing activity in these areas determine that rates and levels of activities and reclamation would allow further activity, would not cause fragmentation and abandonment of habitat, and would still meet stated management objectives. This determination would be based on the effects on elk and their movement patterns, elk use of habitat, effects on other wildlife species and habitats, and effects on other sensitive resources.	No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.

TABLE 2-1 (continued)

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL LAND AND RESOURCE PROGRAMS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
	<p>-The evaluation would incorporate information from the elk study initiated in 1999; application of the standards and guidelines for healthy rangelands; proper functioning condition determinations for riparian areas; and other activities and uses. After the initial phase of the evaluation (about four years), a determination would be made on whether or not areas may become available for consideration of future activities. Should these areas become available, appropriate mitigation would be applied to meet planning area management objectives. If the evaluation concludes that planning area management objectives are not being met, these areas would remain unavailable. As areas become available for consideration of future activities, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the planning area management objectives could be met.</p>	No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.

TABLE 2-1 (continued)

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL LAND AND RESOURCE PROGRAMS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
SURFACE DISTURBANCE	Management Objectives: to protect sensitive resources and areas from irreversible adverse effects of surface disturbing activities and disruptive human presence (also see Appendix 3).	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Management Actions: Sensitive resources and areas to be protected include: Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, Crookston Ranch, crucial habitats, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, rock art site, South Pass Historic Landscape (area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail), special status plant species habitat, Native American areas of concern, and the Tri-Territory Marker (see oil and gas section).	Sensitive resources and areas to be protected include: Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, Oregon Buttes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, South Pass Historic Landscape (area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail), special status plant species habitat, Native American areas of concern, and the Tri-Territory Marker (see oil and gas section).	Same as No Action Alternative.	Sensitive resources and areas to be protected include: Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, Crookston Ranch, developed recreation sites and the ORV parking lot in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC, Native American areas of concern, Oregon Buttes ACEC, raptor nesting sites, rock art site, South Pass Historic Landscape (area visible within 3-mile buffer of Oregon Trail), special status plant species habitat, and the Tri-Territory Marker (see oil and gas section).

TABLE 2-1 (continued)

	Seasonal conditional requirements would be applied on about 347,250 acres of big game crucial winter ranges, calving or parturition areas, sage grouse nesting areas, raptor nesting habitat, and game fish spawning areas (Table 2-5).	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
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TABLE 2-1 (continued)

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL LAND AND RESOURCE PROGRAMS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
SURFACE DISTURBANCE (continued)	Floodplains, wetlands, and riparian areas, highly erodible soils, historic trails (1/4 mile or visual horizon), recreation sites (+1/4 mile buffer), sage grouse leks and 1/4 mile buffer, South Pass Historic Landscape (area not visible within 3 miles of Oregon Trail), special status plant species potential habitat, VRM Class II lands, and areas within 100 feet of the inner gorge of intermittent/ephemeral streams would be avoidance areas for surface disturbing activities.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Surface disturbing activities would be limited during wet weather, on frozen soils, and on slopes greater than 20%.	Surface-disturbing activities would be limited during wet weather, on frozen soils, and on slopes greater than 25%.	Same as No Action Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Native American respected places (see Cultural section) would be avoidance areas for surface disturbing and disruptive activities. Avoidance distances may vary from 100 feet to 2-1/2 miles.	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be prohibited within 100 feet of Native American respected places.	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be prohibited within 1/4 mile of Native American respected places.	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be prohibited within 1 mile of Native American respected places.

TABLE 2-1 (continued)

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL LAND AND RESOURCE PROGRAMS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
SURFACE DISTURBANCE (continued)	Areas closed to oil and gas leasing would be open only to those activities that would benefit wildlife habitat, cultural resources, special status species, and watershed values. Consideration would be given to linear facilities that follow existing roads in these areas in conformance with transportation planning.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

TABLE 2-1 (continued)

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
RESOURCE OR LAND USE PROGRAM	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
AIR QUALITY	Management Objectives: Same as the GRRMP (see Appendix 3).	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Management Actions: Special requirements (e.g., use authorization stipulations, mitigation measures, conditions of approval, etc.) to alleviate air quality impacts will be identified on a case-by-case basis and included in use authorizations, leases, and permits.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
CULTURAL, PALEONTOLOGICAL	Management Objectives: Same as the GRRMP (see Appendix 3).	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Management Actions: Congressionally designated National Historic Trails would be managed as described in the Green River RMP (see Appendix 3).	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	The most historic examples of each Expansion Era Road would be preserved for their historic resource values. The effects to a portion of the road would need to be evaluated against the integrity (according to NRHP guidelines) of the entirety of the road.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

TABLE 2-1 (continued)

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
RESOURCE OR LAND USE PROGRAM	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
CULTURAL, PALEONTOLOGICAL (continued)	For Expansion Era roads, distance restrictions for surface disturbing activities and visual intrusions would be determined on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Surface disturbing activities would be prohibited within 1/4 mile of any Expansion Era Road segment determined to possess qualities making that portion of the road eligible for inclusion within the NRHP.
	Special requirements (e.g., use authorization stipulations, mitigation measures, conditions of approval, etc.) to alleviate cultural resource impacts would be identified on a case-by-case basis and included in use authorizations, leases, and permits.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be prohibited on a 320-acre cultural site.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	NRHP-eligible sites and a 100-foot buffer would be avoidance areas.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	NRHP-eligible sites and a 300-foot buffer would be avoidance areas.

TABLE 2-1 (continued)

GENERAL JMHCAP AREA				
RESOURCE OR LAND USE PROGRAM	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B
CULTURAL, PALEONTOLOGICAL (continued)	Native American respected places would be avoidance areas for surface disturbing and disruptive activities. Traditional elders would be consulted regarding the importance of specific features identified, and for their recommendations of appropriate avoidance distances. Avoidance distances may range from 100 feet to 2½ miles depending on the importance of the features involved and their topographic setting. Viewshed (vista) and noise analysis may be conducted to help determine appropriate avoidance distances.	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be excluded within 100 feet of Native American respected places.	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be excluded within ¼ mile of Native American respected places.	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be excluded within 1 mile of Native American respected places.
	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be excluded within a ½-mile viewshed (vista) of the White Mountain Petroglyphs.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	For all other rock art sites, activities would be excluded within a ½-mile viewshed. A vista and noise analysis would be done for each site.	All other rock art sites would be addressed on a case-by-case basis. A vista and noise analysis would be done for each site.	All other rock art sites would be avoided by 100 feet. A vista and noise analysis would not be done for each site.	All other rock art sites would be avoided by ½ mile. A vista and noise analysis would not be done for each site.
	The paleosol deposition area would be reviewed for consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

