



**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

# McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

## Visual Resource Inventory

Bureau of Land Management, Colorado | 2020









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Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Colorado State Office

# Visual Resource Inventory

McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area  
2020

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Disclaimer: Portions of this report could not be made fully Section 508 compliant. For help with any of the report's content, please contact the Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office at 970-244-3000. Please reference the 2020 McInnis Canyons Visual Resource Inventory.



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Abbreviations

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CPW	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
DZ	Distance Zone
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
GIS	Geographic information system
GJFO	Grand Junction Field Office
GPS	Global Positioning System
I-70	Interstate Highway 70
IOP	Inventory Observation Point
KOP	Key Observation Point
POP	Photo Opportunity Point
MCNCA	McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area
NCA	National Conservation Area
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System
NOC	National Operations Center
NPS	National Park Service
OST	Old Spanish National Historic Trail
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMIS	Recreation Management Information System
SLRU	Sensitivity Level Rating Unit
SOW	Statement of Work
SQFI	Scenic Quality Field Inventory
SQRU	Scenic Quality Rating Unit
UFO	Uncompahgre Field Office
USC	United States Code
USFS	United States Forest Service
VCR	Visual Contrast Rating
VRI	Visual Resource Inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area





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## Acknowledgements

The following individuals contributed towards data collection, analysis, and report preparation for the McInnis Canyons NCA Visual Resource Inventory.

### Bureau of Land Management

- Dan Ben-Horin – BLM Project Lead, National Conservation Lands Specialist
- Marlin Deras—Natural Resource Specialist
- Breana Esparza—Archeological Technician
- Collin Ewing—MCNCA Manager
- Madeline (Nikki) Grant-Hoffman—Ecologist
- Daniel Gourley—Park Ranger
- Matt Heinritz—Archeologist
- Marlinda Jacks—GIS Specialist
- Ashton Johnston—Realty Specialist
- Erin Kowalski—Rangeland Management Specialist
- Robin Lewis—Outdoor Recreation Planner
- Dennis Lytle—Park Ranger
- Aaron Selig—River Ranger
- Paul Sever—Outdoor Recreation Planner
- Iris Salamanca—Park Ranger
- Anjelica Spencer—Natural Resource Specialist
- Joy von Guerard—Range Technician
- Brittany Williams—Administrative Assistant
- Andy Windsor—Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

### Special Thanks

- Bob Wick—BLM California, for contributing additional photographs

### Other Government Agencies

- Mike Bennett—Fruita City Manager
- Peter Firmin—Park Manager, James M. Robb State Park
- Heather O’Brien—Colorado School District 51

### Espinoza Consulting Services

- Garry Baker—Project Lead, Land Planning Analyst
- Ryan Walker—Project Manager, GIS Manager





# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION





1.1 Inventory Area Overview

The Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) area is in McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (MCNCA)<sup>1</sup>, located at the north end of the Uncompahgre Plateau in western Colorado. Originally named Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area, the NCA was established in 2000 by the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act (Public Law 106-353). The NCA was renamed in honor of U.S. Congress Representative Scott McInnis by Public Law 108-400 on January 1, 2005.

The inventory area is in the BLM Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO), in Mesa County, State of Colorado. The GJFO encompasses 1,278,010 acres, or 1,997 square miles. The inventory area is approximately 118,985 acres in size, or 185.9 square miles, slightly less than 10% of the GJFO. Public lands nearly surround the MCNCA, including Colorado National Monument (NPS), Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area (CPW), James M. Robb State Park, Loma Boat Launch (CPW) and BLM lands.

The inventory area includes 118,985 surface acres and zero federal mineral split-estate acres. The inventory area includes 70,173 acres of Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. The inventory area includes 25 acres owned by the FAA, the Colorado River to the 100-year high water mark, the Interstate 70 (I-70) right of way, and 812 acres of private lands. Although these lands are not part of MCNCA, they are included as part of the inventory. This inclusion provides a more complete inventory and ready information should the status of these lands change. The inventory area does not include the portion of MCNCA within the state of Utah.

Interstate 70 is a major transportation corridor through the Grand Valley and crosses the northwest portion of the inventory area. I-70 is a primary means of access to many MCNCA destinations, such as Rabbit Valley, the Kokopelli Trail System, and the Colorado River. Local roads provide access to southern portions of the NCA, including Rattlesnake Canyon Trailhead. Rattlesnake Canyon contains the second-largest concentration of natural arches in the world outside of Arches National Park in Utah. The fourteen miles of I-70 crossing the NCA is a segment of the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway, designated in recognition of the many paleontological resources in the region.

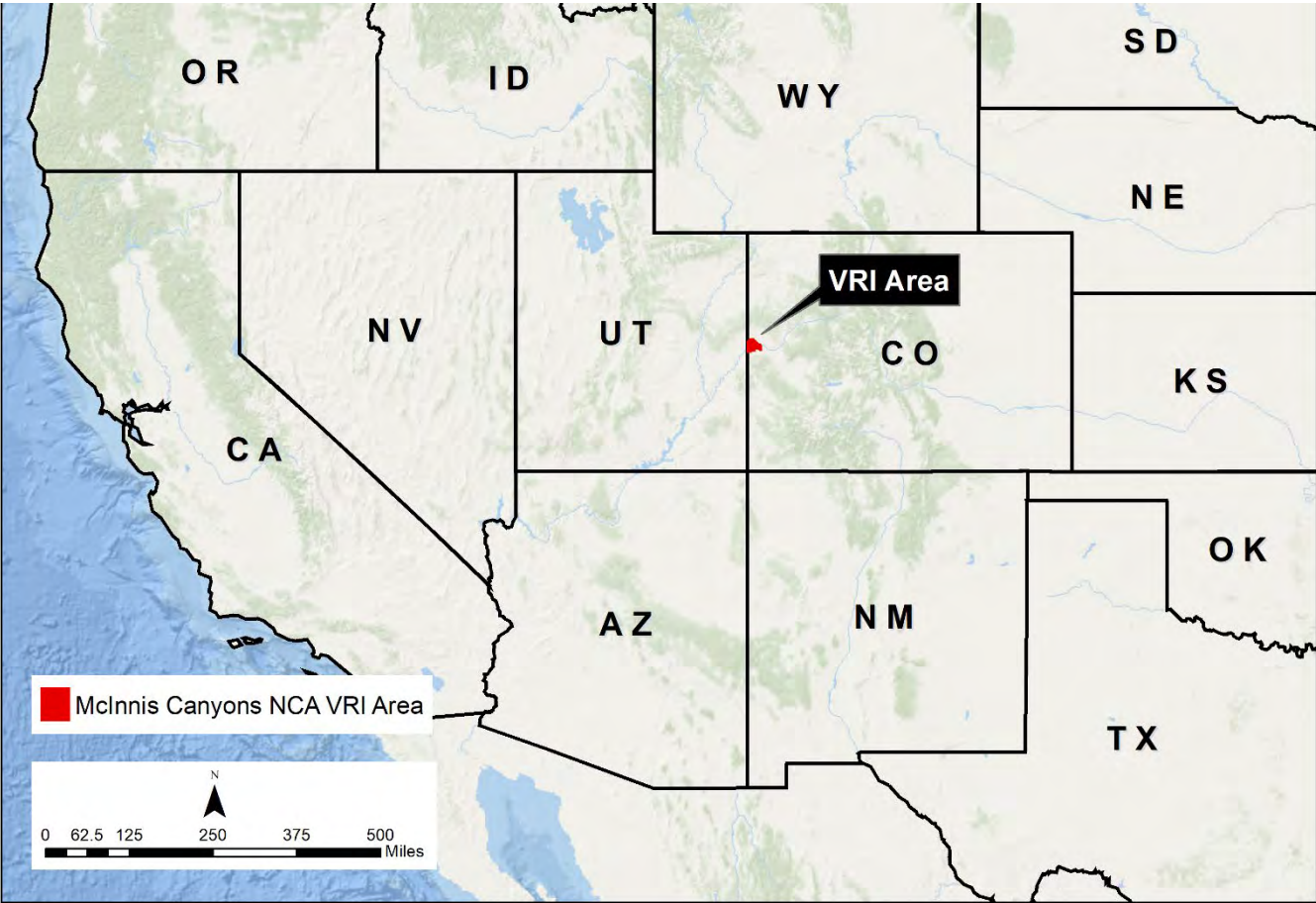
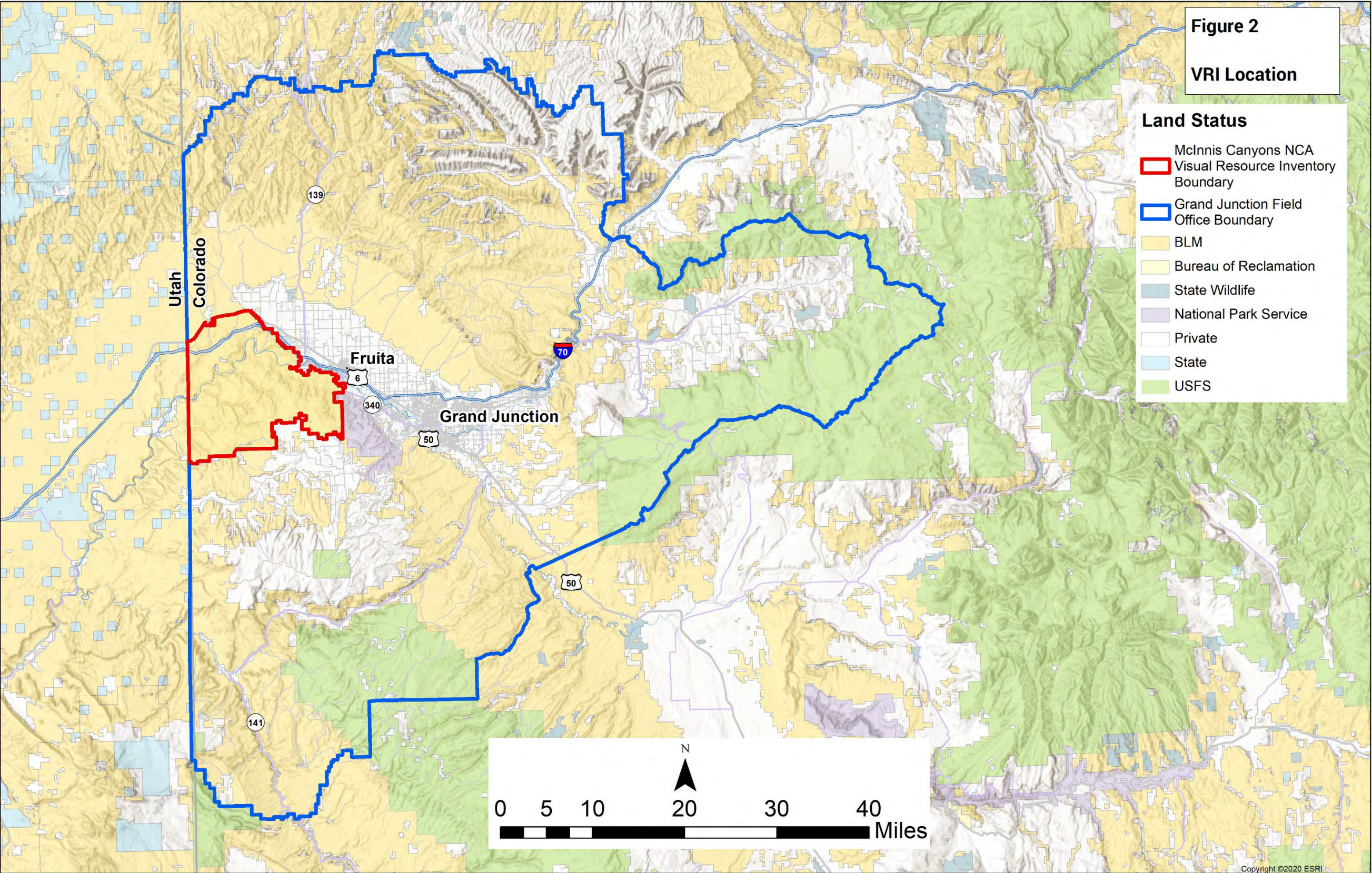


Figure 1 McInnis Canyons VRI Location Map

INVENTORY AREA	
Land Ownership/ Management	Acres
BLM-Managed Land	118,985
Private Land	812
Federal Aviation Administration	25

<sup>1</sup> “McInnis Canyons NCA”, “MCNCA,” “NCA,” “VRI area,” and “inventory area” are used synonymously.







1.2 Physical Setting & Characteristics

The inventory area is near the northern edge of the Canyon Lands section of the Colorado Plateau physiographic province. The Colorado Plateau is centered generally on the Four Corners region, covering large portions of western Colorado, eastern and southern Utah, northern and eastern Arizona, and northwestern New Mexico (Figure 3).

The Colorado Plateau is a tableland roughly 130,000 square miles in size. The province is subdivided into six sections based on elevation and magnitude of dissection. The Canyon Lands section includes southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah; it is dissected by numerous deep sandstone canyons, with elevations that range from approximately 4,000 feet, to 13,000 feet in the La Sal Mountains. The Uinta Basin is a deeply incised plateau south of the Uinta Mountains in northeastern Utah that extends into northwestern Colorado. The Book Cliffs, marking the southern edge of the Uinta Basin, are visible from the inventory area. The Navajo section of the Colorado Plateau covers northeastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico, with fewer and shallower canyons. The highest section in terms of average elevation is the High Plateaus of Utah, including escarpments and terraces over 11,000 feet. The Grand Canyon section consists of plateaus ranging from 7,000 to 9,000 feet, and includes the Grand Canyon, plunging down to 2,000 feet in elevation. The southernmost section is the Datil section, located in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. It includes mesas, valleys, and volcanic features such as lava flows.

The Colorado Plateau is drained by the Colorado River, which cuts through the northern portion of the inventory area. The many spectacular canyons, high plateaus, mountains, and gorges inspired the establishment of numerous national parks and monuments. These include world-renowned national parks like Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Arches,

and Capitol Reef. Other special areas include Glen Canyon, Canyon de Chelly, and Monument Valley.

The horizontal nature of the Colorado Plateau’s geological layers distinguishes it from other provinces. Differential erosion of flat-lying sedimentary rocks creates a stair-step effect. This effect is often seen within McInnis Canyons NCA, where high, vertical Wingate Sandstone canyon walls stair step up to Entrada and Dakota Sandstone caps.

The inventory area elevation ranges from 4,323 feet for the Colorado River at the Utah State line, to 7,132 feet at Black Ridge. The NCA’s signature feature is its steep-walled canyons comprised of Entrada, Dakota, Wingate, and other rock layers. Overall, the Entrada layer is visually dominant on canyon walls and mesa sides.

A number of watersheds are within the inventory area, including the Colorado River, Little Dolores River, Salt Creek, McDonald Creek, and seven main canyons on the south side of the Colorado River.

The many colors found within MCNCA contribute to its visual appeal. The soil’s multiple hues are found in its red sandstone cliffs, beige to terra cotta mesa sides, as well as the multicolored Morrison Formation slopes. These colors complement the emerald greens found in riparian areas, and the olive green of the Colorado River itself. Morning, evening, fall, and winter seasons feature particularly dramatic light patterns accenting colors of the landscape.

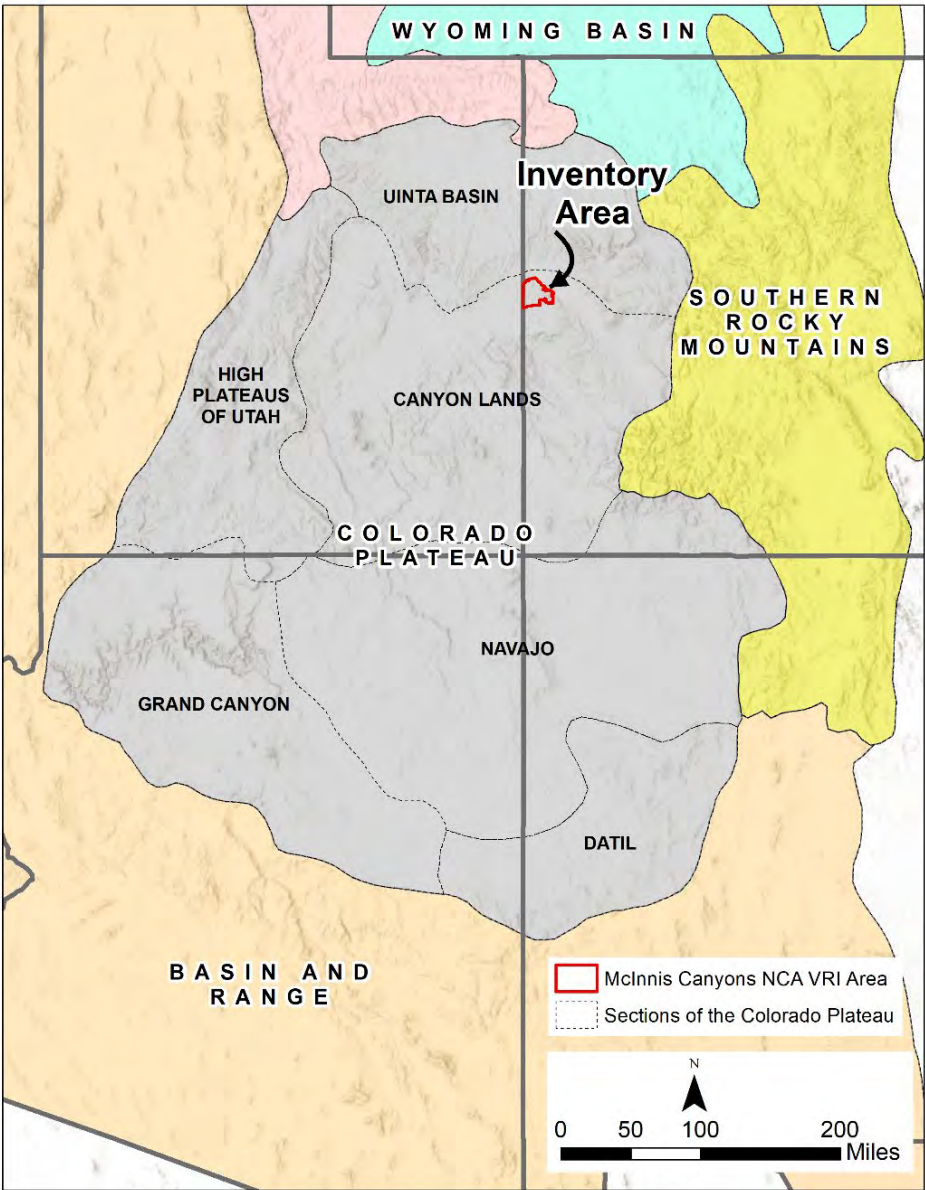


Figure 3 Physiographic Province





Natural arches, spires, and alcoves are common in McInnis Canyons NCA. The Colorado River bisects the northern portion of the NCA, coursing through Ruby and Horsethief Canyons. The inventory area is layered with geologic history. It starts over 1.5 billion years ago with the Precambrian rock layer; this is part of the Black Canyon group, known to be some of the oldest rock on earth. On top of the Precambrian rock sits different layers of sandstone, including the Chinle, Wingate, Kayenta, and Entrada formations. These different types of sandstone were deposited on top of one another over millions of years. Water and wind helped form the canyons, arches, towers, alcoves and other geologic features found within the NCA. The NCA is also known for its rich paleontological history, including the discovery of rare, never-before found dinosaurs.<sup>2</sup>

The NCA has a high desert climate, characterized by hot summers and mild winters, with many sunny days. Airborne dust, wildfire smoke, and winter inversions occasionally impede visibility. Dominant vegetative types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, steppe, grasslands, with riparian vegetation along the Colorado River and in the canyons.

1.3 Human Settlement & History

Human history in western Colorado dates back at least 11,000 years. Many groups of people migrated through and settled in what is now the Western Slope of Colorado. The first people, known today as Paleoindians, were skilled hunters who came to the Americas near the end of the Pleistocene period following

large game such as mammoths. With the retreat of the glaciers and disappearance of the megafauna, a new culture, today identified as the Archaic, arose where the people adjusted to the changing environment.

A cultural revolution occurred with the coming of agriculture as Native peoples started cultivating corn as well as beans and squash. By 500 AD, small-scale farming had become a fixture in western Colorado, which allowed Formative Era cultures to grow and develop. A variety of factors including changing environmental conditions forced the people to eventually migrate and their cultures to change. What arose was the hunting and gathering culture of the Ute, who called themselves the Nuche. By 1500 AD, the arrival of the horse dramatically altered the Ute way-of-life allowing them to travel further and faster.

The Ute were soon confronted with the coming of European peoples including explorers, traders, trappers, and miners. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail, roughly paralleling I-70 through the NCA, was a trading route prior to Colorado statehood. With the expulsion and relocation of the Ute in 1882, settlers came into western Colorado to ranch, farm, mine, homestead, and build communities. These settlers founded towns and cities near McInnis Canyons NCA, including Grand Junction, Fruita, Loma, Mack, and Glade Park.<sup>3</sup>

The inventory area is in Mesa County, the largest population center in Western Colorado, with an estimated population of 154,210. Cities near the NCA range in population from 63,597 in

<sup>2</sup> [www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org](http://www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org)

<sup>3</sup> [www.westerncoloradoheritage.org](http://www.westerncoloradoheritage.org)



Grand Junction to 13,478 in Fruita.<sup>4</sup> Historic economic and population drivers in the Grand Valley included farming, fruit growing, and raising cattle. While these sectors remain important to the local economy, health care, tourism, agriculture, regional services, livestock, and energy mining (gas and oil) are the basis of the modern local economy and influence population growth. The natural beauty and recreational amenities of public lands surrounding the Grand Valley have increasingly contributed to growth in the region.<sup>5</sup>

Although agriculture was practiced by ancestral peoples and early European settlers within McInnis Canyons NCA, it is currently largely absent. Grazing is still active in the NCA. Earthen dams to capture seasonal water for stock use are scattered throughout the NCA. Several communication facilities have been developed on natural high points. Transportation routes, including I-70, the railroad corridor near the Colorado River, dirt roads, OHV trails, and singletrack trails are common north of the Colorado River. Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness contains a less dense network of trails and old abandoned routes undergoing rehabilitation.

1.4 Recreation & Tourism

The inventory area features 15 trailheads, numerous multi-use trails, and popular recreation areas. The Kokopelli/Mack Ridge Trail system attracts mountain bikers from around the country, as well as hikers, trail runners, and equestrians. The Kokopelli Trail is a designated backcountry trail within the NCA and connects backcountry travelers to Moab, Utah. Hikers and equestrians frequent trails such as Devils Canyon and Pollock Bench. Rabbit Valley sees motorized recreation, camping and hiking use. The Rabbit Valley and Fruita Paleontological areas bring visitors interested in the prehistoric animal life of the area. The 24 miles of the Colorado River coursing through the NCA attracts float boaters and fishing enthusiasts. The southern areas of the NCA receive lighter recreational use, although the Rattlesnake Arches hiking trail is quite popular. The Jones, Mee, and Knowles Canyon networks offer a remote backcountry experience. The NCA is home to trophy mule deer, elk, black bear and desert bighorn sheep, drawing hunters from around the globe.



A BLM archeologist interpreting the Ghost Bear pictograph, located in McDonald Wash.

<sup>4</sup> [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

<sup>5</sup> [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)



## CHAPTER 2

# VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM





2.1 VRM System Overview

The BLM has a responsibility to manage the quality of the public lands’ visual environment and to reduce the visual impact of development activities through Visual Resource Management (VRM). The BLM’s responsibilities for scenic values of the public lands and the management of the visual environment are established in the following Federal legislation:

- **The Federal Land Policy and Management Act** of 1976 requires the BLM to manage scenic values with consideration equal to that given to other resources. This law also requires the BLM to prepare an inventory of the public land visual values and to maintain that inventory on a continuing basis.
- **The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** of 1969 establishes that it is the Federal government’s responsibility to “assure for all Americans safe, healthy, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings” and to include consideration of visual resources in environmental assessments, land use planning decisions, and the implementation of resource projects.

BLM accomplishes its statutory responsibilities through the Visual Resource Management (VRM) system. The VRM system involves the following three components:

- **Inventorying scenic values** to create a baseline understanding of the existing condition,
- **Establishing management objectives** for allowable levels of modification to the visual environment through the land use planning process, and

- **Evaluating proposed activities** to determine whether they conform to the management objectives using the contrast rating system. BLM policy and guidance for the VRM system is largely found in the 8400 series of BLM manuals and handbooks.<sup>1</sup> The VRM system’s three components are described in sections 2.2 through 2.4.

2.2 Visual Resource Inventory—Baseline Condition

Visual Resource Inventories (VRIs) provide nationally consistent data sets that describe the existing condition and status of public land scenic values. The inventory approach is described in BLM Manual H-8410-1.<sup>2</sup> All BLM-administered lands, both surface and split-estate, and landscapes surrounded by BLM lands are inventoried. Exceptions to this include Federal lands managed by other Federal agencies that are outside the BLM’s decision area (e.g., national park lands) and/or lands where Federal or State agencies have a scenery management system in place (e.g., U.S. Forest Service). Split-estate lands are those owned by States, counties, or private individuals but underlain with federally managed subsurface mineral estate. Though non-BLM lands are included in the inventory, BLM does not establish visual management objectives for those lands. The VRI identifies and documents the following inventory factors:

- **Scenic Quality**—a measure of a landscape’s relative intrinsic natural beauty (e.g., Class A, B, or C quality scenery, with Class A quality scenery having the greatest scenic value).

- **Sensitivity Levels**—measure of public concern for the maintenance of scenic quality (e.g., high, moderate, or low)
- **Distance Zones**—subdivisions of the landscape as viewed from an observer’s position (e.g., near foreground (NF), foreground-middleground (FM), background (BG), and seldom seen (SS)). All BLM-administered lands are assigned one of four visual inventory classes (Class I, II, III, or IV)
- **VRI Class I** areas are established via policy direction instead of through the inventory process. BLM policy directs that VRI Class I be assigned to areas where a federally binding management decision has been made to preserve or maintain a natural landscape. This includes areas such as wilderness areas and WSAs. Nonetheless, VRI Class I areas still need to be inventoried to identify their scenic values and to identify the potential classification absent of the automatic VRI Class I assignment afforded to them by policy. This allows for a thorough understanding of an area’s scenic values and aids in analysis should an area’s management change and, subsequently, VRI and VRM classes need to be established (e.g., a WSA or portion thereof is released by Congress for consideration as Wilderness).
- **VRI Classes II–IV** are derived through the inventory process using the three inventory factors. Every acre of BLM-managed land is inventoried. VRI Classes II–IV represent the relative value of the visual resource, with Class II areas having the highest scenic value and Class IV having the lowest scenic value. The BLM inventories visual resources to provide information about existing scenic values to fulfill the NEPA directive to analyze the

<sup>1</sup> BLM Manuals are listed in Appendix E.

<sup>2</sup> BLM 1986a.



effects of proposed Federal actions on the human environment. The inventory classes synthesize the three inventory factors to ease the consideration of visual resource values during a land use planning process. In effect, the VRI is used to provide a basis for future management of the visual resources, establish balanced management of visual resources across a planning area, and analyze impacts of proposed projects or activities that could affect visual resources.

2.3 Visual Resource Management in Land Use Planning

BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1<sup>3</sup> states that Visual Resource Management classes are to be designated for all BLM lands based on the inventory of visual resources and management considerations for other land uses. Management classes may differ from VRI classes based on management priorities for land uses. They establish objectives for the allowable levels of modification to the characteristic landscape under implementation of a resource management plan (RMP). This level of modification is filtered through the lens of noticeability to the “casual observer” and ranges from changes that do not attract attention to those that are the major focus of viewer attention. The following are VRM class descriptions from BLM Policy Manual H-8410-1:<sup>4</sup>

- **VRM Class I**—The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of

change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

- **VRM Class II**—The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- **VRM Class III**—The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- **VRM Class IV**—The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. Management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repetition of the basic elements.

Assignments of VRM classes during the land use planning process are subject to NEPA analysis and public comment. The



VRI serves as the principal consideration when making decisions that may protect or affect the landscape character. The inventory factor values are considered in combination (i.e., the VRI class) and independently (i.e., individual factors of scenic quality, sensitivity, and distance zones) when evaluating land use plan alternatives and making RMP decisions. Visual values coexist with and influence other resource values and uses that could be managed in ways that may or may not coincide with the protection of visual values. Decisions on VRM class objectives should result from a coordinated and detailed examination of a range of alternatives that maximize the protection of visual values while also considering other resource needs and land use priorities. Once a Record of Decision is

<sup>3</sup> BLM 2005.

<sup>4</sup> BLM 1986a.



signed for an RMP, the VRM class decisions are fixed and as binding as all other RMP decisions.

**VRM class objectives are not the same as VRI classes.** VRI classes document value, while VRM class objectives direct management. VRM class objectives may or may not direct management levels that are commensurate with the VRI value. For example, it may be decided that an area inventoried as VRI Class II be managed as VRM Class III due to other desired resource uses, or that an area inventoried as VRI Class IV be managed as VRM Class III due to public preferences and other resource concerns. An update to the VRI does not affect established VRM classes in an active RMP; an RMP amendment would be needed to modify the VRM classes due to an updated VRI.

2.4 Visual Resource Contrast Rating and Visual Resource Plan Conformance

The Visual Contrast Rating (VCR) system is a systematic process used by BLM to analyze potential visual impacts of proposed projects and activities to determine whether they meet VRM objectives. The system is described in BLM Manual H-8431<sup>5</sup> and takes into account the other two components of the VRM system, the VRI and RMP VRM class determinations. The VCR system does the following:

- **Analyzes and documents** the degree of contrast that would result from a proposed project or activity to minimize adverse visual impacts,
- **Contributes** necessary data to assess conformance with the VRM objectives established in the RMP,
- **Analyzes effects** on VRI factors, and

- **Promotes** the reduction of visual impacts, even in those cases where VRM classes are met. The VCR system documents how a proposed project or activity would alter features of a landscape (i.e., landform, water, vegetation, or built structures) in terms of their landscape character elements (i.e., form, line, color, and texture). The greater the change causing these elements to be more distinct, noticeable, and unlike the characteristic landscape, the greater the visual contrast. The VCR system documents the following degrees of contrast and determines RMP conformance:
  - **None:** contrast could not be visible or perceived; meets VRM Class I objectives
  - **Weak:** contrast could be seen but would not attract attention; meets VRM Class II objectives
  - **Moderate:** contrast could be seen but would not dominate the view; meets VRM Class III objectives
  - **Strong:** contrast could dominate the view; meets VRM Class IV objectives

Visual contrast is evaluated and rated from key observation points (KOPs), critical viewpoints where the public would commonly see the proposed project or activity. Contrast ratings are determined by considering the following human and environment factors, as noted in BLM Policy Manual H-8431:

- Distance
- Angle of observation
- Length of time in view
- Relative size or scale
- Season of use
- Light conditions
- Recovery time
- Spatial relationships
- Atmospheric conditions

- Motion

The results of the VCR system are used to determine conformance to VRM class objectives. However, these results can also highlight tangible opportunities to reduce visual contrast by isolating the physical condition that is causing visual attention to be drawn to a proposed project or activity. The VCR system is therefore a powerful tool to identify design solutions that may turn a nonconforming proposed action into a conforming one. By identifying elements of a proposed project or activity that could be improved to reduce contrast, it supports the implementation of best management practices for built environments on public lands.

<sup>5</sup> BLM 1986b.



# CHAPTER 3

## MCINNIS CANYONS NCA VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY





### 3.1 Overview

The McInnis Canyons NCA inventory of visual resources was prepared based on the following three components:

- **Scenic quality evaluation** to rate the visual appeal of the inventory area based on vegetation, landform, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications. Scenic quality is rated as Class A, B, or C.
- **Sensitivity level analysis** to assess public concern of the inventory area’s scenic quality. Evaluation is based on types of users, amount of use, public interest, adjacent land uses, and presence of special areas. Sensitivity level is rated as high, moderate, or low.
- **Delineation of distance zones** to indicate the relative visibility of the inventory area’s landscape from primary travel routes or observation points to the foreground-middleground, background, or seldom-seen zones.

The above three inventory factors are used to derive Visual Resource Inventory Classes. Visual Resource Inventory Classes may be assigned from Class II-IV.

### 3.2 Data Standard

This inventory follows the BLM’s National VRI Data Standard and associated VRI Implementation Guide (geodatabase) updated as of August 18, 2010. This ensures that the VRI data is consistent and shareable across the agency, and readily available for land use and project planning efforts. The sequence of inventory tasks and fieldwork record is outlined in Appendix D.1.

### 3.3 Inventory Process Overview

The MCNCA VRI process began in July 2020 with an online meeting including the VRI contractor and BLM Staff. At this meeting, task timelines and meeting protocols were established. Meeting minutes are in Appendix D.2. In July and August BLM staff and the contractor established the Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRUs), Inventory Observation Points (IOPs), Viewing Platforms for Distance Zones (DZs), and Viewshed Analysis methodology. Information to populate the various categories of data was collected from BLM staff, land use plans, and websites. Other sources include local government land use plans, social media sites, newspaper articles, user group websites, and local agency GIS data.

Distance Zones were established using viewshed analysis, buffers from Viewing Platforms, and other GIS processing tools.

Field observations for scenic quality evaluation were conducted in September and October 2020. SQRUs, IOPs, and POP locations were accessed by foot, vehicle, UTV (utility terrain vehicle), mountain bike, and boat. Overall, fifteen BLM personnel participated in the field visits, providing landscape descriptions and scoring to help populate BLM Forms 8400-1 and 8400-5.

The Sensitivity Factors land manager survey was made available online in September 2020 to allow local land managers to provide input on public sensitivity to changes in the landscape. This survey and the sensitivity accounts listed in Appendix A.3 were used to inform the delineation of Sensitivity Level Rating Units (SLRUs). SLRUs were then scored by BLM staff using BLM Form 8400-6 in November 2020. These data were entered into the VRI Geodatabase. Drafts of the SQRU scoring pages, IOP photos, and SLRU units were submitted to the BLM in November 2020. The survey questions and results are in Appendix A.1. The MCNCA VRI Geodatabase, VRI Report

and associated information were submitted to BLM in January 2021.





## CHAPTER 4

### INVENTORY FACTOR 1: SCENIC QUALITY





4.1 Scenic Quality Rating Overview

Scenic quality is a measure of the visual appeal of a tract of land. During the VRI process, lands with similar landscape character are delineated into scenic quality rating units (SQRUs) and given a Class A, B, or C rating based on the apparent scenic quality determined by evaluating seven key factors:

- 1. Landform
- 2. Vegetation
- 3. Water
- 4. Color
- 5. Adjacent scenery
- 6. Scarcity
- 7. Cultural modifications

During the rating process, each of these factors are ranked in comparison with similar features within the same physiographic province. Field visits and photo-documentation are critical tasks in understanding, evaluating, and documenting a unit’s scenic quality. Photographs are taken from several representative locations and used to document representative features of the SQRU.

4.2 Delineation of Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRUs)

In June 2020, BLM staff provided ECS with GIS data of McInnis Canyons NCA. ECS used these and publicly sourced data to produce preliminary draft maps of SQRUs. The preliminary SQRU delineation divided the inventory area into 13 separate SQRUs with generally similar visual characteristics, e.g. landform, watersheds, vegetation, and cultural modifications. Sources consulted in this process included the BLM McInnis Canyons NCA web pages, Colorado Canyons NCA Resource

Management Plan, mapping apps (Hiking Project, Mountain Bike Project, Trail Forks), and other sources. GIS data including watersheds, digital elevation models, topographic maps, aerial photos were also utilized. Each SQRU was given a name reflecting characteristic landscape features within the unit, e.g., “Combined Canyons” and “Mack Ridge.”

On July 2, 2020, ECS facilitated an online virtual workshop. The workshop was attended by approximately 5 BLM GJFO staff, one staff member from the BLM National Operations Center, and two contractor staff. During the workshop, ECS staff reviewed the BLM’s scenic quality evaluation process, as described in Manual H-8410-1. BLM staff made suggestions on refinements to the preliminary SQRUs. The SQRUs were refined based on a variety of visual factors, including physiographic features, cultural modifications, presence of water, and similar visual patterns, textures and variety. In particular, the BLM suggested combining several individual canyon SQRUs into one unit (Combined Canyons SQRU). BLM staff approved the preliminary SQRU boundaries in August. Further refinement of SQRU boundaries was undertaken after the September and October 2020 field visits.

4.3 Inventory Observation Points /Photo Opportunity Points

- **Inventory Observation Points (IOPs)** are locations where the landscape can be viewed to conduct the scenic quality rating assessment of a given SQRU. IOPs are intended to capture a unit’s representative landscape character, not necessarily from where the unit is most viewed by the public. Documentary photographs are taken at each IOP and included in the Inventory record and the Photo Log.

- **Photograph Observation Points (POPs)** are places where photographs may highlight additional and/or unique elements that add to or detract from a unit’s scenic quality. POPs are included in the Photo Log.

IOPs were initially identified along public-use routes and panoramic viewpoints. IOPs were subsequently refined to include observation points that allow a more complete view of dominant landscape features within each SQRU. The number of IOPs in each SQRU varies, from one IOP in the Long Mesa unit to seven IOPs in the Colorado River Corridor SQRU. IOP locations range from motor vehicle-accessible places near I-70, to backcountry spots only accessible via a lengthy hike. The IOPs for some units were identified outside the SQRU boundaries to provide a better view into the unit. In particular, vantage points on high points north of the Colorado River offer panoramic views of both the river corridor and the hard-to-reach areas in the Combined Canyons SQRU south of the river.

The completed 8400-1 scenic quality field inventory forms included later in this chapter have maps showing the IOPs associated with each SQRU, as well as panoramic IOP photographs. Additional data required for BLM’s VRI geodatabase were recorded for each IOP.

POP subjects included various more detailed landscapes, recreational users, cottonwood galleries, alcoves, arches, and historic structures. A photo log is provided in Appendix C.

4.4 Evaluation of Scenic Quality Rating Units

Evaluation of SQRUs is documented on BLM Scenic Quality Field Inventory Form 8400-1 (Figure 4.1 below, and Illustration 2 in BLM Manual H-8410-1). The first step in evaluating each SQRU is using this form to describe its landform and water,



CHAPTER 4 INVENTORY FACTOR 1: SCENIC QUALITY

vegetation, and structure in terms of their landscape character elements (i.e., form, line, color, and texture), as described below.

- **Form**—The mass or shape of an object, or of objects that appear unified.
- **Line**—The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture, or when objects are aligned in a one-dimensional sequence. Usually evident as the edge of shapes or masses in the landscape.
- **Color**—The property of reflecting light of a particular intensity and wavelength (or mixture of wavelengths) to which the eye is sensitive. It is the major visual property of surfaces.
- **Texture**—The aggregation of small forms or color mixtures into a continuous surface pattern; the aggregated parts are enough that they do not appear as discrete objects in the composition of a scene.

The second step is to provide general comments regarding the character, land use, or other aspects of each SQRU in the narrative section the form. The final step is scoring the seven key scenic quality evaluation factors based on the scales described in the Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart (Figure 4.2 and Illustration 2 in BLM H-8410-1). The evaluator must also provide an explanation or rationale for each factor’s score. Each of the evaluation factors are scored in comparison with similar features within the same physiographic province. For example, landscape evaluations within the Canyons Section of the Colorado Plateau may regard the Grand Canyon as an extreme example of vertical relief.

The evaluation factors are scored on a scale of 1 to 5 except for the cultural modifications factor, which is scored on a scale of -4 to 2, and the scarcity factor, which is scored on a scale of 1 to 5+. See Figure 4.2 for details on how the key factors are rated. For this inventory, scores in increments of 0.5 were recorded.

The scores for each factor were then totaled, and a scenic quality rating of Class A, B, or C was determined using the numeric scale on Form 8400-1.

Form 8400-1  
(March 2018)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

State Office:  
District Office:  
Field Office:  
Land Use Planning Area:  
SQRU Name:

Date:  
SQRU ID:  
  
IOP ID:

1. EVALUATORS (List names of persons inventorying this SQRU)

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Succinctly describe the major features and elements in the landscape. Refer to 8431-1 illustrations 3, 4, 5, and 6 for guidelines on descriptive terminology for form, line, color and texture and illustrations 7 and 8 for additional terms to describe landscape features and spatial orientation.)

		FEATURES		
		LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
ELEMENTS	FORM			
	LINE			
	COLOR			
	TEXTURE			

3. NARRATIVE  
(Briefly describe the general landscape character. Describe how the feature elements from section 2 combine to create an overall landscape character in this SQRU. Evaluate how the general character of the landscape relates to the immediate surroundings and to similar landscape features within the physiographic provinces. Refer to H8410-1 illustration 5 for a map of physiographic provinces)

4. SCORE Rate the scenic quality using the criteria and guidelines in the BLM Handbook 8410-1 Section II. Scores can be assigned at 0.5 increments. If final rating falls between the threshold of SQ A and B (18.5) or SQ B and C (11.5), thoughtfully reassess the rating and either adjust the rating 0.5 upward or downward placing the unit into the most appropriate scenic quality class.

Key Factors/Explanation (H8410-1 Illustrations 1 and 2)	Scoring Range Low to High	Given Score (Fill in blank)	SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION  (Place an "X" in the correct class)
LANDFORM	1 to 5		
VEGETATION	1 to 5		
WATER	0 to 5		
COLOR	1 to 5		
ADJACENT SCENERY	0 to 5		
SCARCITY	1 to 5		
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	-4 to 2		
KEY FACTOR SCORE TOTAL (Avoid totals of 11.5 or 18.5)			0

(Continued on Page 3)

(Form 8400-1, Page 2)

Figure 4 Form 8400-1, Scenic Quality Field Inventory



LANDFORM	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops; or severe variation or highly eroded formations including major badlands or dune systems; or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers. <div>5</div>	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins; or interesting erosional patterns or variety in size and shape of landforms; or detail features which are interesting though not dominant or exceptional. <div>3</div>	Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms; or few or no interesting landscape features. <div>1</div>
VEGETATION	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns. <div>5</div>	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types. <div>3</div>	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. <div>1</div>
WATER	Clear and clean appearing, still, or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. <div>5</div>	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape. <div>3</div>	Absent, or present, but not noticeable <div>0</div>
COLOR	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields. <div>5</div>	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. <div>3</div>	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally mute tones. <div>1</div>
INFLUENCE OF ADJACENT SCENERY	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality. <div>5</div>	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality. <div>3</div>	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality. <div>0</div>
SCARCITY	One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional or wildflower viewing, etc.** <div>5+</div>	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region. <div>3</div>	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region. <div>1</div>
CULTURAL MODIFICATIONS	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony. <div>2</div>	Modifications add little or no variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements. <div>0</div>	Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony. <div>-4</div>
<b>SCENIC QUALITY: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less</b> <div>**A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification.</div> <div>Source: Adapted from BLM Manual H-8410-1, Illustration 2</div>			

Table 1 Scenic Quality Evaluation Chart





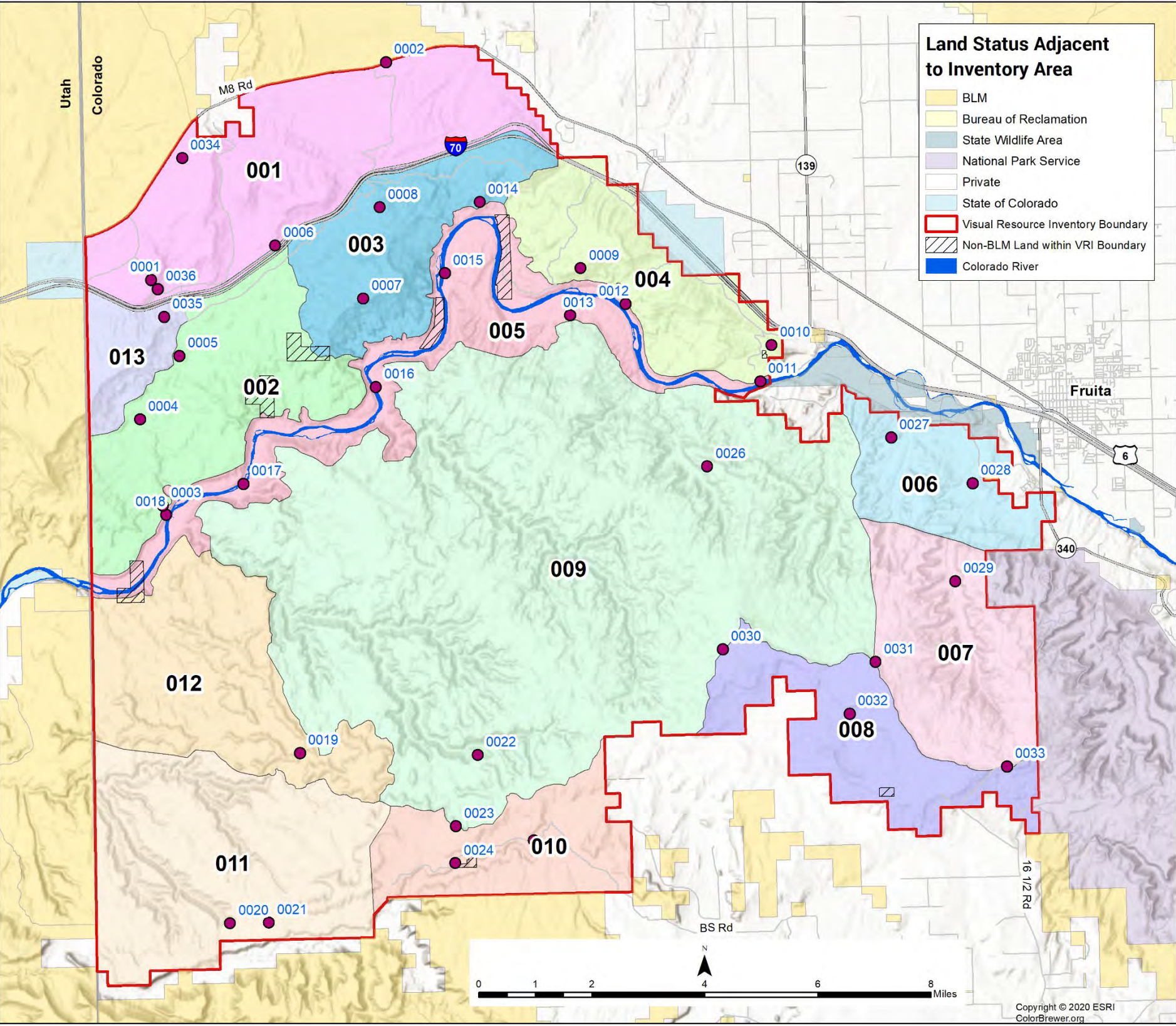


Figure 5  
SQRU and IOP Index Map

Scenic Quality Rating Units

- 001 High North
- 002 Rabbit Valley
- 003 Rabbit's Ear
- 004 Mack Ridge
- 005 Colorado River Corridor
- 006 Devils/Pollock Frontcountry
- 007 Devils Canyon
- 008 Black Ridge
- 009 Combined Canyons
- 010 Sieber Canyon
- 011 Jones Canyon
- 012 Long Mesa
- 013 Harley
- Inventory Observation Points

Observation Point Number	IOP Location Name
0001	Crow Ridge
0002	High North from M8 Rd
0003	Rabbit Valley from Knowles Campground
0004	Rabbit Valley from Castle Rock
0005	Rabbit Valley from Jofas Campground
0006	High North from near I-70
0007	Rabbit's Ear Ruby Canyon Overlook
0008	Rabbit's Ear Landscape
0009	Mack Ridge
0010	Mack Ridge Kokopelli Hogback
0011	CO River Rustlers Overlook
0012	CO River Pizza Point
0013	CO River Horsethief Canyon
0014	Rabbit's Ear from Salt Creek Overlook
0015	CO River Fault Line
0016	CO River Mee
0017	CO River Black Rocks
0018	Colorado River Knowles Overlook
0019	Long Mesa
0020	Jones Canyon
0021	Jones Canyon Upland
0022	Canyons Knowles Canyon
0023	Canyons Knowles Upland
0024	Sieber Canyon Overlook
0025	Sieber Upland
0026	Rattlesnake Canyon
0027	Devils-Pollock Overlook
0028	Devils-Pollock Bridge
0029	Devils Canyon North
0030	Canyons Mee Overlook
0031	Devils Canyon Upland
0032	Black Ridge Flats
0033	Black Ridge Overlook
0034	Crow Ridge Flats
0035	Harley
0036	Harley SQRU from High North SQRU



4.5 Key Factor Analysis

4.5.1 Landform

Landform ratings are higher for areas that have high vertical relief, massive rock outcrops, severe surface variation, or highly eroded formations. Lower scores are accorded features like low rolling hills or flat valley bottoms. McInnis Canyons NCA has a wide spectrum of landforms, ranging from the deep canyons within the Combined Canyons SQRU (#009) to the nearly flat landscape of the High North SQRU (#001).

67% of the VRI Area was rated at 3 or higher. The highest score (4.5/5) was assigned to the Combined Canyons Unit (#009), with its multiple canyon systems. SQRU #009 has a stepped landform with a broken Dakota sandstone cap at its top, an Entrada sandstone step, down to the high vertical Wingate sandstone walls. The unique arch features within the canyons also served to increase overall score. Mack Ridge (#004) and the Colorado River (#005) scored 3 and 3.5, respectively, due to their prominent mesas, canyons, and the Colorado River. The lowest score went to the High North unit (#001), a largely flat, nondescript plain with a few low mesas.

LANDFORM		
Score	Acres	Percentage of Inventory Area
1.5	10,690	9%
2	22,943	19%
2.5	4,786	4%
3	31,622	27%
3.5	7,796	7%
4.5	41,142	35%
Total	118,985	100%



High Score: 4.5

Combined Canyons  
SQRU #009

Low Score: 1.5

High North  
SQRU #001





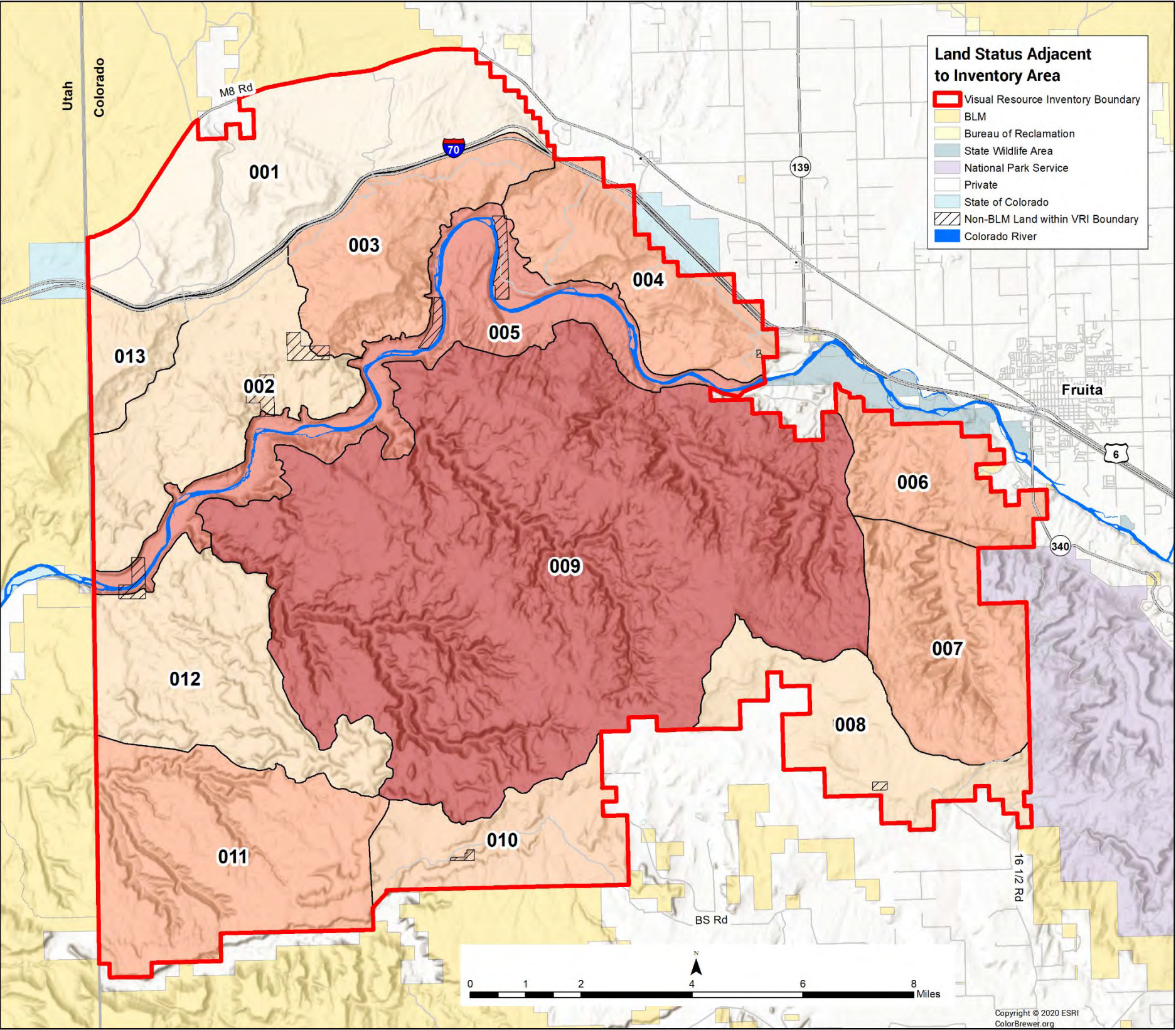
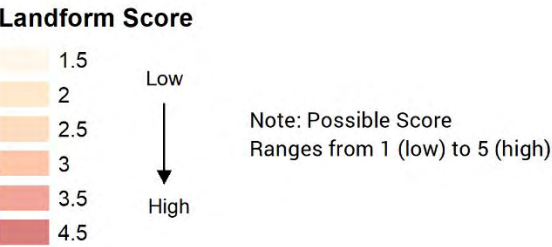


Figure 6  
Scenic Quality Rating -- Landform



SQRU Number	SQRU Name
001	High North
002	Rabbit Valley
003	Rabbit's Ear
004	Mack Ridge
005	Colorado River Corridor
006	Devils/Pollock Frontcountry
007	Devils Canyon
008	Black Ridge
009	Combined Canyons
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Jones Canyon
012	Long Mesa
013	Harley



4.5.2 Vegetation

Vegetation is scored highest for areas with a variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns. Lower scores go to areas with little or no variety or contrast in vegetation.

The vegetation scores within the VRI area ranged from a high of 4.5 in the lush Colorado River Corridor (#005), with a variety of trees, bushes, grasses, and other riparian vegetation. The Combined Canyons unit (#009) scored relatively high (3.5), due to the variety of plants, ranging from the pinyon-juniper uplands to riparian vegetation in the canyon bottoms. Similarly, Sieber Canyon (#010), with a combination of upland and canyon vegetation, scored 3.5, despite significant burn scar areas nearly devoid of plants. The lowest score was 1.5, in the High North (#001) and Mack Ridge (#004) units. The lower ratings reflected just a few dominant vegetation species, and little contrast in color and variety.

VEGETATION		
Score	Acres	Percentage of Inventory Area
1.5	16,197	14%
2	1,848	2%
2.5	16,941	14%
3	23,990	20%
3.5	52,206	44%
4.5	7,796	7%
Total	118,985	100%

High Score: 4.5

Colorado River Corridor  
SQRU #005



Burn scar area in Sieber Canyon SQRU #010

Low Score: 1.5

Mack Ridge SQRU #004





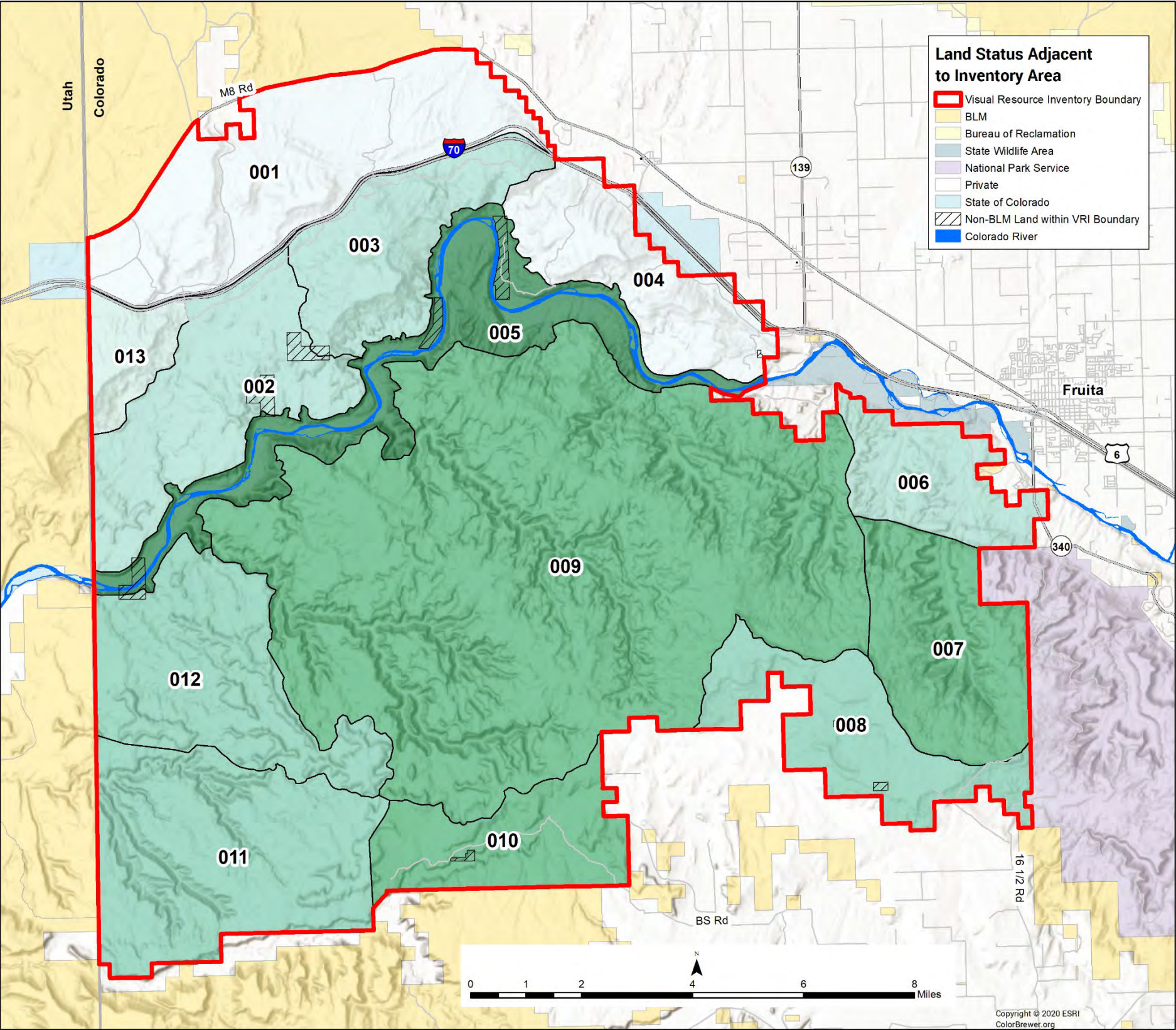
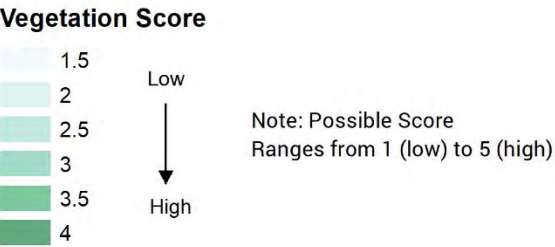


Figure 7  
Scenic Quality Rating -- Vegetation



SQRU Number	SQRU Name
001	High North
002	Rabbit Valley
003	Rabbit's Ear
004	Mack Ridge
005	Colorado River Corridor
006	Devils/Pollock Frontcountry
007	Devils Canyon
008	Black Ridge
009	Combined Canyons
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Jones Canyon
012	Long Mesa
013	Harley



4.5.3 Water

The highest scores are assigned to areas where water is a dominant factor in the landscape. Lower scores are assigned to areas where water is not dominant, and the lowest scores are for areas where water is absent and not noticeable.

The water scores within the VRI area ranged from a high of 5 in the lush Colorado River Corridor (#005), where water is a dominant feature in the landscape, to 0 in multiple SQRUs where water is not present. In these lower-scored units, water is a minor factor in shaping the landscape, generally characterized by a lack of deep canyons.

WATER		
Score	Acres	Percentage of Inventory Area
0	35,441	30%
0.5	15,247	13%
1	13,074	11%
2.5	47,420	40%
5	7,796	7%
Total	118,985	100%

High Score: 5

Colorado River Corridor  
SQRU #005



Low Score: 0

Black Ridge SQRU #008, Devils/Pollock Frontcountry SQRU #006, Long Mesa SQRU #012, Rabbit’s Ear SQRU #003, High North SQRU #001, and Harley SQRU #013



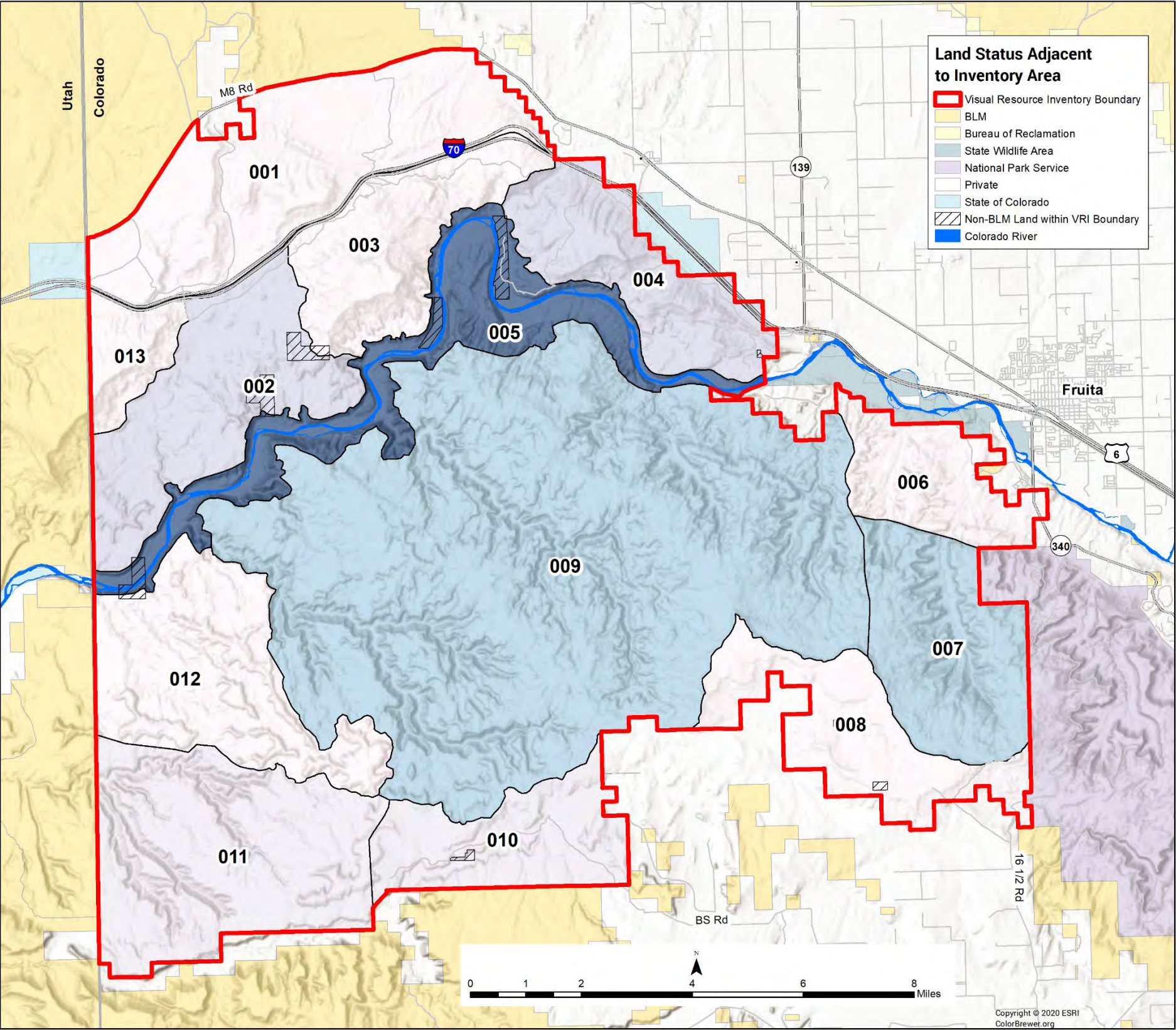


Figure 8  
Scenic Quality Rating -- Water

SQRU Number	SQRU Name
001	High North
002	Rabbit Valley
003	Rabbit's Ear
004	Mack Ridge
005	Colorado River Corridor
006	Devils/Pollock Frontcountry
007	Devils Canyon
008	Black Ridge
009	Combined Canyons
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Jones Canyon
012	Long Mesa
013	Harley



4.5.4 Color

Color is evaluated by the presence (or absence) of rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water, or snow fields. Scoring should consider color as it appears during seasons or periods of high use. Key factors to use when rating color are variety, contrast, and harmony.

The highest color score was 4.5 in the Colorado River Corridor (#005), with vibrant contrasts between the olive-green river, emerald green shades in riparian vegetation, juxtaposed with terra cotta and beige cliffs. Riparian vegetation also has seasonal variety in the fall where leaves turn yellow and red. The High North unit realized higher color scores for seasonal variation for desert wildflower blooms occurring in the spring. Lower scoring units generally have fewer colors and mute tones. The low score of 1.5 was assigned to Harley (#013), with a muted landscape of junipers and grasses.

COLOR		
Score	Acres	Percentage of Inventory Area
1.5	1,848	2%
2	21,644	18%
2.5	3,797	3%
3	54,804	46%
3.5	22,814	19%
4.5	14,073	12%
Total	118,985	100%



High Score: 4.5  
Colorado River  
Corridor SQRU #005



Low Score: 1.5  
Harley SQRU #013



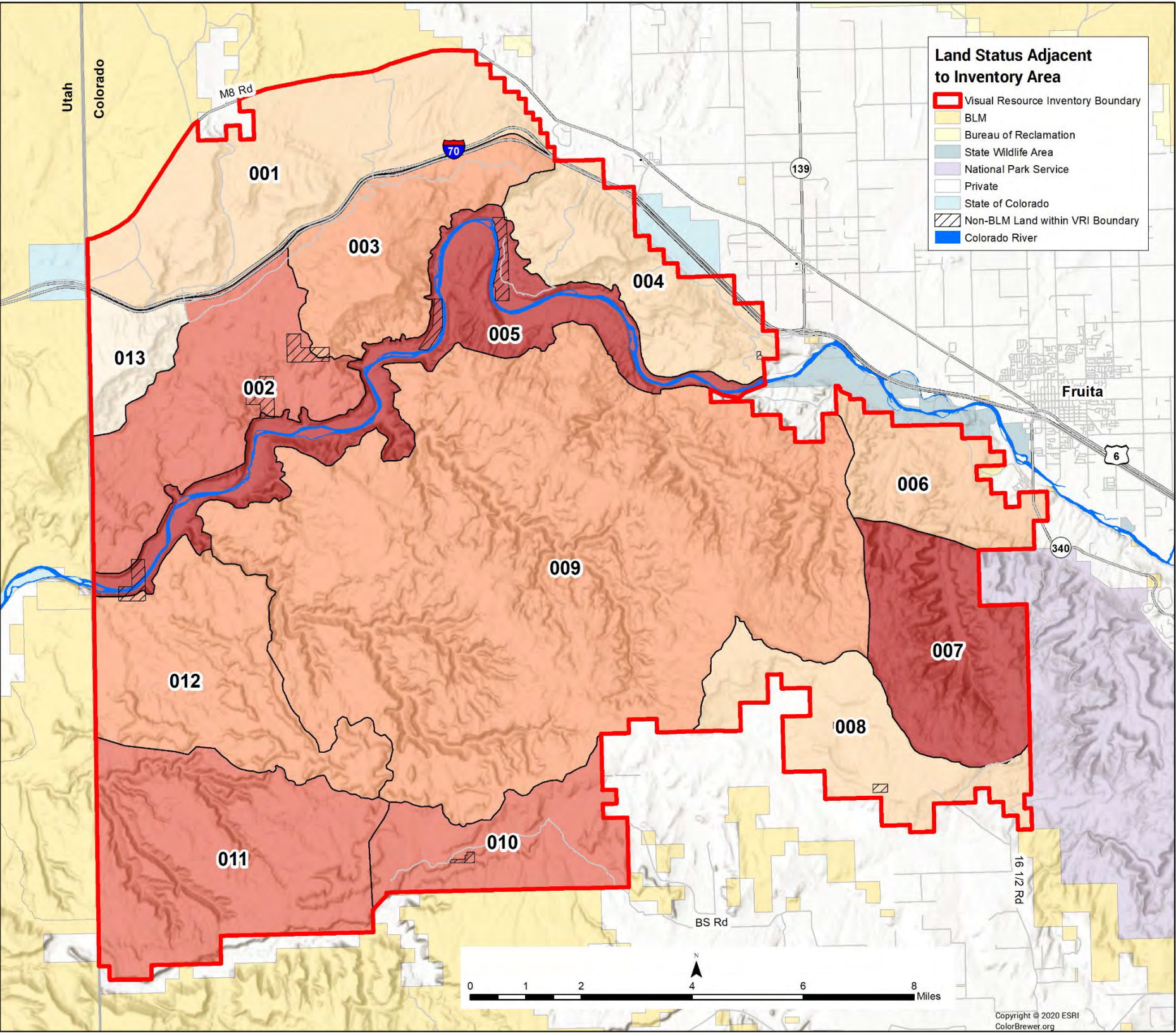


Figure 9  
Scenic Quality Rating -- Color

SQRU Number	SQRU Name
001	High North
002	Rabbit Valley
003	Rabbit's Ear
004	Mack Ridge
005	Colorado River Corridor
006	Devils/Pollock Frontcountry
007	Devils Canyon
008	Black Ridge
009	Combined Canyons
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Jones Canyon
012	Long Mesa
013	Harley



4.5.5 Influence of Adjacent Scenery

The influence of adjacent scenery is the degree to which scenery outside the SQRU enhances the overall impression of the scenery within the unit. The distance that adjacent scenery will influence scenery within the rating unit will normally range from 0-5 miles, depending on the characteristics of the topography, vegetative cover, and other such factors. This factor is generally applied to units which would normally rate very low in score, but the influence of the adjacent unit may enhance the visual quality and raise the score.

The highest score of 5 was assigned to Rabbit’s Ear (#003) and Mack Ridge (#004) SQRUs. The scenery in these units is accented by their proximity to the Colorado River Corridor (#005), as well as the Combined Canyons unit (#009).

Lower scores were given to areas where adjacent scenic features are either far away or not visible from within the unit. High North (#001) is a good example, a flat area distant from high vertical relief areas like the Bookcliffs.

INFLUENCE OF ADJACENT SCENERY		
Score	Acres	Percentage of Inventory Area
1.5	10,689	9%
2.5	1,848	2%
3	49,226	41%
3.5	26,611	22%
4	19,520	16%
5	11,086	9%
Total	118,985	100%



High Score: 5  
Mack Ridge SQRU #004



Low Score: 1.5  
High North SQRU #001



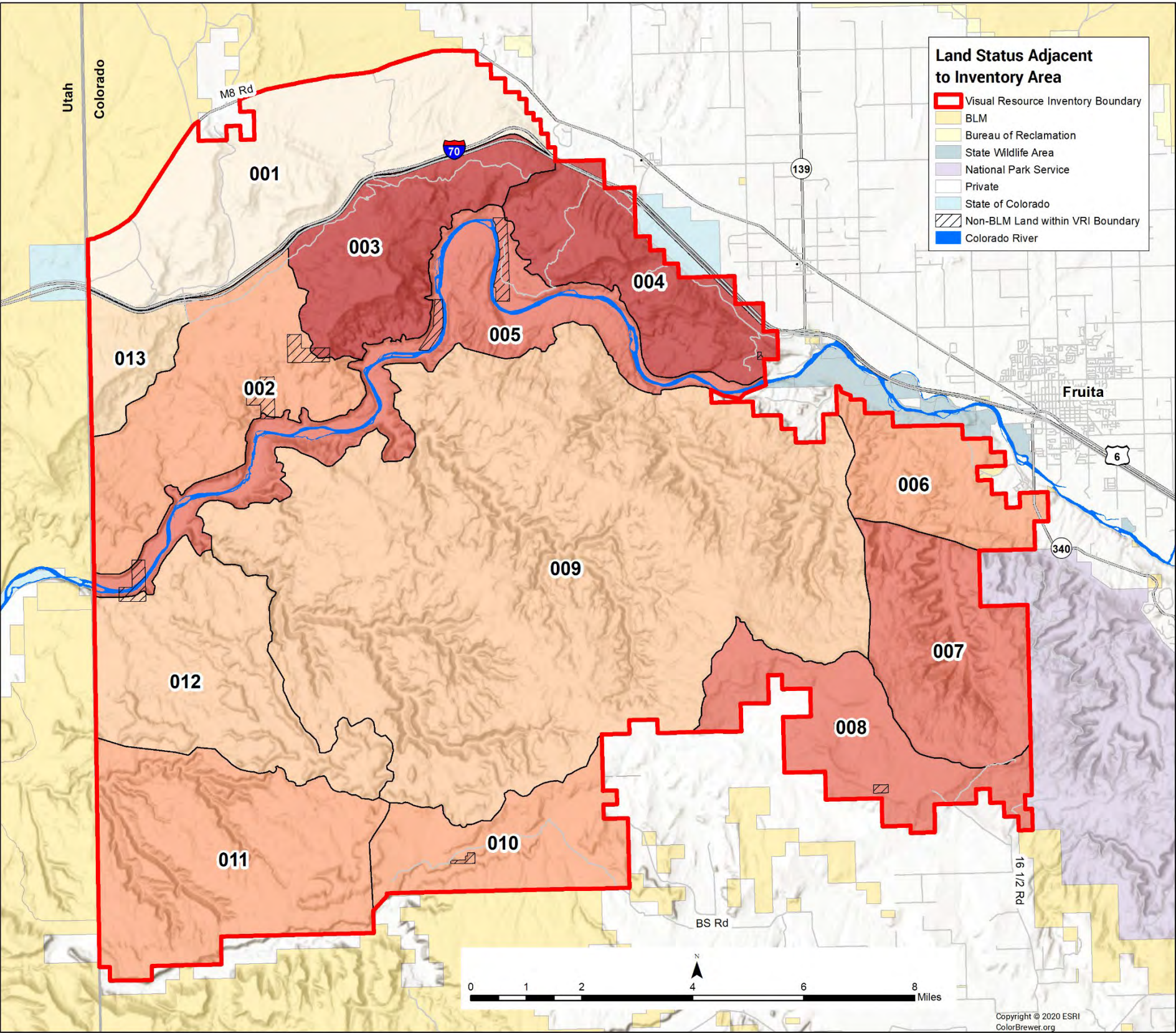


Figure 10  
Scenic Quality Rating -- Influence  
of Adjacent Scenery



4.5.6 Scarcity

The scarcity factor provides an opportunity to give added importance to one or all the scenic features that appear to be unique or rare within one physiographic region. There may also be cases where a separate evaluation of each of the key factors does not give a true picture of the overall scenic quality. Often it is several not so spectacular elements in the proper combination that produces the most pleasing and memorable scenery - the scarcity factor can be used to recognize this type of area and give it added emphasis.

The Colorado River Corridor (#005) scored highest in the scarcity factor. The Colorado River is indeed a rare resource in the desert and is a defining feature of the entire Colorado Plateau. Scoring almost as high (4.5) was the Combined Canyons unit (#009), with multiple deep canyons and the second-highest concentration of arches outside of Arches National Park. The High North unit (#001) was scored lowest at 1, with few distinctive landscape characteristics.

SCARCITY		
Score	Acres	Percentage of Inventory Area
1	12,537	11%
1.5	15,969	13%
2	8,083	7%
2.5	9,376	8%
3	16,510	14%
3.5	7,566	6%
4.5	41,142	35%
5	7,796	7%
Total	118,985	100%

High Score: 5

Colorado River Corridor SQRU #005



Near-High Score: 4.5

Combined Canyons SQRU #009



Low Score: 1

High North SQRU #001



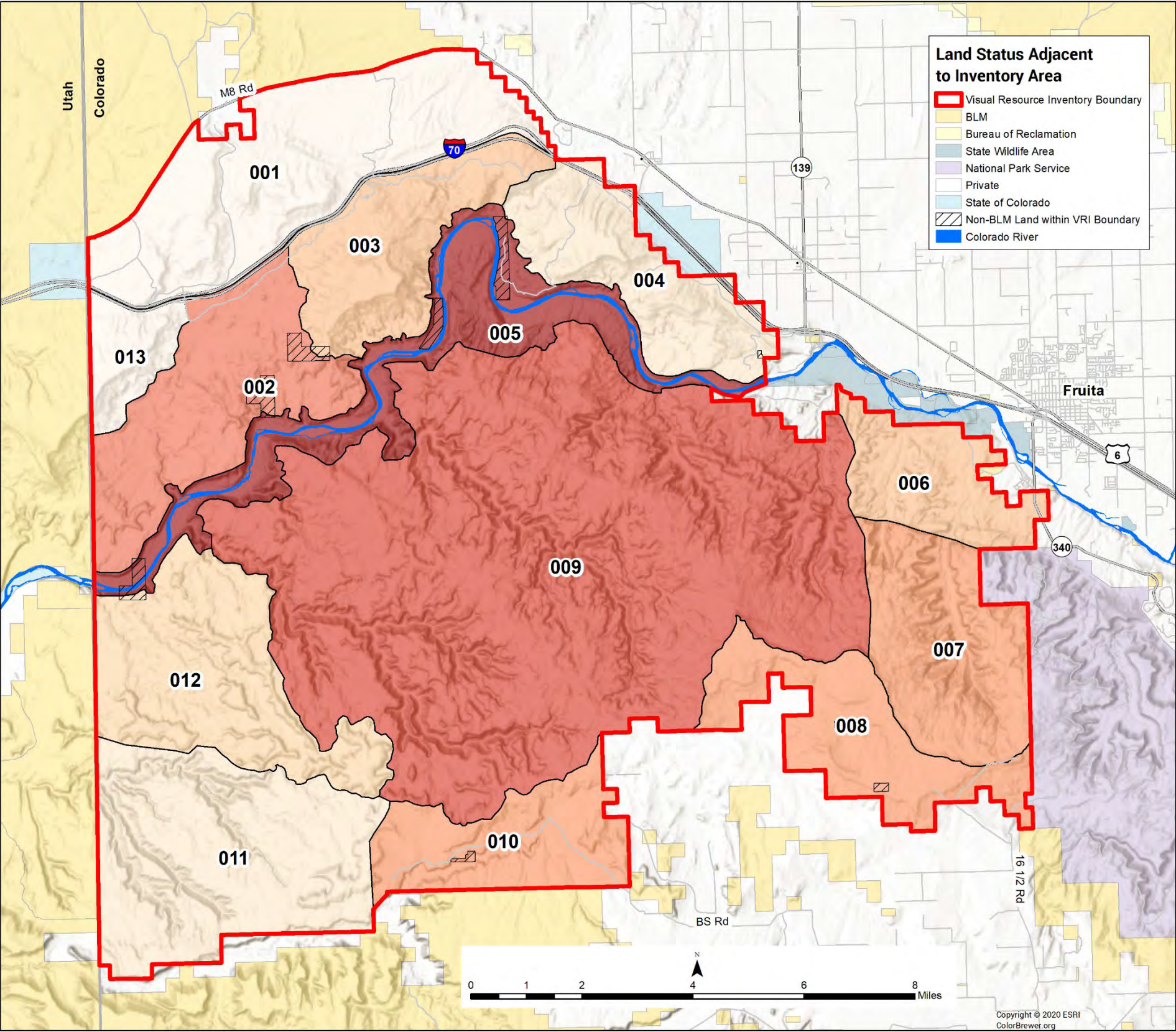
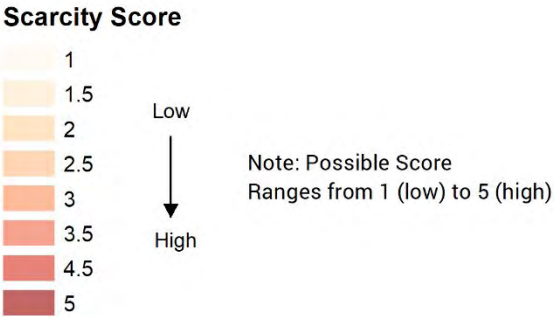


Figure 11  
Scenic Quality Rating -- Scarcity



SQRU Number	SQRU Name
001	High North
002	Rabbit Valley
003	Rabbit's Ear
004	Mack Ridge
005	Colorado River Corridor
006	Devils/Pollock Frontcountry
007	Devils Canyon
008	Black Ridge
009	Combined Canyons
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Jones Canyon
012	Long Mesa
013	Harley



4.5.7 Cultural Modifications

Cultural modifications to the landscape may diminish or complement the scenic quality of a unit. For example, the prehistoric rock art found in McDonald Wash was positively scored (Rabbit Valley SQRU, #002). Conversely, the railroad tracks and stored railroad cars in the Colorado River Corridor (#005) are discordant elements that detract from scenic quality.

In terms of overall scoring, Devils/Pollock Frontcountry (#006) scored highest at 0.5, reflecting the presence of a natural landscape in proximity to population centers. The highly visible tower array in Black Ridge (#008) influenced its low score of -2.

CULTURAL MODIFICATIONS		
Score	Acres	Percentage of Inventory Area
-2	5,446	5%
-1.5	7,796	7%
-1	10,690	9%
-0.5	5,578	5%
0	85,673	72%
0.5	3,797	3%
Total	118,985	100%



Example of Positively Scored Cultural Modification (Rabbit Valley SQRU #002)

High Score: 0.5  
Devils/Pollock Frontcountry SQRU #006



Low Score: -2  
Black Ridge SQRU #008





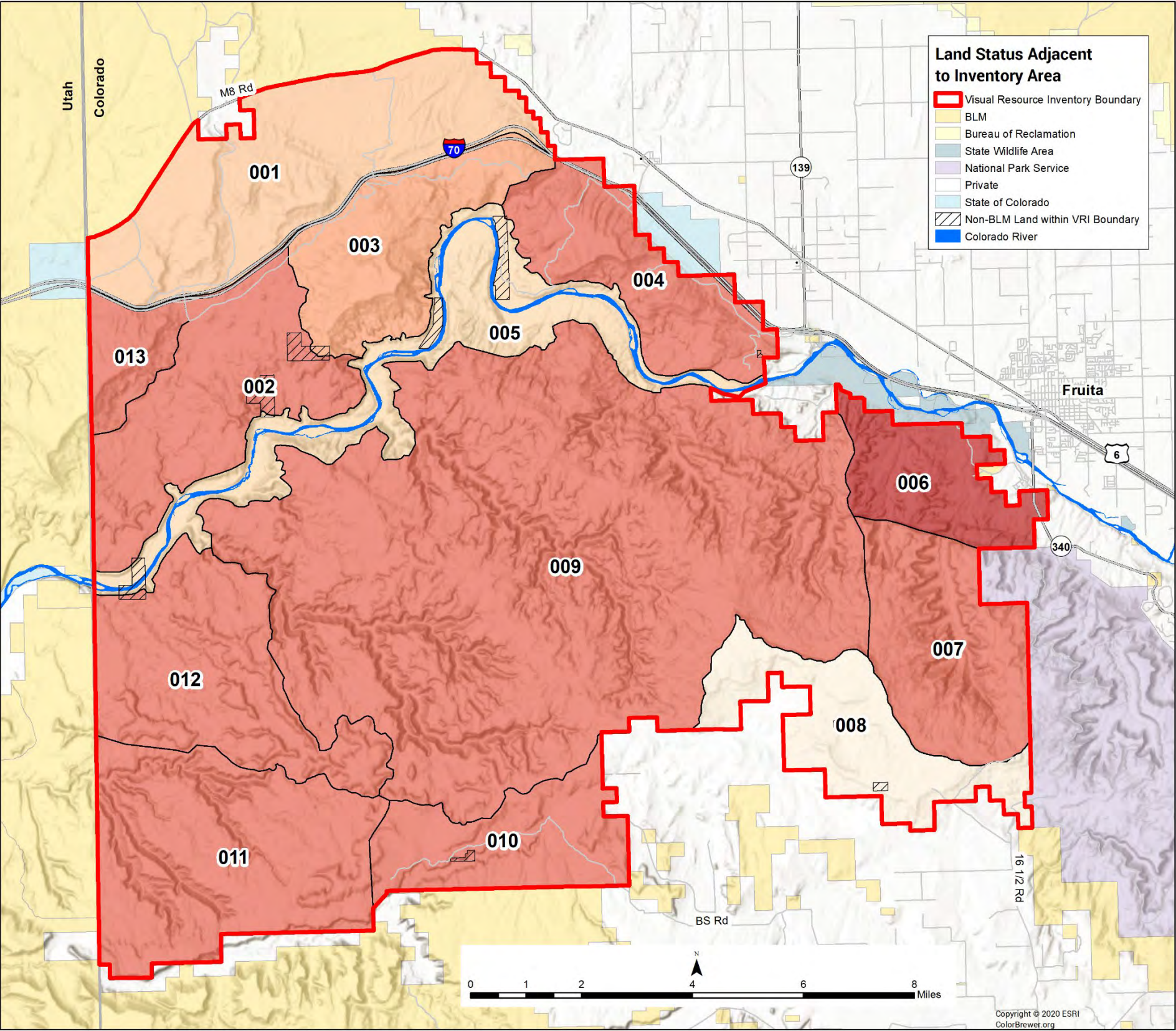


Figure 12  
Scenic Quality Rating --  
Cultural Modifications



## 4.6 Scenic Quality Ratings

The scenic quality rating is the result of totaling the scores of the seven key factors listed in Form 8400-1 and assigning a rating according to the following scale:

- **Class A** = 19 points or more
- **Class B** = 12 to 18 points
- **Class C** = 11 points or less

Three SQRUs received a Class A rating, accounting for 46% of the inventory area. The highest rating of 24.5 was recorded for Colorado River Corridor SQRU (#005). The scenic quality of this unit is due to the combination of a major river framed by stunning vertical cliffs and ribbons of riparian vegetation. With the major river of the Desert Southwest in its center, the unit also scored high in the water and scarcity categories.

Eight SQRUs received a Class B rating of 12 to 18 points, accounting for 43% of the inventory area. The relatively high scenic quality is found in the impressive vertical relief, with canyon systems south of the Colorado River, and mesas north of the river. Vegetation variety also had an influence. The B-scored SQRUs ranged from a high of 16.5 for Sieber Canyon (#010), to a low of 12 for Black Ridge (#008).

Two SQRUs were rated as Class C scenic quality, Harley (#013) and High North (#001). These units are characterized by less landscape and vegetation variety.





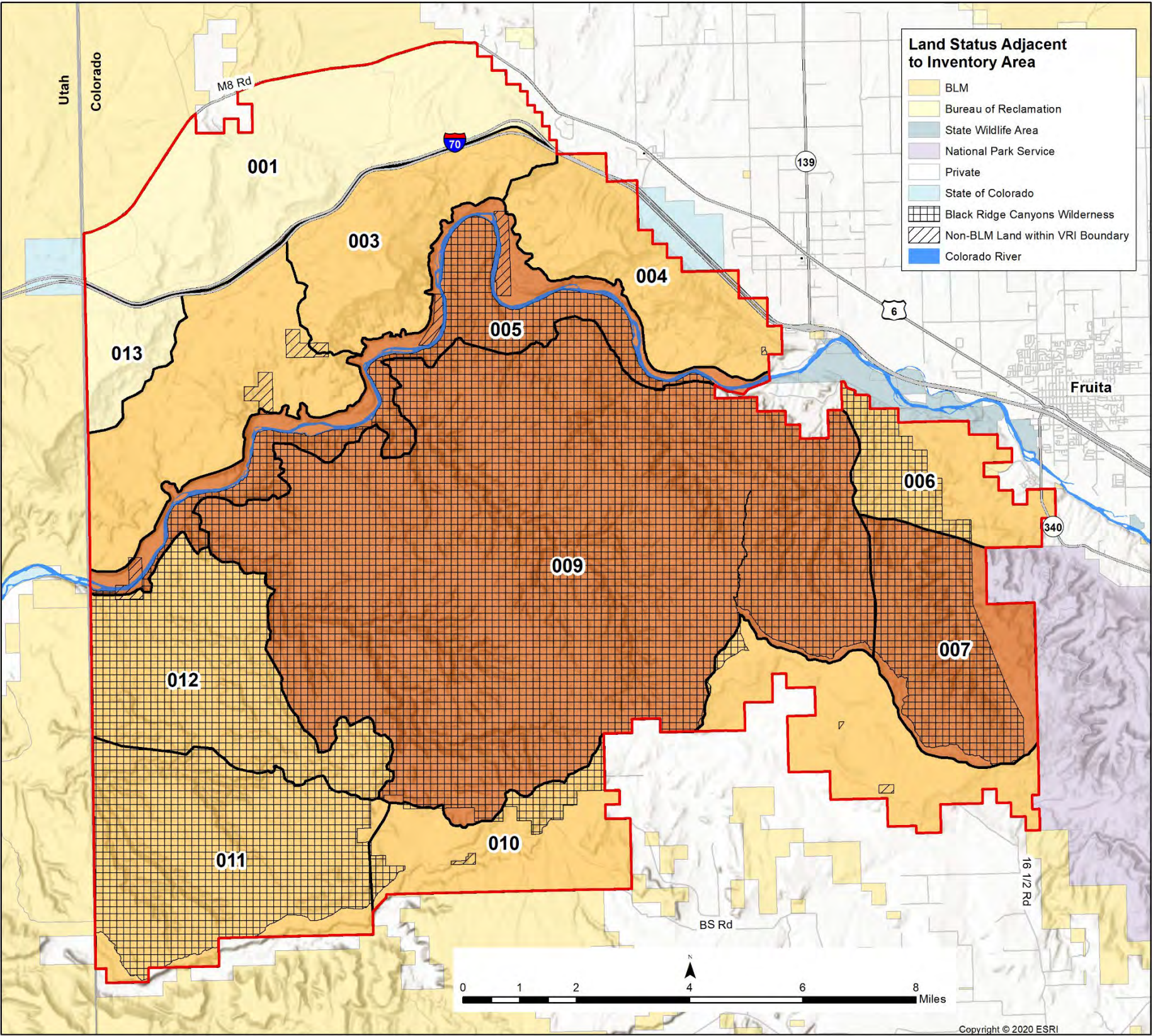


Figure 13

Scenic Quality Classification

Administrative Boundary		Acres	% of Total Acres within VRI Boundary	BLM Acres within VRI Boundary	% of BLM Acres within VRI Boundary
<span style="border: 1px solid red;"> </span>	Visual Resource Inventory Boundary	118,985	100%		
	VRI Boundary BLM Acres	118,148	99%		100%
	VRI Boundary Non-BLM Acres	837	1%		
Visual Resource Inventory		Acres	% of Total Acres within VRI Boundary	BLM Acres within VRI Boundary	% of BLM Acres within VRI Boundary
	Total Area Inventoried	118,985	100%	118,148	100%
<span style="background-color: #8B4513; border: 1px solid black;"> </span>	Scenic Quality A	55,217	46%	54,795	46%
<span style="background-color: #FF8C00; border: 1px solid black;"> </span>	Scenic Quality B	51,229	43%	50,814	43%
<span style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black;"> </span>	Scenic Quality C	12,539	11%	12,539	11%

SQRU Number	SQRU Name
001	High North
003	Rabbit's Ear
004	Mack Ridge
005	Colorado River Corridor
006	Devils/Pblook Frontcountry
007	Devils Canyon
009	Combined Canyons
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Jones Canyon
012	Long Mesa
013	Harley



Table 2 Scenic Quality Rating – Listed in Order of Score (Based on BLM Form 8400-5)

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary										Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, M. Deras, B. Esparza, C. Ewing, D. Gourley, M. Grant-Hoffman, R. Lewis , M. Heinritz, A. Johnston, E. Kowalski, J. von Guerard, I. Salamanca, A. Selig, P. Sever, A. Spencer, (BLM) & G. Baker (ECS)
Unit Number & Name	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
005 Colorado River Corridor	3.5	4	5	4.5	4	5	-1.5	24.5	A	SQRU #005 is the Colorado River corridor and its enclosing canyon walls, including the prominent oxbow roughly in the middle of the unit. The wide, flat river is green colored most of the year, and lined with ribbons of riparian vegetation. A railroad line in the western half of the unit is a noticeable alteration to the landscape. Recreational boating is popular.
009 Combined Canyons	4.5	3.5	2.5	3	3	4.5	0	21	A	SQRU #009 is the centerpiece landscape of McInnis Canyons NCA, with five major canyons incising the north edge of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The terraced terrain steps down from Entrada-rimmed mesas, to mid-level uplands, and a larger vertical drop into the Wingate cliffs within the inner canyons. Scattered, stippled pinyon/juniper is dominant on mesa tops and terraces. Scattered trails and a few dirt roads exist.
007 Devils Canyon	3	3.5	2.5	4.5	4	3	0	20.5	A	SQRU #007 extends from the Inventory Area high point at Black Ridge, to the gently sloping uplands, down to the vertical walled, U-shaped Devils Canyon. Vegetation is dominated by a savanna of thinly distributed pinyon/juniper and areas of sage and grasses, with areas of riparian vegetation in Devils Canyon.
010 Sieber Canyon	2.5	3.5	0.5	3.5	3.5	3	0	16.5	B	SQRU #010 is a tableland with low Entrada buttes and the vertical-walled Sieber Canyon. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush, grasslands, with a few locations of oakbrush and riparian vegetation. Burn areas are bare sand with dead junipers and sparse grasses.
002 Rabbit Valley	2	2.5	1	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	16	B	SQRU #002 is centered around a grass-covered valley with scattered dome-like hills and broken rock outcroppings. The flat valley contrasts with curving terra cotta colored Entrada cliffs near its edges, with taller gray mesa slopes at the east and west. McDonald Creek features shallow drainages leading to a small canyon with riparian vegetation, as well as petroglyphs and pictographs. Roads and trails exist in many areas.
003 Rabbits Ear	3	2.5	0	3	5	2.5	2.5	15.5	B	SQRU #003 is defined by Rabbits Ear Mesa, a prominent mesa with undulating slopes and creased arroyos. Thick stippled juniper slopes are on its east and north sides, with sparse vegetation on the south and west slopes. The eastern portion of the unit features undulating grasslands with a few cut canyons. The south (river) side features a sharp rocky scarp with steep slopes beneath. Roads exist in the north portion of the SQRU; southern areas are relatively unaltered.



Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary										Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, M. Deras, B. Esparza, C. Ewing, D. Gourley, M. Grant-Hoffman, R. Lewis , M. Heinritz, A. Johnston, E. Kowalski, J. von Guerard, I. Salamanca, A. Selig, P. Sever, A. Spencer, (BLM) & G. Baker (ECS)
Unit Number & Name	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
011 Jones Canyon	3	3	0.5	3.5	3.5	1.5	0	15	B	SQRU #011 is made up of smooth uplands with a dramatic canyon system interspersed throughout the unit, and a few prominent sandstone buttes. Pinyon-juniper forested uplands are thicker than many other areas in the NCA.
006 Devils/Pollock Frontcountry	3	2.5	0	2.5	3.5	2.5	0.5	14.5	B	SQRU #006 is a valley framed by Entrada sided mesas. It is a transitional area between the urban Grand Valley and deep canyons within McInnis Canyons NCA. High desert vegetation predominates, with grassy areas interspersed with stippled concentrations of juniper. A number of old 2-track roads within the unit are closed; others have been converted into hiking trails.
004 Mack Ridge	3	1.5	1	2	5	1.5	0	14	B	SQRU #004 is centered around the tilted Mack Ridge at its center, with steep slopes to the south, transitioning to Horsethief Canyon on the Colorado River. The north side of Mack Ridge features gentler, angled slopes. The thickest vegetation is pinyon-juniper on mesa tops, sparse to nonexistent vegetation on mesa slopes, with grasses on lower terraces.
012 Long Mesa	2	3	0	3	3	2	0	13	B	SQRU #012 is characterized by gentle, rolling grasslands framed by steep stunted cliffs. Long, Wrigley, and other mesas define this unit. Sporadic juniper forest with widespread bunch grasses. Textured rock faces create interesting shadows and colors.
008 Black Ridge	2	3	0	2	4	3	-2	12	B	SQRU #008 is made up of Black Ridge, the highest point in the Inventory Area, and its adjacent southern slopes, with a few shallow valleys. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush and grasses on the mesa tops, with pinyon/juniper on slopes. A few areas of riparian vegetation exist on arroyo bottoms. A group of communication towers on Black Ridge are a noticeable alteration to the landscape, in addition to dirt roads and a corral.
013 Harley	2	2	0	1.5	2.5	1	0	9	C	SQRU #013 is a gently northwest-sloping mesa with steep, broken south and east slopes. I-70 is at the north boundary. The mesa top is covered with a pinyon-juniper forest. The mesa slopes are the first view of Colorado for visitors traveling on I-70 from Utah. This unit is unique in having no internal roads or trails.
001 High North	1.5	1.5	0	2	1.5	1	-1	6.5	C	SQRU #001 is an open landscape north of I-70. It features several low mesas with steep, stepped badland-like escarpments on the south slopes, and a gentle north slope leading up to the old Highway 6 (now called M8 Rd.) at the north boundary. Thin pinyon/juniper stands are on the mesa tops, with grasses dominating the rest of the unit. Dirt roads largely blend into the landscape, although a communications site and reservoir are noticeable alterations.



Table 3 Scenic Quality Rating – Listed in Order of Unit (Based on Form 8400-5)

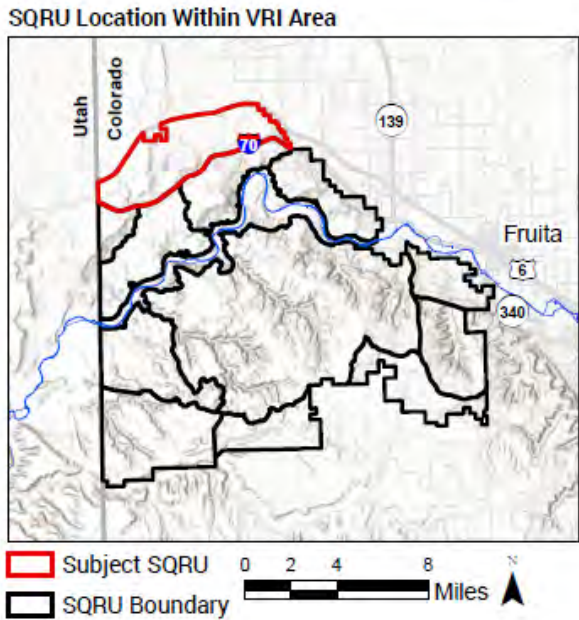
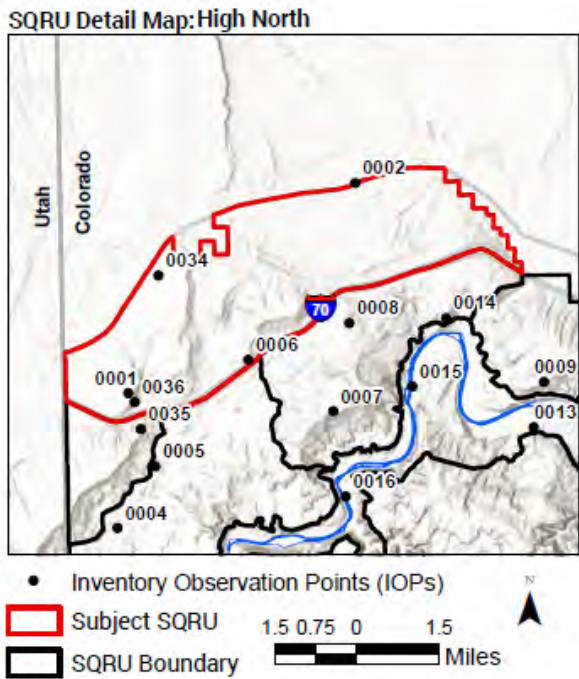
Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary										Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, M. Deras, B. Esparza, C. Ewing, D. Gourley, M. Grant-Hoffman, R. Lewis , M. Heinritz, A. Johnston, E. Kowalski, J. von Guerard, I. Salamanca, A. Selig, P. Sever, A. Spencer, (BLM) & G. Baker (ECS)
Unit Number & Name	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
001 High North	1.5	1.5	0	2	1.5	1	-1	6.5	C	SQRU #001 is an open landscape north of I-70. It features several low mesas with steep, stepped badland-like escarpments on the south slopes, and a gentle north slope leading up to the old Highway 6 (now called M8 Rd.) at the north boundary. Thin pinyon/juniper stands are on the mesa tops, with grasses dominating the rest of the unit. Dirt roads largely blend into the landscape, although a communications site and reservoir are noticeable alterations.
002 Rabbit Valley	2	2.5	1	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	16	B	SQRU #002 is centered around a grass-covered valley with scattered dome-like hills and broken rock outcroppings. The flat valley contrasts with curving terra cotta colored Entrada cliffs near its edges, with taller gray mesa slopes at the east and west. McDonald Creek features shallow drainages leading to a small canyon with riparian vegetation, as well as petroglyphs and pictographs. Roads and trails exist in many areas.
003 Rabbits Ear	3	2.5	0	3	5	2.5	2.5	15.5	B	SQRU #003 is defined by Rabbits Ear Mesa, a prominent mesa with undulating slopes and creased arroyos. Thick stippled juniper slopes are on its east and north sides, with sparse vegetation on the south and west slopes. The eastern portion of the unit features undulating grasslands with a few cut canyons. The south (river) side features a sharp rocky scarp with steep slopes beneath. Roads exist in the north portion of the SQRU; southern areas are relatively unaltered.
004 Mack Ridge	3	1.5	1	2	5	1.5	0	14	B	SQRU #004 is centered around the tilted Mack Ridge at its center, with steep slopes to the south, transitioning to Horsethief Canyon on the Colorado River. The north side of Mack Ridge features gentler, angled slopes. The thickest vegetation is pinyon-juniper on mesa tops, sparse to nonexistent vegetation on mesa slopes, with grasses on lower terraces.
005 Colorado River Corridor	3.5	4	5	4.5	4	5	-1.5	24.5	A	SQRU #005 is the Colorado River corridor and its enclosing canyon walls, including the prominent oxbow roughly in the middle of the unit. The wide, flat river is green colored most of the year, and lined with ribbons of riparian vegetation. A railroad line in the western half of the unit is a noticeable alteration to the landscape. Recreational boating is popular.
006 Devils/Pollock Frontcountry	3	2.5	0	2.5	3.5	2.5	0.5	14.5	B	SQRU #006 is a valley framed by Entrada sided mesas. It is a transitional area between the urban Grand Valley and deep canyons within McInnis Canyons NCA. High desert vegetation predominates, with grassy areas interspersed with stippled concentrations of juniper. A number of old 2-track roads within the unit are closed; others have been converted into hiking trails.



Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary										Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, M. Deras, B. Esparza, C. Ewing, D. Gourley, M. Grant-Hoffman, R. Lewis , M. Heinritz, A. Johnston, E. Kowalski, J. von Guerard, I. Salamanca, A. Selig, P. Sever, A. Spencer, (BLM) & G. Baker (ECS)
Unit Number & Name	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
007 Devils Canyon	3	3.5	2.5	4.5	4	3	0	20.5	A	SQRU #007 extends from the Inventory Area high point at Black Ridge, to the gently sloping uplands, down to the vertical walled, U-shaped Devils Canyon. Vegetation is dominated by a savanna of thinly distributed pinyon/juniper and areas of sage and grasses, with areas of riparian vegetation in Devils Canyon.
008 Black Ridge	2	3	0	2	4	3	-2	12	B	SQRU #008 is made up of Black Ridge, the highest point in the Inventory Area, and its adjacent southern slopes, with a few shallow valleys. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush and grasses on the mesa tops, with pinyon/juniper on slopes. A few areas of riparian vegetation exist on arroyo bottoms. A group of communication towers on Black Ridge are a noticeable alteration to the landscape, in addition to dirt roads and a corral.
009 Combined Canyons	4.5	3.5	2.5	3	3	4.5	0	21	A	SQRU #009 is the centerpiece landscape of McInnis Canyons NCA, with five major canyons incising the north edge of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The terraced terrain steps down from Entrada-rimmed mesas, to mid-level uplands, and a larger vertical drop into the Wingate cliffs within the inner canyons. Scattered, stippled pinyon/juniper is dominant on mesa tops and terraces. Scattered trails and a few dirt roads exist.
010 Sieber Canyon	2.5	3.5	0.5	3.5	3.5	3	0	16.5	B	SQRU #010 is a tableland with low Entrada buttes and the vertical-walled Sieber Canyon. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush, grasslands, with a few locations of oakbrush and riparian vegetation. Burn areas are bare sand with dead junipers and sparse grasses.
011 Jones Canyon	3	3	0.5	3.5	3.5	1.5	0	15	B	SQRU #011 is made up of smooth uplands with a dramatic canyon system interspersed throughout the unit, and a few prominent sandstone buttes. Pinyon-juniper forested uplands are thicker than many other areas in the NCA.
012 Long Mesa	2	3	0	3	3	2	0	13	B	SQRU #012 is characterized by gentle, rolling grasslands framed by steep stunted cliffs. Long, Wrigley, and other mesas define this unit. Sporadic juniper forest with widespread bunch grasses. Textured rock faces create interesting shadows and colors.
013 Harley	2	2	0	1.5	2.5	1	0	9	C	SQRU #013 is a gently northwest-sloping mesa with steep, broken south and east slopes. I-70 is at the north boundary. The mesa top is covered with a pinyon-juniper forest. The mesa slopes are the first view of Colorado for visitors traveling on I-70 from Utah. This unit is unique in having no internal roads or trails.



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #001	High North
October 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Lewis, M. Deras, E. Kowalski



Landscape Character			
	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Nearly flat landscape, gentle northward slope with shallow arroyos. Low trapezoidal mesas near south end. Rounded valley edges. South slopes showing the Morrison Formation are badlands-like.	Savannah landscape, with thin groves of bouquet-shaped juniper trees on bunch grass covered mesa tops. Nearly barren on many south slopes. Flatter areas feature a mix of low grasses and no trees.	Twin ribbons of interstate; rectangular, angular campers. Concave reservoir, trapezoidal earthen dam.
Line	Angular rock outcrops; flat shapes dominate with few other defined lines. A short sinuous segment of Salt Creek meanders in and out of the east end of the unit.	Subtle, undefined transitions between juniper and grasslands. Landforms largely define different vegetation areas.	Curvilinear, ribbon-like interstate; linear fences, vertical spiky communications towers.
Color	Warm colors, many shades of beige soil with reddish areas; gray/silver/purple and rust colored Morrison slopes	Straw colored bunch grasses, seasonally green, brown snakeweed, yellow-gold cheatgrass, seasonally purple, scattered juniper green	Gray concrete roads, low contrast with beige-gray landscape colors; bright campers with some glare discordant with landscape
Texture	Smooth lower slopes and lowland areas; coarse, rocky upper mesa slopes	Overall low vegetation, somewhat bristly & spiky close up; smooth carpet-like at landscape level.	Smooth interstate, fine gravel roads; rocky rough roads, stringy fences; blocky campers

**Narrative**

SQRU #001 is an open landscape north of I-70. It features several low mesas with steep, stepped badland-like escarpments on the south slopes, and a gentle north slope leading up to the old Highway 6 (now called M8 Rd.) at the north boundary. Thin pinyon/juniper stands are on the mesa tops, with grasses dominating the rest of the unit. Dirt roads largely blend into the landscape, although a communications site and reservoir are noticeable alterations.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)		
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	1.5	Overwhelmingly flat landscape with a few low mesas
Vegetation	1.5	Low grasses dominant; few areas of upland savannah with juniper trees. A few isolated cottonwood trees near a small reservoir.
Water	0	No water on landscape; scarce evidence of water. Short, intermittent segments of Salt Creek at east end of unit are not significant in relation to the unit.
Color	2	Subtle, mute beige to straw colors predominate; scattered juniper greens on mesa tops.
Adjacent Scenery	1.5	Rabbit Valley enhances landscape in parts of the unit; Bookcliffs provide distant vertical relief. Private inholdings with homes & buildings are noticeable from parts of the unit.
Scarcity	1	Flat, grass-covered landscape with low mesas is typical of many areas on the Colorado Plateau.
Cultural Modification	-1	I-70, other roads, stock ponds, trailheads, communication site, private inholdings with homes and outbuildings, and campers detract from natural landscape.
Total	6.5	Scenic Quality Rating = <b>C</b>
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





IOP #001, Crow Ridge



IOP #002, High North from M8 Road

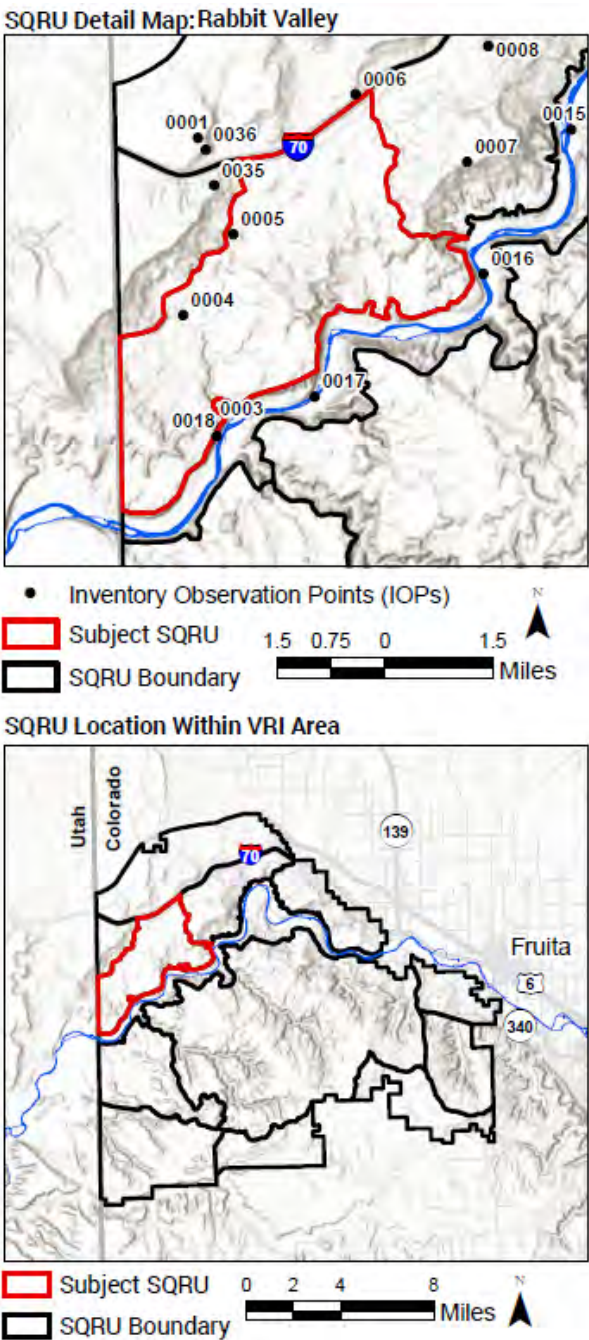




IOP #0034, Crow Ridge Flats



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #002	Rabbit Valley
September 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker



Landscape Character

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Broad flat valley with low domes, sloping down to Colorado River, edged by mesas on east and west	Carpeted grassy valleys and raised juniper stippled areas	Weaving network of swath-like roads and narrow trails throughout unit; boxy small buildings and rectangular parking lots
Line	Horizontal lines define top and bottom of Entrada; also exposed Dakota	Entrada forms define vegetation lines; otherwise indistinct	Curving, linear roads and trails
Color	Terra cotta to yellow Entrada mesas, with similarly colored sandy valley bottom; dark reddish areas, and multihued Morrison slopes.	Juniper green, golden/straw grasses; lime green riparian areas with seasonal yellows and reds	Gray and sand colored roads; gray parking lots; beige small buildings
Texture	Smooth valley with rounded, broken rock-topped domes, smooth Entrada rimmed mesas; rough blocky Morrison slopes	Thin stippled popcorn-like juniper stands; smooth, tufted grasses, wiry, spiky sage	Smooth, soft roads and trails

Narrative

SQRU #002 is centered around a grass-covered valley with scattered dome-like hills and broken rock outcroppings. The flat valley contrasts with curving terra cotta colored Entrada cliffs near its edges, with taller gray mesa slopes at the east and west. McDonald Creek features shallow drainages leading to a small canyon with riparian vegetation, as well as petroglyphs and pictographs. Roads and trails exist in many areas.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Flat to undulating enclosed valley rimmed by mesas, gently sloping down to the Colorado River
Vegetation	2.5	Bunch grasses dominate; areas of stippled juniper. Isolated ribbons of riparian vegetation
Water	1	Intermittent, seasonal McDonald Creek; otherwise water not present
Color	3.5	Golden to straw colored grasses contrast with terra cotta Entrada cliffs and areas of juniper green
Adjacent Scenery	3.5	Colorado River canyons, low mesas and the broad Grand Valley to the north enhance the landscape
Scarcity	3.5	Unique, sheltered valley with a variety of landforms and vegetation. Ephemeral creek.
Cultural Modification	0	Roads and trails are present throughout the unit. Few undisturbed areas. Private inholdings have a few buildings which are not visible from most vantage points. Rock art in McDonald Wash adds value to overall unit.
Total	16	Scenic Quality Rating = <b>B</b>
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





IOP #0003, Rabbit Valley from Knowles Campground



IOP #0004, Rabbit Valley from Castle Rock





IOP #0005, Rabbit Valley from Jouflas Campground



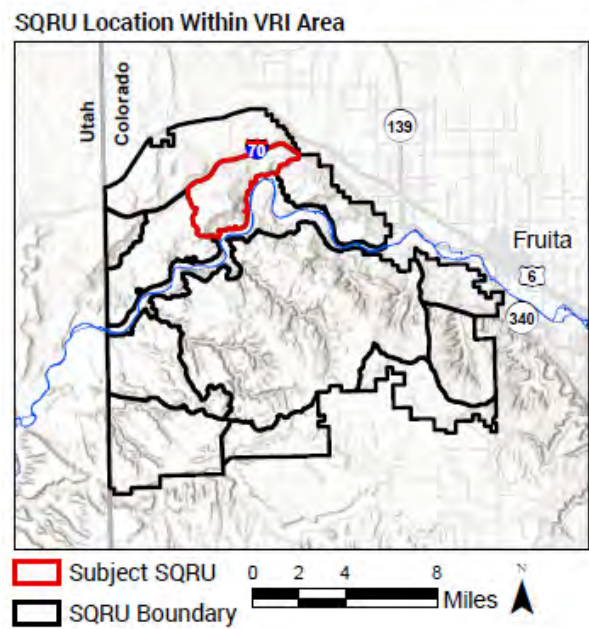
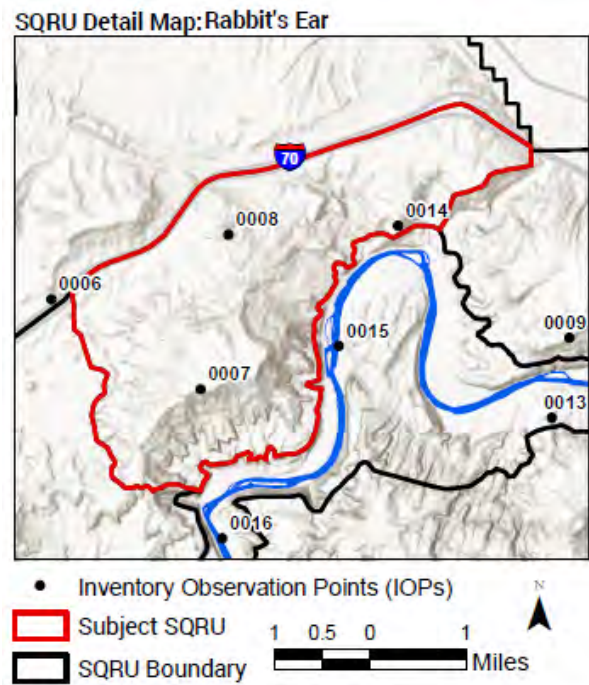
Rabbit Valley with La Sal Mountains in Background



McDonald Wash Landscape



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #003	Rabbit's Ear
September 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, C. Ewing



Landscape Character

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Trapezoidal Rabbit's Ear dominates, with rolling gentle slopes to the north. The southern slopes feature broken, curving outcrops, with slopes terracing down to the river corridor. Staggered triangular shapes.	Globe-like junipers; blankets of juniper in some areas; south and west slopes are largely devoid of vegetation.	Few roads and trails are apparent
Line	Rounded to broken mesa caps; sinuous rimrock and gulch bottoms; angular ridgelines	Irregular, indistinct edges	Few swath-like roads, ribbon-like interstate at north border; sinuous trail
Color	Multi-hued Morrison Formation, gray/red/purple/green mid-slopes	Juniper greens, straw to beige grasses, golden cheatgrass	Gray to beige roads and trails
Texture	Central Rabbit's Ear with smooth slopes and flat, rolling sub-mesa to northeast	Spiny blankety grass tufts; popcorn-like juniper tops	Smooth roads, smooth to pebbly trails

Narrative

SQRU #003 is defined by Rabbit's Ear, a prominent mesa with undulating slopes and creased arroyos. Thick stippled juniper slopes are on its east and north sides, with sparse vegetation on the south and west slopes. The eastern portion of the unit features undulating grasslands with a few cut canyons. The south side features a sharp rocky scarp with steep slopes above the Colorado River. Roads exist in the north portion of the SQRU; southern areas are relatively unaltered.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Large central mesa with gentle north slopes, steep, stepped badlands-like upper terraces southward to river corridor
Vegetation	2.5	Thick stippled juniper stands on the east to north slopes; almost devoid of vegetation on other slopes; grass covered flatlands
Water	0	Ephemeral water in drainages, water sculpted slopes and draws
Color	3	Areas of vibrant contrasts ranging from juniper green to gray/purple/green Morrison Formation slopes
Adjacent Scenery	5	Deep, incised Colorado River corridor lends interest and contrast with the dry mesa slopes; extensive canyons lend a wild feel
Scarcity	2.5	Rabbit's Ear is unique due to being on the northern edge of the Canyons Section of the Colorado Plateau, although it is similar to other regional features
Cultural Modification	-0.5	I-70 is adjacent to the SQRU and adds disharmony to an otherwise wild seeming desert landscape. Sidewinder Road and hiking trails blend in with the wild feel and are limited to the north end of the SQRU.
Total	15.5	Scenic Quality Rating = <b>B</b>
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





IOP #0007, Ruby Canyon Overlook from Rabbit’s Ear



IOP #0008, Rabbit’s Ear Ridge looking West





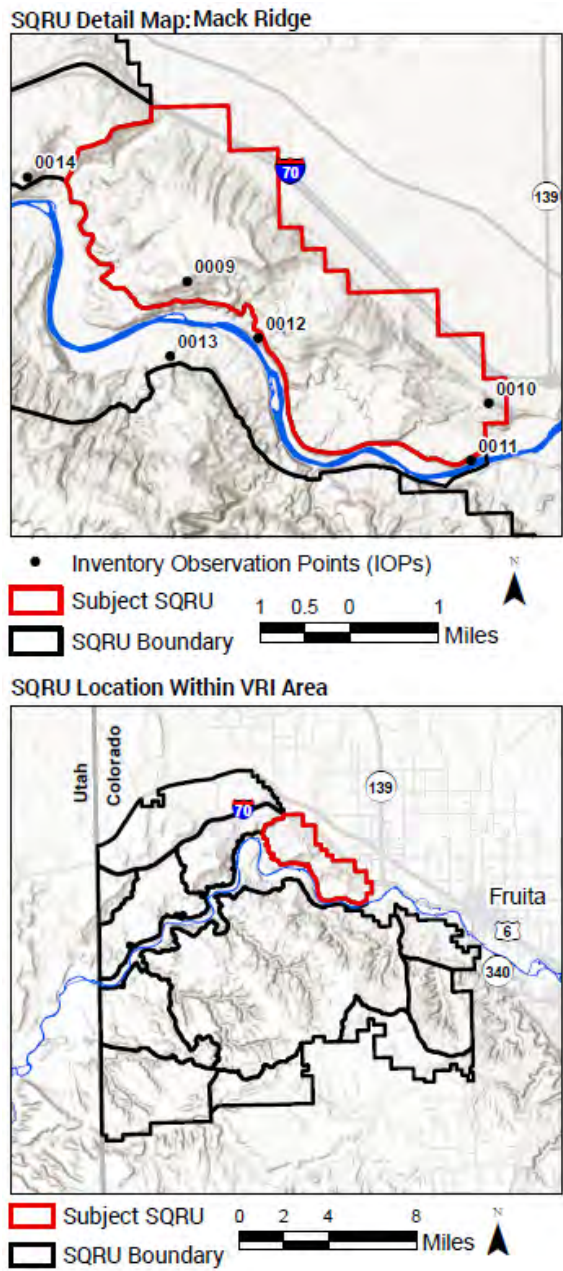
IOP #0008, Rabbit's Ear Ridge Looking East



IOP #0014, Rabbit's Ear from Salt Creek Overlook



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #004	Mack Ridge
September 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, J. von Guerard, I. Salamanca, C. Ewing



Landscape Character

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Blocky, trapezoidal, ridge-like tilted mesa sloping to the north with sharp hogback escarpment on the south side, rounded spiny cliffs, slope is interspersed with rock layers going down to a defined vertical Entrada layer.	Irregular, sparse globe-like juniper stands, scattered bouquet-like sage, grassy areas with large barren expanses	Plentiful swath-like roads
Line	Jagged, rounded cliff tops with angular sections; horizontal, broken lines define rock layers mid-slope, sinuous arroyos	Undefined, irregular with isolated wavy transitions in the juniper and grass interface	Linear, curving roads, sinuous, undulating trails, a few vertical power poles with curving, sloping power lines
Color	Terra cotta to yellow eroded rock, gray with greenish blue Morrison Formation slopes, white cliffs mid-slope	Straw, sand colored grasses, olive sage, sparse juniper greens	Gray gravelly roads, beige/brown trails
Texture	Smooth slopes with horizontal, broken rocky bands.	Smooth patchy grasslands, puffy sage, with sparsely stippled juniper areas, fuzzy, coarse juniper popcorn-like areas	Smooth gravel roads, woven pattern of trails

Narrative

SQRU #004 is centered around the tilted Mack Ridge at its center, with steep slopes to the south, transitioning to Horsethief Canyon on the Colorado River. The north side of Mack Ridge features gentle, angled slopes. The thickest vegetation is pinyon-juniper on mesa tops, with sparse to nonexistent vegetation on mesa slopes, and grasses on lower terraces.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Angular Mack Ridge with stepped terraced landscape leading down to the Colorado River corridor
Vegetation	1.5	Sparse vegetation overall, especially on slopes; scattered junipers on slopes, grasses in flatter areas
Water	1	Salt Creek is a perennial stream; otherwise water is absent
Color	2	Nice contrasts from juniper greens to purple/reddish/gray barren slopes, some rocky white to tan rock outcroppings
Adjacent Scenery	5	Colorado River and Horsethief Canyon are spectacular, with contrasting colors and deep vertical relief; the river canyon and flat valley adjacent to Mack Ridge complement this landscape with strongly contrasting features
Scarcity	1.5	Dipping mesas and terraces are relatively common in this region; presence of side canyons near the river lend interest
Cultural Modification	0	Numerous roads and trails, but these tend to blend in with the landscape and do not detract from scenery
Total	14	Scenic Quality Rating = B
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





IOP #0009, Mack Ridge



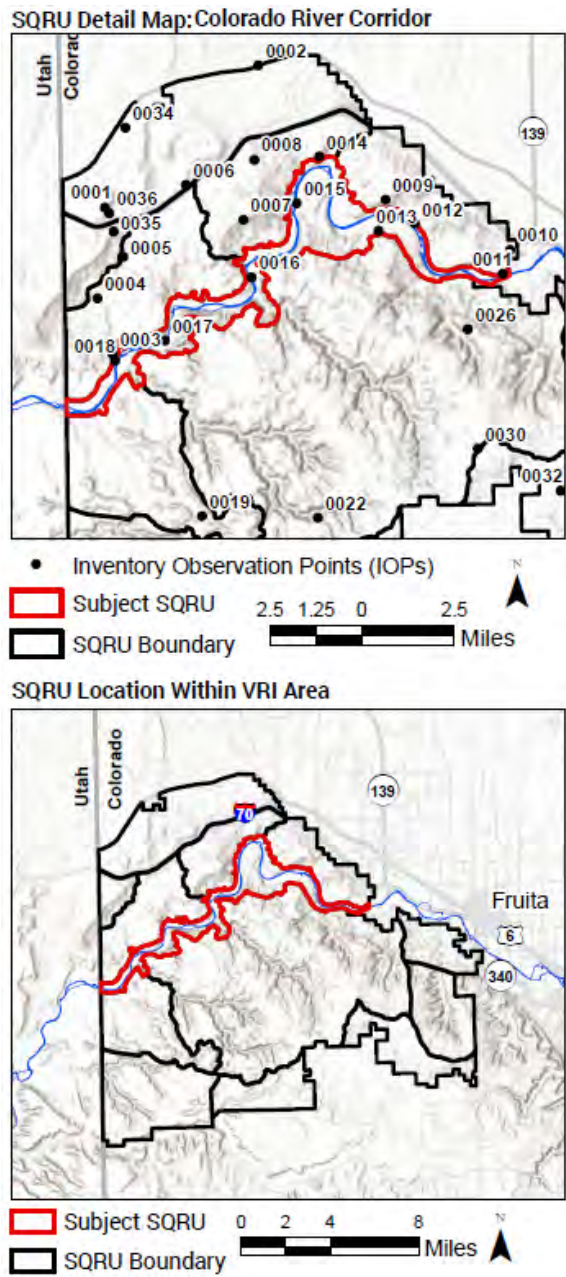
IOP #0010, Mack Ridge Kokopelli Hogback







Scenic Quality Rating Unit #005	Colorado River Corridor
September 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, J. von Guerard, B. Esparza, A. Johnston, A. Selig



Landscape Character			
	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Flat river, oval sandbars; blocky, broken cliff framing/enclosing river, angular cliff top	Rounded, globe-like and bouquet-shaped cottonwoods; oval, clumpy brush, plume-like willows	Boxy, trapezoidal railroad cars; rounded, oblong rafts, boxy, trapezoidal hard-sided boats
Line	Arcing river; linear and curving shorelines; irregular broken vertical cliffs	Curving lines, with vegetation breaks at landform changes (e.g., cliffs); clumpy, rounded tree tops	Horizontal, linear, parallel curving railroad tracks, bermed railroad ballast; curving trails in some areas
Color	Olive green river, color becomes reddish with runoff events; beige, maroon, vermillion cliffs with a few peach rock dykes within cliffs	Muted greens, beige, straw colors, getting richer with more contrast closer to river; emerald green riparian vegetation with seasonal yellows & reds	Black, yellow, silver railroad cars, brightly colored boats
Texture	Smooth, partly rippled river; smooth canyon walls with blocky, plate-like irregularities	Feathery, soft, wiry, spiky riparian vegetation; smoother moving away from river; stippled, patchy sage	Smooth railroad cars, smooth, ribbed boats, smooth trails

Narrative

SQRU #005 is the Colorado River corridor and its enclosing canyon walls, including the prominent oxbow roughly in the middle of the unit. The wide, flat river is green colored most of the year, and lined with ribbons of riparian vegetation. A railroad line in the western half of the unit is a noticeable alteration to the landscape.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)		
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3.5	Enclosed river canyon with vertical walls, a few areas have gentle slopes leading up from the river. Large river, canyon walls here are not as high as downstream areas
Vegetation	4	Variety of lush riparian vegetation, contrasting with nearby desiccated desert
Water	5	Colorado River is dominant feature, with ripples and waves in many areas
Color	4.5	Rich contrasting colors, from muted olive green of river, emerald green hues in riparian vegetation, to the terra cotta, red, almost black, colored canyon walls. Black Rocks (hard granite) section provides additional variety.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Side canyons and sculpted, stark cliffs, slopes and mesas add visual interest.
Scarcity	5	As a major river in a desert region, the Colorado River is significant. The river is also a dominant landscape feature in the Colorado Plateau physiographic province.
Cultural Modification	-1.5	The railroad is a noticeable human alteration and detracts from the wild setting. Boats, campsites and trails are noticeable.
Total	24.5	Scenic Quality Rating = A
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





IOP #0011, Rustlers Overlook



IOP #0012, Pizza Point





IOP #0013, Horsethief Overlook



IOP #0015, Fault Line Camping Area





IOP #0016, Mee 2 Campsite



IOP #0017, Black Rocks





IOP #0018, Knowles Canyon from Knowles Overlook Campground. *Photo Credit: Eric Coulter*



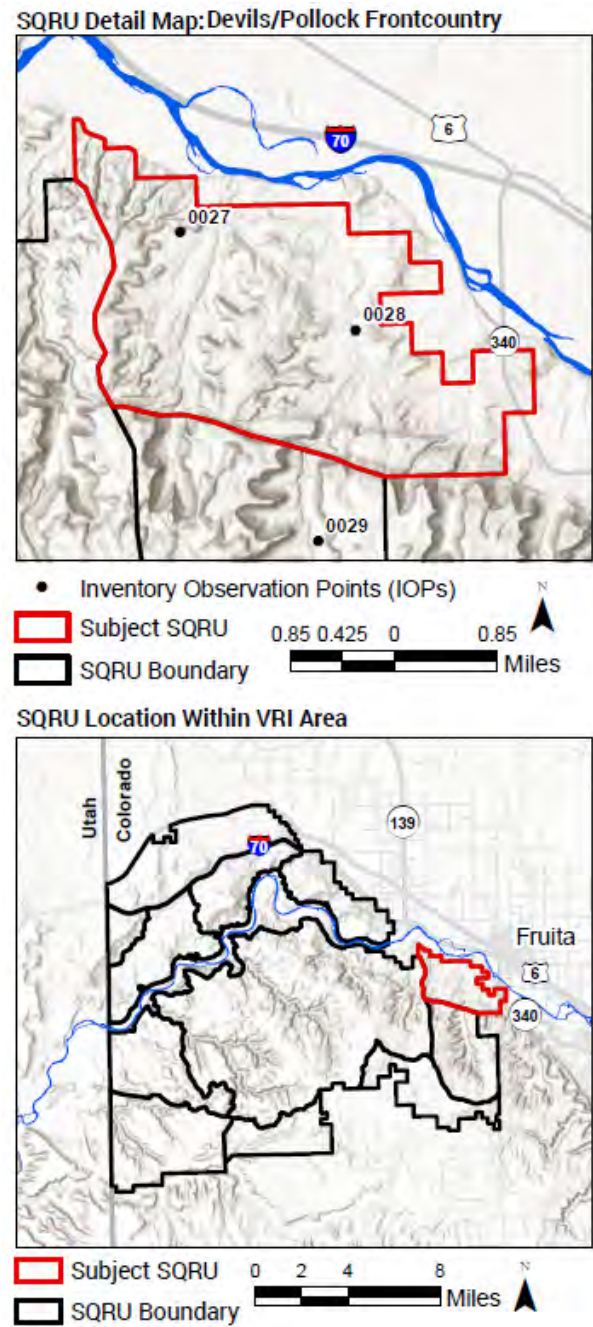
Black Rocks



Shadows and fog over the Colorado River



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #006	Devils/Pollock Frontcountry
September 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, A. Selig, D. Lytle, D. Gourley



Landscape Character			
	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Flat, enclosed landscape with blocky, trapezoidal mesas and rounded caps at the edges, pyramidal, rounded sloping Entrada escarpments	Globe-like, rounded juniper, popcorn-like rounded saltbush and sage; inverted cone-like cottonwood	Undulating trail, swath shaped wide trails
Line	Horizontal, broken skyline, slightly rounded caps, angular cliffs, wavy cliff bottoms	Irregular peaked trees, weaving, wavy grassland to juniper interface; curving Entrada edges	Linear trail with curves, vertical power poles
Color	Terra cotta to yellow striated cliffs	Juniper green, straw grass, lime green cottonwoods	Gray and tan trails
Texture	Smooth rounded knolls, sliced by prominent canyon, smooth sloping cliffs	Coarse grasses, saltbush, and sage. Spiky to rounded cottonwoods	Smooth gravel trail and soft sandy trails

Narrative

SQRU #006 is a valley framed by Entrada sided mesas. It is a transitional area between the urban Grand Valley and deep canyons within McInnis Canyons NCA. High desert vegetation predominates, with grassy areas interspersed with stippled concentrations of juniper. A number of old 2-track roads within the unit are closed; others have been converted into hiking trails.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)		
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Flat valley framed by steep, smooth and rounded Entrada rock slopes.
Vegetation	2.5	Carpeted grassy areas mixed with stippled juniper
Water	0	Water is intermittently present, although mostly absent.
Color	2.5	Yellow, straw colored grasses contrast with juniper green, lime green deciduous bushes and trees
Adjacent Scenery	3.5	Devils-Pollock canyons contrast with the flat valley, vertical relief lends interest
Scarcity	2.5	Valleys framed by cliffs are common in the region
Cultural Modification	0.5	Trails blend with landscape, although the number of trails is sometimes noticeable
Total	14.5	Scenic Quality Rating = <b>B</b>
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





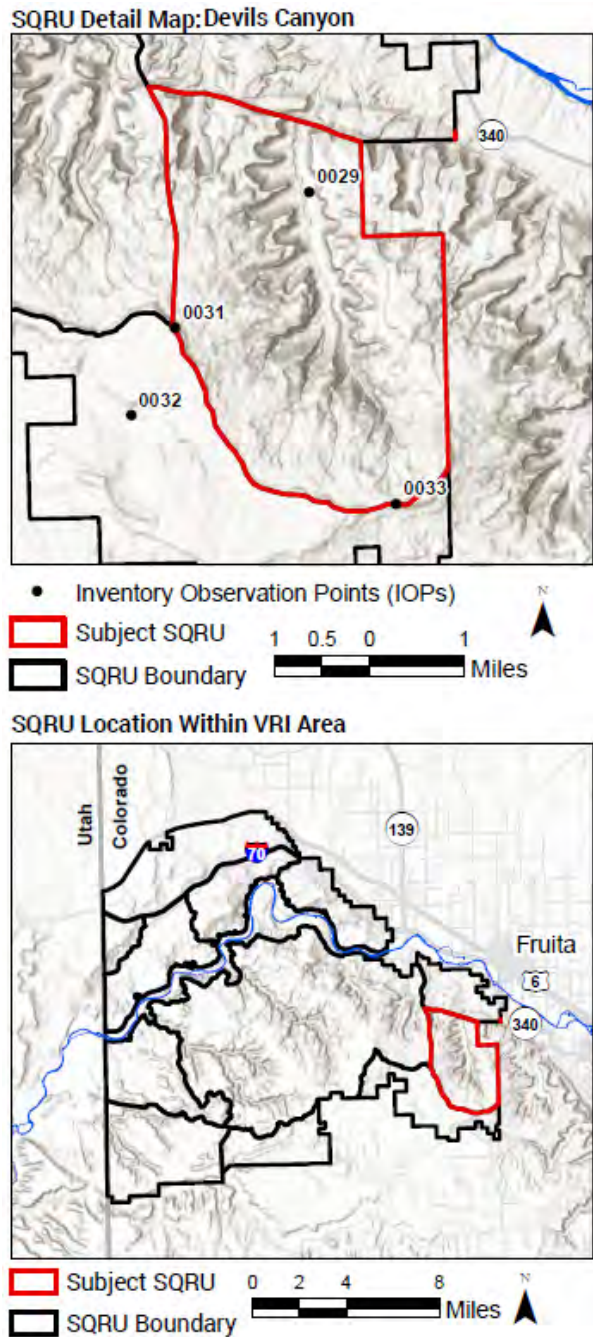
IOP #0027, Devils-Pollock Frontcountry Overlook



IOP #0028, Devils-Pollock Frontcountry Bridge



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #007	Devils Canyon
September 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, A. Selig, D. Gourley, D. Lytle



Landscape Character			
	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Terraced landscape, gently northward sloping mounded mesa tops, rolling mid-level, and dramatic deep canyons.	Uniform, thinly distributed, globe-like, rounded juniper, rounded cone-like pinyon	Swath-like roads
Line	Curving canyon rims, vertical columned Wingate and horizontally oriented, sloping Entrada	Indistinct, erratic angular terraces define vegetation edges; some wavy lines between pinyon/juniper & sage areas	Curving, linear roads; sinuous, curving trails; angular gates
Color	Rust, varnished brown to dark brown Wingate canyon walls with gray band at top. Salmon to yellow Entrada, tan talus areas	Juniper green dominates; dull gray-green sage areas interspersed; brighter lime green cottonwoods in canyon bottoms	Tan and red drab roads, weathered gray fenceposts
Texture	Wavy, bumpy mesas, broken mesa edges, rounded buttresses, monolithic, striated blocky surface	Stippled trees pinyon/juniper areas, smoother, spiky foreground to fuzzy background carpet-like grass areas	Smooth, sandy ledgy roads and trails

Narrative

SQRU #007 extends from the Inventory Area high point at Black Ridge, to gently sloping uplands, down to the vertical walled, U-shaped Devils Canyon. Vegetation is dominated by a savannah of thinly distributed pinyon/juniper trees and areas of sage and grasses, with areas of riparian vegetation in Devils Canyon.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)		
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Broad, gently sloping uplands, dramatic, deep vertical walled U-shaped canyons, meandering creek beds
Vegetation	3.5	Pinyon/juniper uplands, a few sagebrush fields, isolated riparian vegetation
Water	2.5	Water is intermittently present at isolated springs, puddles and in drainages. Potholes are in the lower canyon.
Color	4.5	Stippled areas of juniper green contrast with sand colored to dark red varnished canyon walls
Adjacent Scenery	4	Expansive urbanized Grand Valley in distance, Book Cliffs, Grand Mesa
Scarcity	3	Uplands and canyons are similar to adjacent areas, Devils Canyon is deep and broad
Cultural Modification	0	Access roads and trails blend with landscape and are mostly unnoticeable
Total	20.5	Scenic Quality Rating = <b>A</b>
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





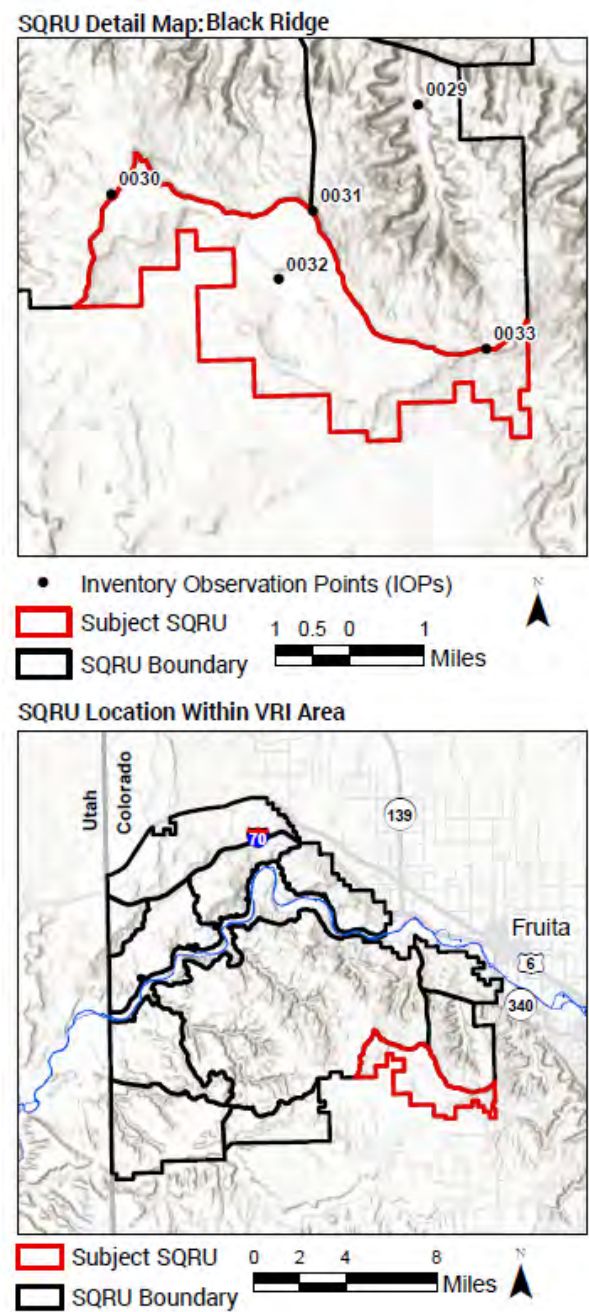
IOP #0029, Devils Canyon North



IOP #0031, Devils Canyon Upland



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #008	Black Ridge
September 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, M. Heinritz, A. Spencer, M. Grant-Hoffman



Landscape Character			
	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Broad trapezoidal mesa, thinning to an eastern ridge, with gentle slopes, a few deep arroyos, and adjacent shallow valleys	Vegetation clusters, small patchy blankets of sage	Swath-like roads; small trapezoidal earthen dams with rounded edges
Line	Angular skyline and mesa edges; irregular, wavy mesa edges	Rounded, puffy pinyon/juniper tops; spiky bristly serviceberry; irregular mesa edges transition from sage to pinyon/juniper	Vertical, needle-like communication towers; curving, linear roads
Color	Terrain is largely covered with gray and red badlands-like areas on south slopes.	Juniper green and gray sage dominant; yellow-green seasonally flowering rabbit brush; dark gray-tan grassy areas, green tamarisk in riparian areas	Tan-red drab roads, weathered gray fenceposts
Texture	Rough, popcorn-like pinyon-juniper, smoother sage fields	Scratchy to bristly sage on mesa tops; stippled, puffy pinyon-juniper on mesa slopes	Smooth, sandy, ledgy roads and trails

Narrative

SQRU #008 is made up of Black Ridge, the highest point in the Inventory Area, and its adjacent southern slopes. The unit includes a few shallow valleys. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush and grasses on the mesa tops, with pinyon/juniper on slopes. A few areas of riparian vegetation exist on arroyo bottoms. A group of communication towers on Black Ridge are a noticeable alteration to the landscape, in addition to dirt roads and a corral.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)		
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Low flat-topped mesas, undulating slopes and shallow arroyos
Vegetation	3	Largest sagebrush areas within Inventory Area; pinyon/juniper, isolated riparian vegetation
Water	0	Water is intermittently present in stock ponds. Otherwise absent.
Color	2	Gray-green with blue hues in sagebrush, juniper greens
Adjacent Scenery	4	Dramatic vertical relief in Devils Canyon, contrasting with the large, flat Grand Valley, adjacent canyon systems, and distant views of Grand Mesa.
Scarcity	3	Broad, large areas of sagebrush are rare in the Inventory Area
Cultural Modification	-2	Road network is similar to other SQRUs, although communication towers are a noticeable mark on the landscape
Total	12	Scenic Quality Rating = <b>B</b>
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





IOP #0032, Black Ridge Flats



IOP #0033, Black Ridge

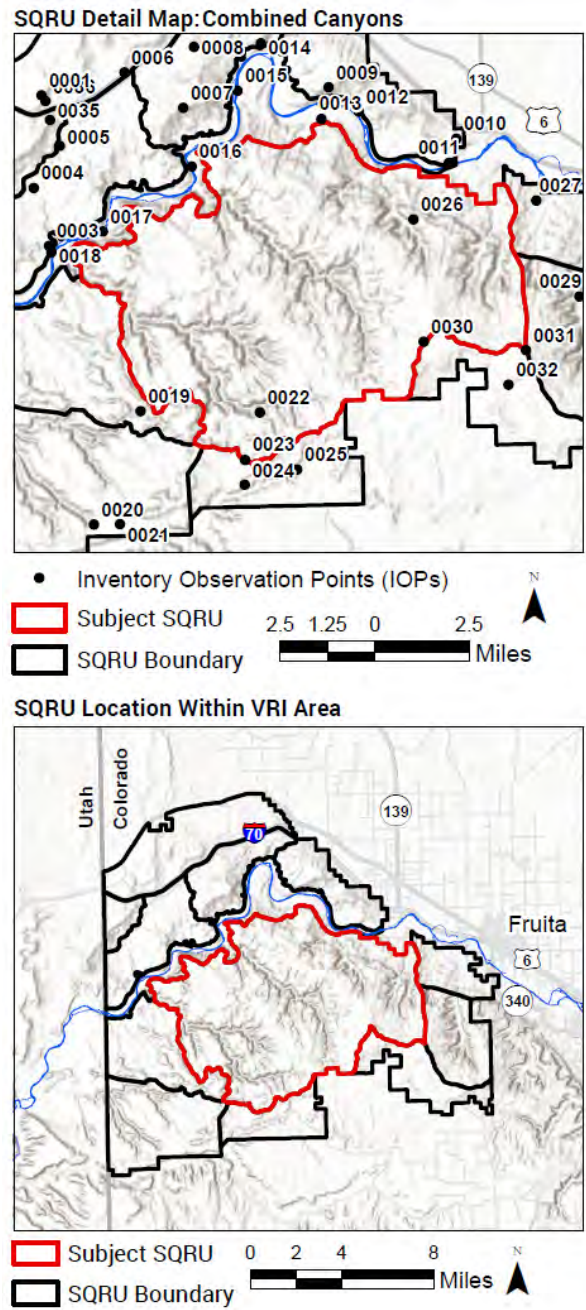




Black Ridge Communications Site



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #009	Combined Canyons
September 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, M. Heinritz, A. Spencer, M. Grant-Hoffman



Landscape Character			
	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Trapezoidal mesa tops with rounded Dakota caps; columned; deeply incised, U-shaped canyons; flat Wingate canyon walls; oval alcoves; terraced landscape, from mesa tops to mid-levels and canyons; arch concentrations in a few places	Rounded globe-like trees and shrubs; savannah landscape with uniformly distributed pinyon/juniper on land terraces	No defined structure apparent
Line	Straight, horizontal entrada cliff lines; wavy cliff tops; angular vertical columns on Wingate canyon walls; broken, scattered horizontal lines on Keyenta rock layer	Erratic angular terraces define vegetation edges; some wavy lines delineating pinyon/juniper & sage areas	Curving trails and roads; linear, stunted juniper fences
Color	Yellow, buff entrada growing redder going down in elevation; sharp contrasting yellow-red Entrada	Juniper green dominates; gray-green sage areas interspersed; lime green deciduous bushes and trees on canyon bottoms	Reddish trails; yellow/tan roads; gray fenceposts
Texture	Smooth Entrada, corrugated Morrison, broken Dakota mesa tops and caps	Popcorn-like, stippled juniper blanket on uplands; sparse stippled junipers on canyon slopes, clumpy linear cottonwood trees in canyon bottoms; smoother carpeted sage areas	Sandy and soft trails; rough, rocky roads

Narrative

SQRU #009 is the centerpiece landscape of McInnis Canyons NCA, with five major canyons incising the north edge of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The terraced terrain steps down from Entrada-rimmed mesas, to mid-level uplands, and a larger vertical drop into the Wingate cliffs within the inner canyons. Scattered, stippled pinyon/juniper is dominant on mesa tops and terraces. Scattered trails and a few dirt roads exist.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)		
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4.5	Series of canyons with alcoves, arch formations
Vegetation	3.5	Stippled pinyon/juniper dominate views, serviceberry understory, strips of cottonwoods in canyon bottoms. Areas of sagebrush and grasses.
Water	2.5	Water is intermittently present at isolated springs, puddles and in drainages.
Color	3	Juniper green vegetation prevalent in uplands; various shades of tan, red in canyons. Seasonal color in cottonwoods and shrubs. Additional color contrasts with low sun angle.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Expansive views as far as Bookcliffs to north, Colorado River canyons are visible, as well as nearby Black Mesa, and the distant Grand Mesa.
Scarcity	4.5	The sheer number of parallel canyons and the presence of rare arches add to the scarcity factor.
Cultural Modification	0	Trails and old 2-track roads are a minimal presence, and not an apparent landscape disturbance.
Total	21	Scenic Quality Rating = A
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





IOP #0022, Knowles Canyon



IOP #0023, Knowles Canyon Upland





IOP #0026, Rattlesnake Canyon



IOP #0030, Combined Canyons Upland





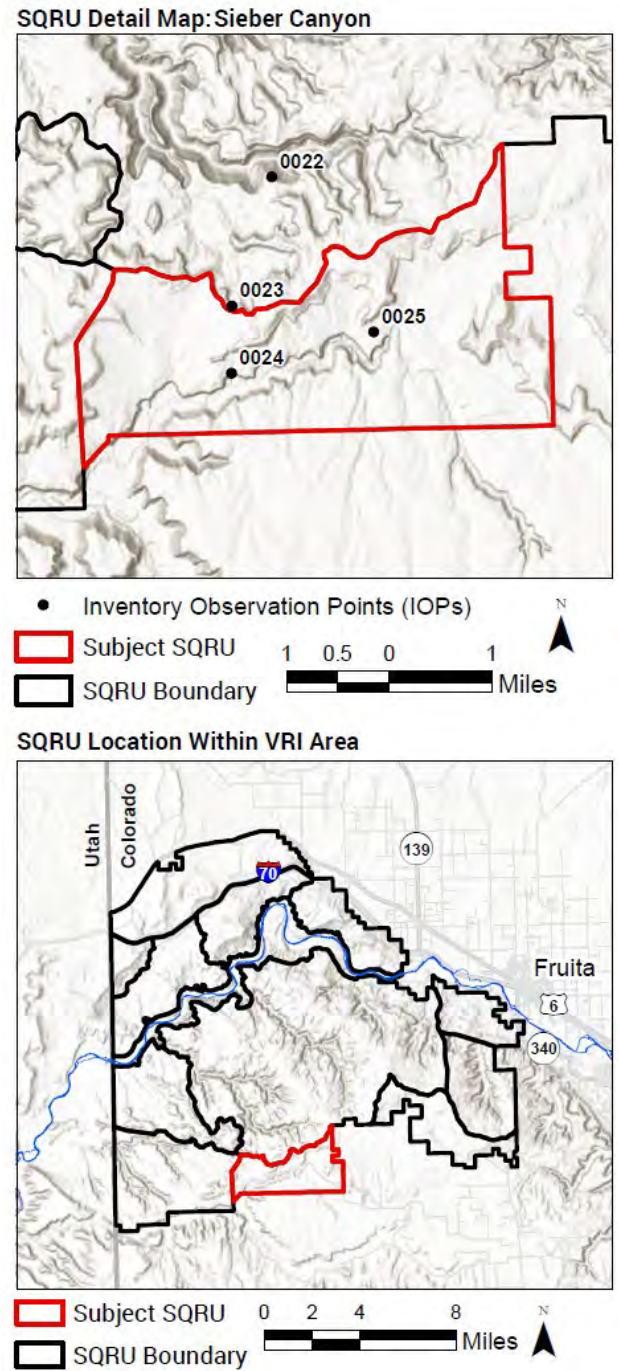
Mee Canyon Alcove



Rattlesnake Canyon Arches  
*Bottom Photo Credit: Bob Wick*



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #010	Sieber Canyon
October 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, P. Sever, C. Ewing



Landscape Character			
	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Stepped/terraced landscape from mesa tops to flat/rolling midlevel, to flat bottomed canyon. Vertical, half-buried Wingate canyon walls, with occasional hourglass or elephant trunk shaped columns.	Globe-like, rounded juniper, rounded cone-like pinyon	Swath-like roads; low trapezoidal, bermed stock ponds
Line	Choppy, horizontal lines define Entrada mesas and the Sieber Canyon rim. Entrada lines undercut canyon edges.	Indistinct, erratic angular terraces define vegetation edges; some wavy lines between pinyon/juniper & sage areas	Curving trails and roads; angular gates, horizontal stock pond dam tops
Color	Reddish-tan arroyo walls, yellow to salmon Entrada, gray-red Wingate	Juniper green dominates; dull gray-green sage areas interspersed; brighter lime green cottonwoods	Tan-red drab roads, weathered gray fenceposts
Texture	Smooth overall, with some coarseness due to landscape terraces and canyon	Coarse sage landscape, rougher juniper areas, spiky, prickly grasses and sandy, wavy small dunes in burn areas	Smooth roads and trails, soft sand

Narrative

SQRU #010 is a tableland with low Entrada buttes and the vertical-walled Sieber Canyon. Vegetation is mostly dominated by sagebrush, grasslands, with a few locations of oakbrush and riparian vegetation. Burn areas are bare sand with dead junipers and sparse grasses.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)		
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2.5	Entrada mesas, shallow vertical canyon
Vegetation	3.5	Diversity of vegetation with prevalent sage and grasslands; thin areas of pinyon/juniper; riparian vegetation
Water	0.5	Water is intermittently present at isolated springs, puddles and in drainages.
Color	3.5	Gray-green sage areas, straw colored grasslands, reddish burn areas; various shades of tan and red in canyons. Seasonal color in cottonwoods and shrubs.
Adjacent Scenery	3.5	Green-bottomed agricultural lands are framed by the vertical walls of Sieber Canyon; Pinon Mesa to south; multiple canyons to north
Scarcity	3	Large sagebrush area is relatively rare in the region; other features are somewhat common
Cultural Modification	0	Pictographs present a positive cultural element, access roads and trails blend with landscape and are mostly unnoticeable
Total	16.5	Scenic Quality Rating = <b>B</b>
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





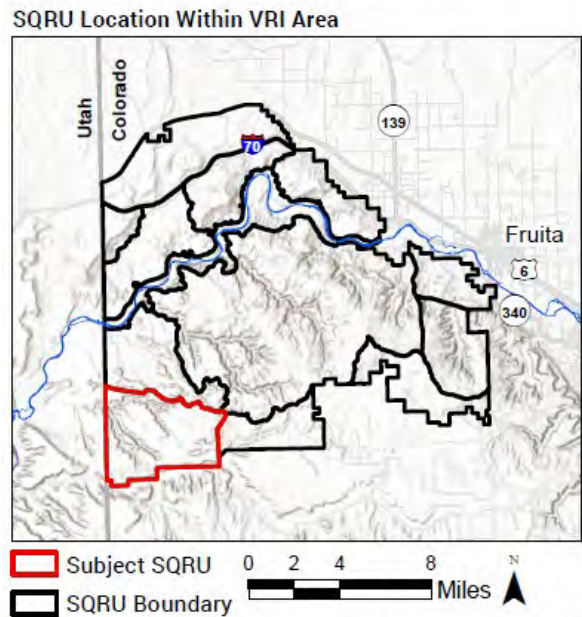
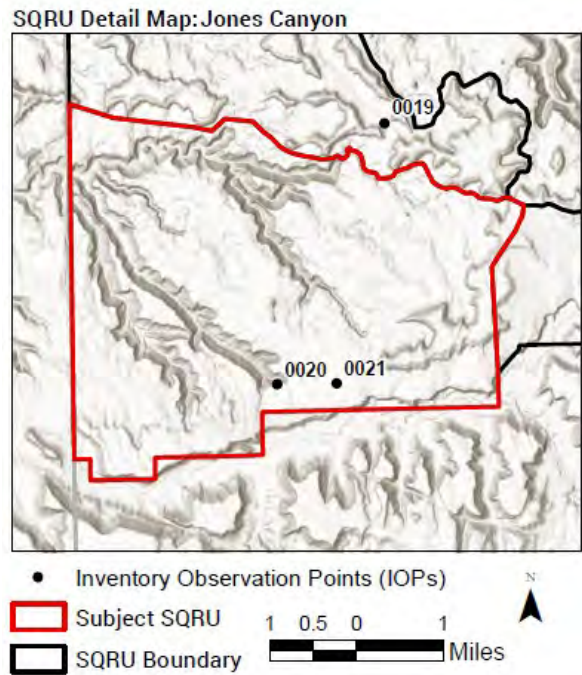
IOP #0024, Sieber Canyon Overlook



IOP #0025, Sieber Canyon Landscape



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #011	Jones Canyon
October 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, C. Ewing, P. Sever



Landscape Character			
	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Flat, undulating, incipient drainages transitioning to several deep branches of Jones Canyon; isolated sandstone buttes with cone and box-like forms. Canyons are V-shaped.	Small globe-like junipers, clumpy, bushy gambel oak	Amorphous, bermed earthen dam
Line	Broken, fragmented canyon rims	Erratic angular lines in landform define vegetation edges	Curving trails
Color	Tan and red canyon walls; maroon Chinle layers near canyon bottom	Juniper green dominates; lime green deciduous bushes and trees	Sand colored trails
Texture	Smooth, undulating uplands with steep canyons; broken, rocky, coarse canyon slopes; smooth vertical Wingate canyon walls	Popcorn-like juniper blanket on uplands; sparse stippled junipers on canyon slopes, clumpy linear trees in canyon bottoms	Soft trails with rocky ledges

Narrative

SQRU #011 is made up of smooth uplands with a dramatic canyon system interspersed throughout the unit, and a few prominent sandstone buttes. Pinyon-juniper forested uplands are thicker than many other areas in the NCA.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)		
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Uplands and dramatic canyons, shallower and more V-shaped than other Canyons within Inventory Area. Entrada sandstone is largely absent, other than isolated buttes.
Vegetation	3	Pinyon/juniper dominates views; strips of cottonwoods in canyon bottoms. Areas of sagebrush and grasses.
Water	0.5	Though water is intermittently present at isolated springs, puddles and in drainages, it is most often absent.
Color	3.5	Juniper green vegetation is prevalent on uplands; various shades of tan, red in canyons.
Adjacent Scenery	3.5	Expansive views as far as Bookcliffs to the north, and green, flat-bottomed Sieber Canyon to the south
Scarcity	1.5	Although visually striking, the landscape elements are common upland features in the Inventory Area.
Cultural Modification	0	Trails, old 2-track roads, and isolated stock ponds are not noticeable.
Total	15	Scenic Quality Rating = B
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





IOP #0020, Jones Canyon



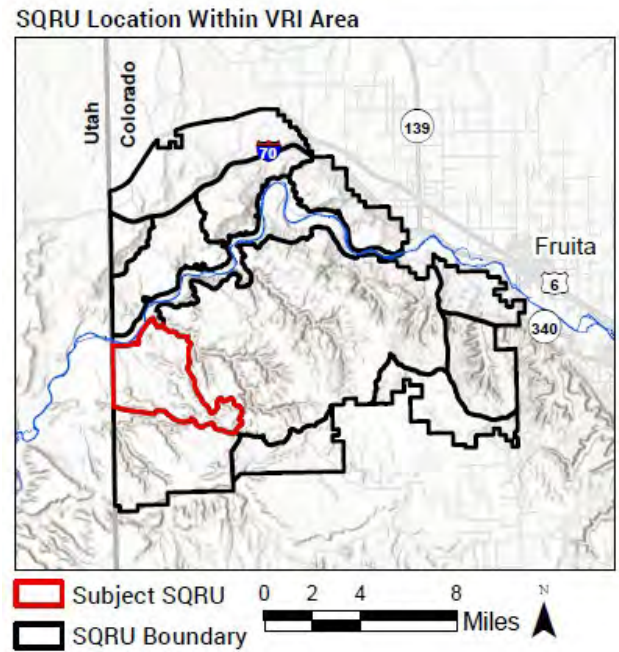
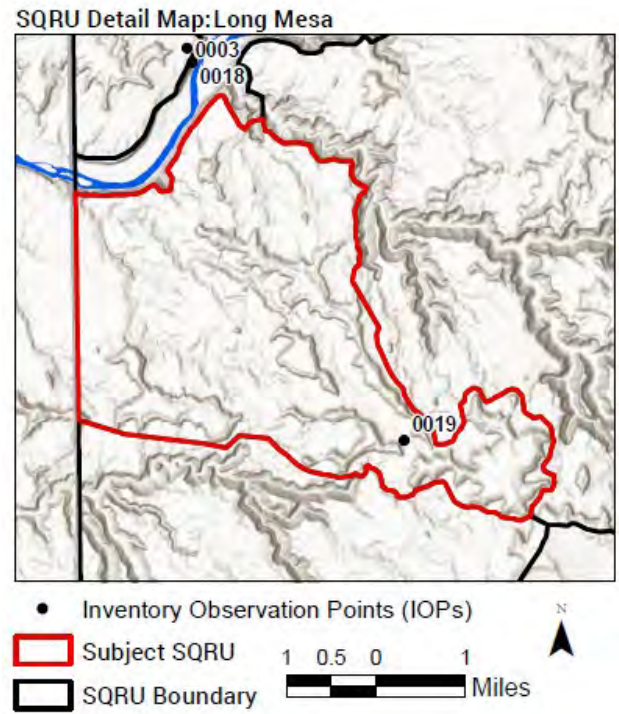


IOP #0021, Jones Canyon Upland





Scenic Quality Rating Unit #012	Long Mesa
October 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin



Landscape Character

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Steep, rolling Entrada-sided mesas with rounded caps. Low, undulating grasslands	Rounded juniper globes with carpeted bunch grasses	A few old roads are present but do not attract attention due to overgrown vegetation
Line	Curving mesa tops with horizontal striations in the exposed rock	Erratic angular lines in juniper, with star-like grasses	Curving
Color	Tans to pink in the Entrada; Tans to red in Dakota	Yellows & green	Muted tan
Texture	Smooth but pocketed cliff faces give way to coarse mesa tops, sheer valley bottom	Stippled	Smooth

Narrative

SQRU #012 is characterized by gentle, rolling grasslands framed by steep stunted cliffs. Long, Wrigley, and other mesas define this unit. Typical vegetation is a sporadic juniper forest and widespread bunch grasses. Textured rock faces create interesting shadows and colors.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Low hills with short, steep cliffs and rounded mesas
Vegetation	3	Bountiful native grasses and juniper throughout, with pockets of cheatgrass
Water	0	Though water is intermittently present at isolated springs, puddles and in drainages, it is most often absent.
Color	3	Colorful Entrada layer dominant throughout with hues of tan, pink, and rose.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Canyon systems at Jones and Knowles Canyons are nearby, with cliffs, alcoves and arches. Colorado River is visible in the distance.
Scarcity	2	Landscape elements are common upland features in the Inventory Area.
Cultural Modification	0	Human caused modifications (trails and old 2-tack roads) are minimal and not discordant in the landscape.
Total	13	Scenic Quality Rating = B

Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less

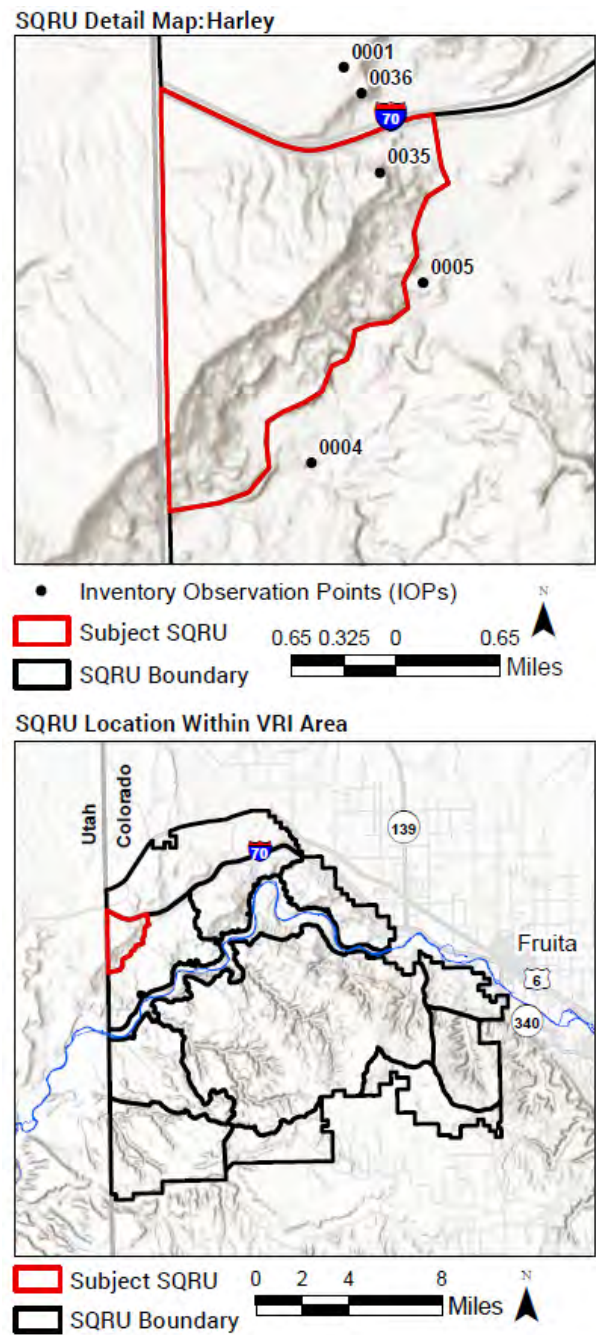




IOP #0019 Long Mesa



Scenic Quality Rating Unit #013	Harley
October 2020	Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Lewis, M. Deras, E. Kowalski



Landscape Character			
	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structure
Form	Angular; succession of triangles. Tilted, gently sloping mesa with stepped, blocky steeper south slopes.	Spreading, nearly blanket-like pinyon-juniper forest; south slopes have sparse vegetation	Few to no alterations, except the curving concrete swath of I-70 at north boundary.
Line	Horizontal, broken Dakota cliffs, stepped skyline ridge	No distinct lines; relatively uniform distribution of trees	I-70 curving line, other former roads are largely reclaimed
Color	Small areas of green-blue and vermillion Morrison slopes; otherwise vegetation covered	Dark, shadowed junipers. Patches of golden grass; gray shadows, muted contrasts, subtle green to beige	Gray ribbon of I-70
Texture	Smooth mesa top with creased arroyos; broken cliff tops on south	Thickly stippled juniper; carpet-like from a distance	Smooth interstate, otherwise not evident.

Narrative

SQRU #013 is a gently northwest-sloping mesa with steep, broken south and east slopes. I-70 is at the north boundary. The mesa top is covered with a pinyon-juniper forest. The mesa slopes are the first view of Colorado for visitors coming from the west on I-70. This unit is unique in having no internal roads or trails.

Scenic Quality Rating Score (Form 8400-1)		
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Prominent tilted mesa dominates unit, although its height is similar to other low mesas in the area.
Vegetation	2	Pinyon-juniper trees cover most of the unit; also there are small patches of grasses and non-vegetated areas
Water	0	No water, and little evidence of water affecting the landscape
Color	1.5	Muted greens, beiges cover most of the unit, with small patches of contrasting colors.
Adjacent Scenery	2.5	Rabbit Valley, Colorado River Corridor, distant mountains complement the landscape.
Scarcity	1	Landform and vegetation are similar to nearby areas.
Cultural Modification	0	I-70 borders unit; cultural modifications not evident within the unit.
Total	9	Scenic Quality Rating = C
Scenic Quality Classification: A = 19 or more; B = 12-18; C = 11 or less		





IOP #0035, Harley







IOP #0036, Harley SQRU as seen from High North SQRU





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## CHAPTER 5

### INVENTORY FACTOR 2: SENSITIVITY LEVELS





5.1 Sensitivity Level Overview



The evaluation of sensitivity levels during the VRI process documents the public’s concern for the visual environment on public lands by assigning high, moderate, or low sensitivity level ratings to delineated geographic units within the inventory area. The following factors, as defined in Section III.A of BLM H-8410-1, were considered in determining Sensitivity Level Rating Units (SLRUs) and scoring those units.

- **Types of Users**—Visual sensitivity will vary with the type of users. Recreational sightseers may be highly sensitive to any changes in visual quality, whereas workers who pass through the area on a regular basis may not be as sensitive to change.

- **Amount of Use**—Areas seen and used by large numbers of people are potentially more sensitive. Protection of visual values usually becomes more important as the number of viewers increases.
- **Public Interest**—The visual quality of an area may be of concern to local, State, or national groups. Indicators of this concern are usually expressed in public meetings, letters, newspapers or magazine articles, newsletters, land use plans, etc. Public controversy created in response to proposed activities that would change the landscape character should be considered.
- **Adjacent Land Uses**—The interrelationship with land uses on adjacent lands can affect the visual sensitivity of an area. For example, an area within the viewshed of a residential area may be very sensitive, whereas an area surrounded by commercially developed lands may not be visually sensitive.
- **Special Areas**—Management objectives for special areas such as Natural Areas, Wilderness Areas, Scenic Areas, Scenic Roads, National Trails, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern frequently require special consideration for the protection of their visual values. This does not necessarily mean that these areas are scenic but rather that one of the management objectives may be to preserve the natural landscape setting. The management objectives for these areas may be used as a basis for assigning sensitivity levels.
- **Other Factors**—Information such as research or studies that include indicators of visual sensitivity are considered as other factors. According to BLM Manual 8400, there are no standard procedures for delineating sensitivity level rating units (SLRUs). The SLRU boundaries depend on the factors driving the sensitivity consideration at the time of the inventory and reflect public sentiment, which



requires a qualitative analytical approach to understand and describe geospatially. The most important aspect of preparing the SLRUs is a thorough review and understanding of the sensitivity factors described above. Units can be based on physical attributes of the land, delineation of viewsheds from primary travel routes and popular viewpoints, or any other means that prove useful in capturing changes in sensitivity based on sensitivity factors. Viewsheds from population centers or popular recreation destinations can also play an important role in identifying the SLRU boundaries, because publics highly value those viewsheds.

Determining the overall sensitivity level rating of a SLRU is a qualitative analysis that is improved by considering input from local land use policies and ordinances, other agency directives, and public sentiment gleaned from news articles, social media posts, and past public outreach responses. Additionally, careful consideration of the sensitivity factors by BLM staff members who have detailed knowledge of the use of public lands within



their office is important. The intent of the sensitivity rating process is to provide three general ranges of visual sensitivity for planning purposes. Areas of high, moderate, and low sensitivity are assigned at the macro level, but there are undoubtedly smaller, site-specific areas of higher and lower sensitivities within each SLRU. Of note, low sensitivity does not indicate a lack of sensitivity; some populations within low sensitivity rated areas could hold a considerable level of concern.

5.2 Inventory and Evaluation Methodology

According to BLM Policy Manual H-8410-1, there is no defined set of procedures to establish sensitivity units and levels. The first step in determining SLRUs is to research a variety of sources in gathering accounts of land sensitivity. In this VRI, a number of publicly available documents and websites were reviewed to determine which areas hold particular sensitivity.

The sources were recorded into a spreadsheet that included information about the name of the source, the feature that is considered important, how the public interacts with that feature, and why the feature is considered important. Approximately 100 separate sensitivity accounts were recorded. These sources are listed in Appendix A.3 and summarized below.

Official Documents

BLM sources provided a wealth of information regarding sensitivity, including the 2004 Colorado Canyons NCA Resource Management Plan (RMP), 2003 Colorado Canyons NCA Land Health Assessment, and usage information from the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS).

The Colorado Canyons Association website had additional information pertinent to MCNCA, including the Colorado



Canyons Strategic Plan (2019-2021). Local government land use policies including the Mesa County zoning code, land use plan, and the draft Mesa County Resource Management Plan provided important local information.

Newspaper articles

A search for “McInnis Canyons” on the local Grand Junction Daily Sentinel website yielded 362 results, mentioning the NCA and special places within it. The Moab Times featured articles listing the many scenic resources and recreational opportunities within MCNCA, such as Devils Canyon and Rabbit Valley.

Social Media

A search for “McInnis Canyons” on Twitter yielded hundreds of posts. Several themes were identified, including posts about Rattlesnake Arches, dinosaur/paleontology areas, Devils Canyon, and the Colorado River corridor. A surprising discovery was posts extolling the scenic value of McInnis Canyons to Amtrak passengers, who travel through Ruby Canyon within the

NCA. Facebook has several pages dedicated to the NCA and areas within it, including the Kokopelli Trail System and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. For example, the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area Facebook page had garnered 152 likes and 1132 visits as of July 2020. Similarly, Instagram boasts thousands of posts mentioning MCNCA and its features. YouTube has over 50 videos showing the MCNCA landscape, unique features, and recreational activities. These include videos featuring Rabbit Valley, Mee Canyon, Devils Canyon, Hawkeye Road, Hawkeye Trail, and the Fruita Paleo Area.

Websites

Outdoor orientation and navigation websites/apps, including MTB Project, Hiking Project, Trailforks, Gaia, Strava, huntscore.com, gvtrails.com, and copmoba.org all provide information about the trails and other recreational offerings within MCNCA. These sites help emphasize the high amount of use in the Kokopelli Trail System (oriented to mountain biking), Fruita Front Country (hiking emphasis), and hunting in the more remote areas. Tripadvisor.com, one of the leading sources of information for the travelling public, has six separate web pages for McInnis Canyons and its sub-areas. Tripadvisor users mention features such as arches, spectacular rock formations, unique desert topography, and paleontology.

Land Manager Survey

A land manager survey was developed to gauge the public’s perception of valued landscapes, users of these landscapes, reasons for valuing the landscapes, adjacent scenery, and amount of use. The responses largely reflected the landscape



features people value most: the Colorado River, Rattlesnake Arches, Wilderness, wild undisturbed viewsheds visible from population centers, and recreational opportunities. See Appendix A.1 to see the survey questions and responses.

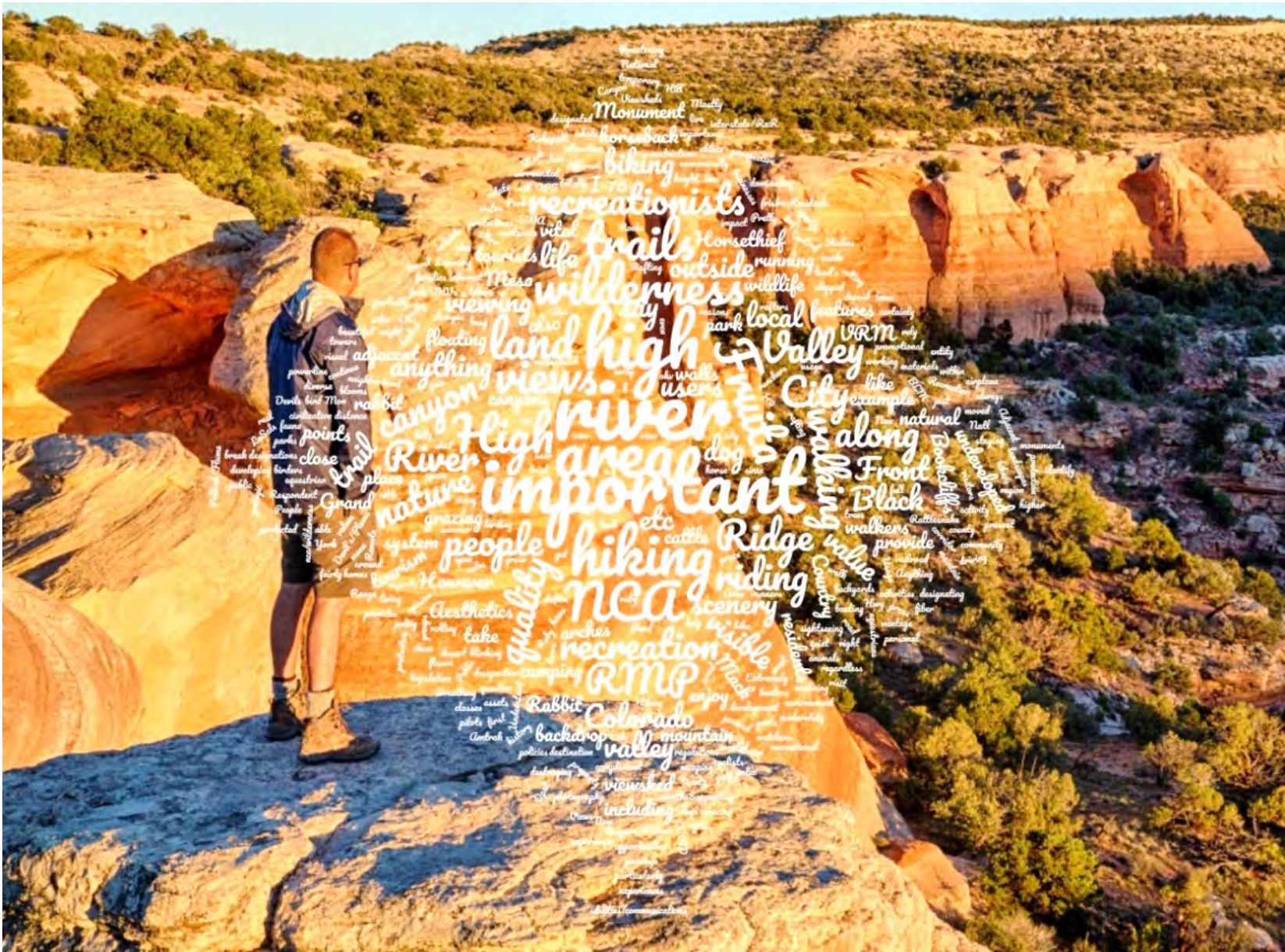
Tribal Consultation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic BLM could not complete Native American Tribal consultation for this project, and information contained in this report should not be construed as having Tribal consideration. Input from Tribes would have required substantial correspondence and field visits that were not possible given the circumstances. The BLM McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area Cultural Resource Program is conducting other landscape-level analyses with the Tribes, and remains committed to seeking input, recommendations, and council from Tribes regarding management of resources within the NCA. Tribes will be provided copies of the final Visual Resource Inventory upon completion.

5.3 Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Delineation

Per BLM document Visual Resource Inventory Implementation Guidelines, dated August 18, 2010, the final polygons for sensitivity may be derived from multiple input datasets and/or intermediate data products. These input and intermediate data products should be maintained as they are part of the inventory record. Input data used to help determine the SLRU boundaries included the following:

- Sensitivity Accounts
- Public Land Manager Survey
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundaries



Word cloud of Land Manager Survey responses, with most common words in large type.

- Notable landform features (e.g., arches, deep canyons, Colorado River)
- Cultural modifications (e.g., I-70 corridor)
- High-use areas (e.g., Mack Ridge, Colorado River Corridor, Fruita Front country)
- Special Areas (e.g., Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness)
- 2004 Resource Management Plan Recreation Management Zones (e.g., Mack Ridge, Rabbit Valley motorized area)
- Viewsheds from trails, roads, overlooks, and population centers (e.g., Fruita, Colorado)



- Areas with few or no roads, or characterized by non-mechanized travel routes (e.g., Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, Rabbit’s Ear, Wildhorse Mesa)
- Wildlife habitat areas (e.g., pronghorn, desert bighorn, bald eagle)
- Cultural resource areas

SLRUs were drafted and revised in November 2020. In response to BLM input, Fruita Front Country (SLRU #009) was enlarged to include the viewshed from Fruita, Colorado to a distance of five miles inside the NCA. This viewshed was also mentioned in the Land Manager survey and other sources. Please see Appendix A.2, Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Delineation Methods, for further information.

5.4 Sensitivity Level Results

SLRUs were scored using BLM Form 8400-6 to document perceptions of the public’s sensitivity to potential visual change across the inventory area. The process considered local residents and regional, national, and international visitors.



Consideration was also given to those who use the inventory area for outdoor recreation, business, or residential purposes, as well as those that do not personally use the area but are nonetheless concerned about its visual integrity (e.g., members of public land advocacy organizations). This preliminary analysis considered factors like wilderness designation, historic and cultural sites, the presence of rivers and streams, and adjacent land uses. The 2004 Resource Management Plan Recreation Management Objectives were especially useful.

High levels of sensitivity were recorded in Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, the Colorado River Corridor, Fruita Front Country, Mack Ridge, and Rabbit Valley Motorized Area. All of these areas, with the exception of the Wilderness, receive high levels of recreational use. The Fruita Front Country unit is visible from Fruita. Visitors from the region and beyond value the river floating opportunities of the Colorado River Corridor or mountain biking at Mack Ridge. Despite moderate levels of visitation, Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness is mentioned in local media as an asset, with frequent references to the second-highest concentration of arches outside Arches National Park in Utah. Wilderness is classified as VRM Class I under BLM Visual Resource Management, the highest level of VRM.

Moderate concern for visual change was documented in areas that receive lower levels of visitation and lack spectacular landscape features like deep canyons or the Colorado River. These areas may have significant cultural modifications, e.g. I-70 or the communications towers on Black Ridge. With the exception of the I-70 viewshed, moderately sensitive areas are not easily visible from population centers or paved roads. Sieber Canyon is a good example, seen primarily by backcountry hikers and hunters who seek out that area.

Low concern for visual change to the landscape was recorded in one SLRU—High North. Despite its proximity to I-70, this area is largely not visible from the interstate due to a series of mesas

and ridges. The unit’s flat topography and proximity to landscapes with higher scenic quality, like Rabbit Valley and the Bookcliffs, influence its lower sensitivity.





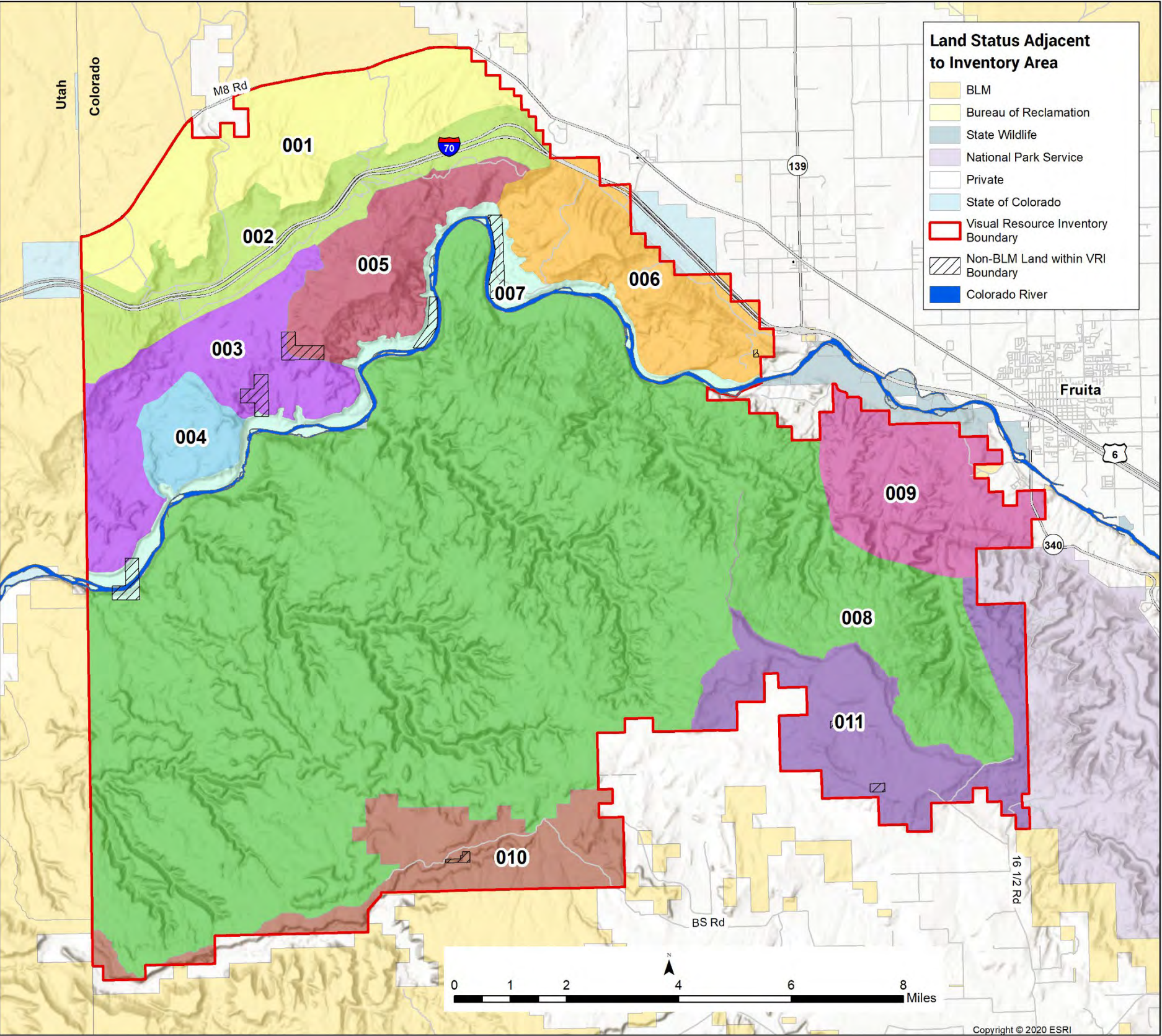


Figure 14

**Sensitivity Level Rating Units (SLRUs) Index Map**

- High
- I-70 Corridor/Dinosaur Diamond Scenic
- Rabbit Valley Motorized
- McDonald Wash-Wildhorse Mesa Non Mechanized
- Rabbit's
- Mack
- Colorado River
- Black Ridge Canyons
- Fruita
- Sieber
- Black

SLRU Number	SLRU Name
001	High North
002	I-70 Corridor/Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway
003	Rabbit Valley Motorized Area
004	McDonald Wash-Wildhorse Mesa Non Mechanized Area
005	Rabbit's Ear
006	Mack Ridge
007	Colorado River Corridor
008	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness
009	Fruita Frontcountry
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Black Ridge



Table 4 Sensitivity Levels by Sensitivity Level Rating Unit (Based on Form 8400-6)

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Summary								Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker
Unit Number & Name	Type of Use	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
001 High North	L	M	L	M	N/A	L	L	SLRU 001 includes terrain north of the I-70 viewshed. The flat terrain relative to more featured landscapes nearby, and short duration of recreational visits, indicates that this unit serves primarily as a pass-through. Public sensitivity to change appears to be low.
002 I-70 Corridor-Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway	M	H	M	M	M	H	M	SLRU 002 is made up of the I-70 corridor, and has moderate sensitivity. Millions of vehicles pass through the area. A segment of this pass-through traffic may be sensitive to changes in the landscape. NCA trailheads within the corridor also may increase sensitivity.
003 Rabbit Valley Motorized Area	H	H	H	H	M	M	H	SLRU 003 is a large portion of Rabbit Valley, and has intensive motorized recreation and camping. The heavy use and camping pressure recently led to adoption of designated camping only in the area. Visibility from I-70 contributes to the high sensitivity rating of this unit.
004 McDonald Wash-Wildhorse Mea Non-Mechanized Area	M	M	M	H	N/A	M	M	SLRU 004 is made up of the lower McDonald Wash and Wildhorse Mesa. The cultural resources (rock art) and non-mechanized nature of the unit indicates moderate sensitivity.
005 Rabbit's Ear	M	L	L	M	M	M	M	SLRU 005 is located between I-70 and the Colorado River, with a prominent mesa (Rabbit's Ear) at the center. Low use and the presence of only a few roads and hiking trails, contributes to a moderate sensitivity rating.

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Summary								Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker
Unit Number & Name	Type of Use	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
006 Mack Ridge	H	H	H	M	M	M	H	SLRU 006 is dominated by a large mesa (Mack Ridge) between I-70 and the Colorado River. The heavy recreational use and national/international visitation warrants a high sensitivity rating.
007 Colorado River Corridor	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	H	SLRU 007 is made up of the spectacular Ruby and Horsethief Canyons along the Colorado River. The high amount of use and scenic quality of the river and canyon walls warrants a high sensitivity rating.
008 Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	H	H	H	M	H	H	H	SLRU 008 is the centerpiece landscape of McInnis Canyons NCA, with a number of scenic canyons and natural arch formations. The spectacular landscape and status as wilderness makes the unit highly sensitive to change.
009 Fruita Frontcountry	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	SLRU 009 is a front country area adjacent to population centers. The high level of use from local and national visitors, visibility from Fruita, and scenic quality make this unit highly sensitive to changes in the landscape.
010 Sieber Canyon	M	L	M	H	L	L	M	SLRU 010 is a sagebrush and grassy flat between Sieber Canyon and the mesas and canyons within Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. The area is remote from other parts of the NCA and receives low usage. Sensitivity is moderate, primarily because the unit is used to access Wilderness.
011 Black Ridge	M	M	L	H	N/A	L	M	SLRU 011 is primarily made up of Black Ridge, a mesa between private land and the canyons of Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. The landscape is known of the many communication towers on Black Ridge. Hunters and Wilderness visitors contribute to moderate sensitivity.



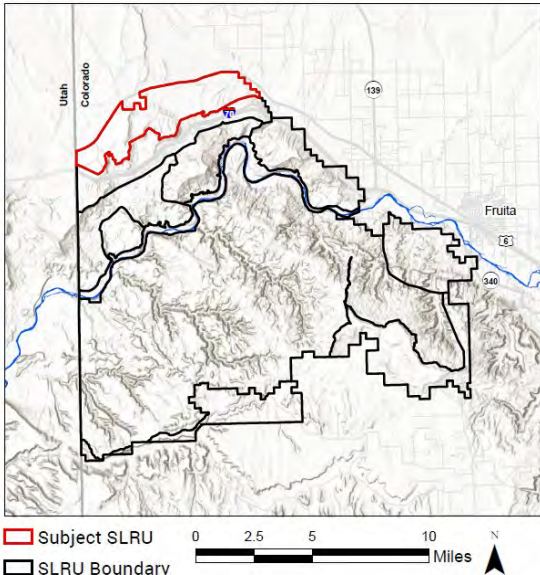
Table 5 Sensitivity Levels by Sensitivity Level Rating Score (Based on Form 8400-6)

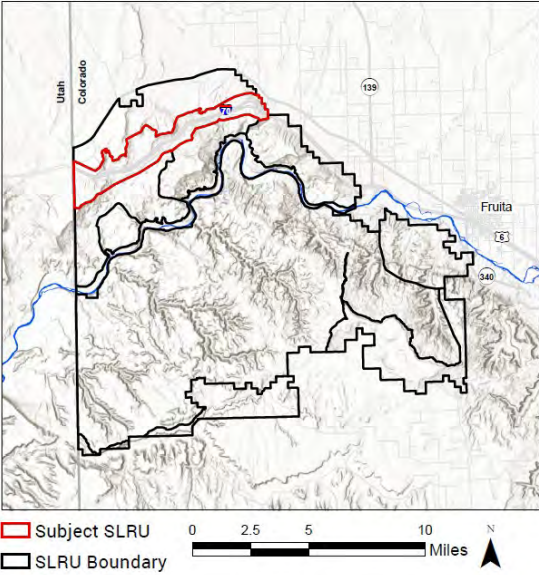
Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Summary								Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker
Unit Number & Name	Type of Use	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
008 Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	H	H	H	M	H	H	H	SLRU 008 is the centerpiece landscape of McInnis Canyons NCA, with a number of scenic canyons and natural arch formations. The spectacular landscape and status as wilderness makes the unit highly sensitive to change.
007 Colorado River Corridor	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	H	SLRU 007 is made up of the spectacular Ruby and Horsethief Canyons of the Colorado River. The high amount of use and scenic quality of the river and canyon walls warrants a high sensitivity rating.
009 Fruita Frontcountry	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	SLRU 009 is a front country area adjacent to population centers. The high level of use from local and national visitors, visibility from Fruita, and scenic quality make this unit highly sensitive to changes in the landscape.
006 Mack Ridge	H	H	H	M	M	M	H	SLRU 006 is dominated by a large mesa (Mack Ridge) between I-70 and the Colorado River. The heavy recreational use and national/international visitation warrants a high sensitivity rating.
003 Rabbit Valley Motorized Area	H	H	H	H	M	M	H	SLRU 003 is a large portion of Rabbit Valley, and has intensive motorized recreation and camping. The heavy use and camping pressure recently led to adoption of designated camping only in the area. Visibility from I-70 contributes to the high sensitivity rating of this unit.
011 Black Ridge	M	M	L	H	N/A	L	M	SLRU 011 is primarily made up of Black Ridge, a mesa between private land and the canyons of Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. The landscape is known of the many communication towers on Black Ridge. Hunters and Wilderness visitors contribute to moderate sensitivity.

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Summary								Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker
Unit Number & Name	Type of Use	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
002 I-70 Corridor-Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway	M	H	M	M	M	H	M	SLRU 002 is made up of the I-70 corridor and has moderate sensitivity. Millions of vehicles pass through the area. A segment of this pass-through traffic may be sensitive to changes in the landscape. NCA trailheads within the corridor also may increase sensitivity.
004 McDonald Wash-Wildhorse Mea Non-Mechanized Area	M	M	M	H	N/A	M	M	SLRU 004 is made up of the lower McDonald Wash and Wildhorse Mesa. The cultural resources (rock art) and non-mechanized nature of the unit indicates moderate sensitivity.
005 Rabbit's Ear	M	L	L	M	M	M	M	SLRU 005 is located between I-70 and the Colorado River, with a prominent mesa (Rabbit's Ear) at the center. Low use and the presence of only a few roads and hiking trails, contributes to a moderate sensitivity rating.
010 Sieber Canyon	M	L	M	H	L	L	M	SLRU 010 is a sagebrush and grassy flat between Sieber Canyon and the mesas and canyons within Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. The area is remote from other parts of the NCA and receives low usage. Sensitivity is moderate, primarily because the unit is used to access Wilderness.
001 High North	L	M	L	M	N/A	L	L	SLRU 001 includes terrain north of the I-70 viewshed. The flat terrain relative to more featured landscapes nearby, and short duration of recreational visits, indicates that this unit serves primarily as a pass-through. Public sensitivity to change appears to be low.

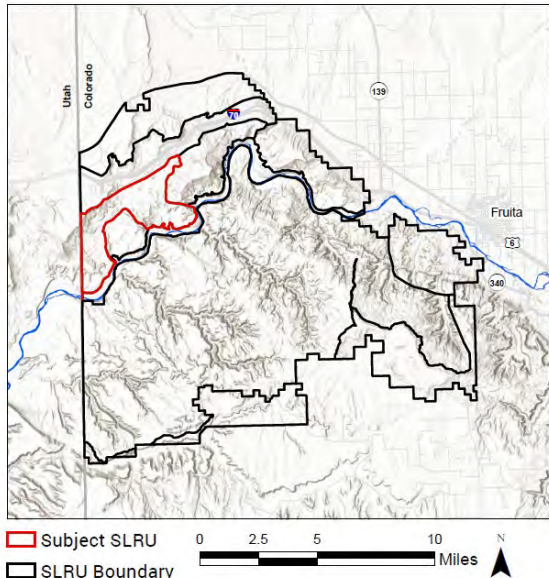


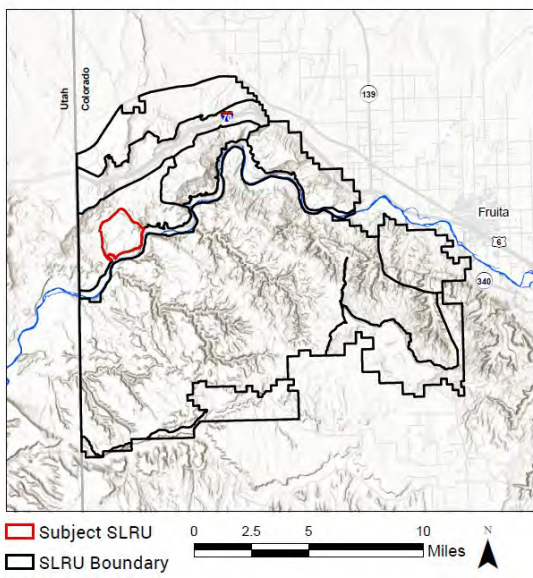
Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Scoring (Based on BLM Form 8400-6)

SLRU # 001		
Name: High North		
Date: December 2020		<div>SLRU Location Within VRI Area</div> 
Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker		
<p><b>Unit Narrative:</b> SLRU 001 includes terrain north of the I-70 viewshed. The flat terrain relative to more featured landscapes nearby, and short duration of recreational visits, indicates that this unit serves primarily as a pass-through. Public sensitivity to change appears to be low.</p>		
	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	Low	Wildlife watching, camping, ATV/4WD/UTV touring, dirt biking (motorized), hunting. Varies with types of users. Low amount of use.
Amount of Use	Moderate	3,940 dispersed visits in 2019 (RMIS data), but most users are travelling through to other destinations.
Public Interest	Low	Wildlife viewing opportunities exist, although similar areas are nearby.
Adjacent Land Uses	Moderate	Private land, including inholdings; I-70 corridor; BLM land outside NCA. Visible from Mack & Loma.
Special Areas	Not Applicable	
Other Factors	Low	2004 RMP VRM Class IV. RMP: manage this zone to provide opportunities to engage in wildlife watching.
Overall Unit Rating	Low	

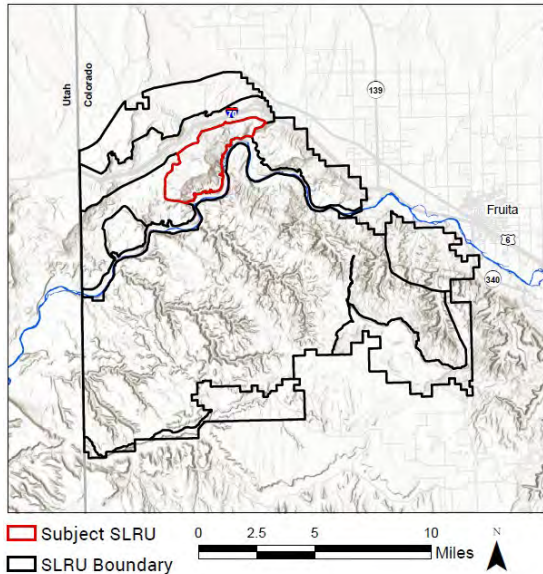
SLRU # 002		
Name: I-70 Corridor/Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway		
<b>Date:</b> December 2020		<div>SLRU Location Within VRI Area</div> 
<b>Evaluators:</b> D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker		
<b>Unit Narrative:</b> SLRU 002 is made up of the I-70 corridor and has moderate sensitivity. Millions of vehicles pass through the area every year. A segment of this pass-through traffic may be sensitive to changes in the landscape. NCA trailheads within the corridor also may increase sensitivity.		
	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	Moderate	Driving/freight on I-70, paleontology hiking, vehicle access to areas within McInnis Canyons NCA
Amount of Use	High	9,581 visits at Trail Through Time Trailhead in 2019 (RMIS data). I-70 has over 3 million vehicles per year (2019 CDOT data).
Public Interest	Moderate	Trail Through Time and its natural setting are important to the public. Viewshed from I-70 is valued.
Adjacent Land Uses	Moderate	Rabbit Valley, High North. Nearby Rabbit Valley and High North heavily used for camping, some of which is visible from highway.
Special Areas	Moderate	Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail parallels I-70.
Other Factors	High	2004 RMP VRM Class III Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway; Trail Through Time; Audubon Important Birding Area
Overall Unit Rating	Moderate	

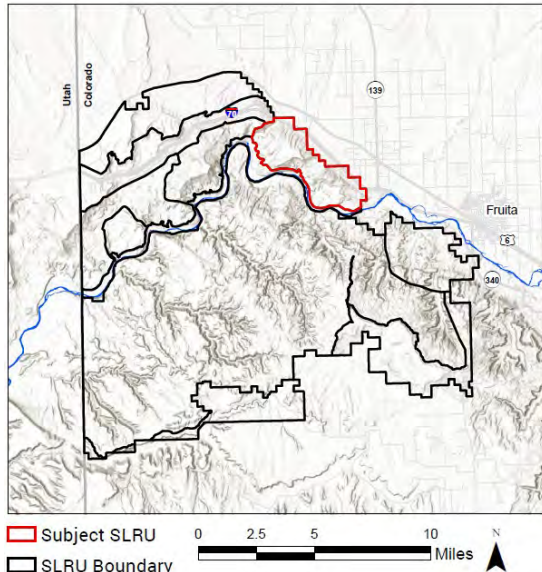


SLRU # 003		
Name: Rabbit Valley Motorized Area		
Date: December 2020		<div>SLRU Location Within VRI Area</div> 
Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker		
Unit Narrative: SLRU 003 is a large portion of Rabbit Valley, and has intensive motorized recreation and camping. The heavy use and camping pressure recently led to adoption of designated camping only in the area. Visibility from I-70 contributes to the high sensitivity rating of this unit.		
	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	High	Camping, ATV/4WD/UTV touring, Dirt biking (motorized), mountain biking, camping, equestrian.
Amount of Use	High	34,445 visits at Rabbit Valley Staging Area in 2019 (RMIS data)
Public Interest	High	High public interest, primarily due to the recreational opportunities. Local/state/national
Adjacent Land Uses	High	BLM land in Utah; Colorado River Corridor. Views into Wilderness also important to users.
Special Areas	Moderate	Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail
Other Factors	Moderate	2004 RMP VRM Class III-IV, Rabbit Valley is visible from I-70
Overall Unit Rating	High	Any substantial alterations would elicit public concern. Dispersed camping impacts in 2020 brought much attention.

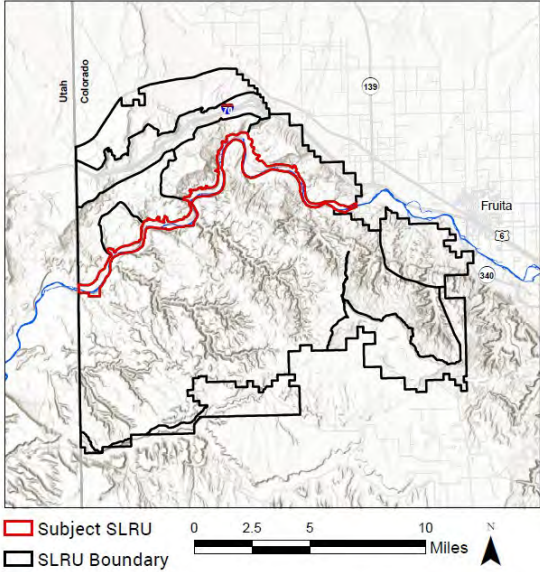
SLRU # 004		
Name: McDonald Wash-Wildhorse Mesa Non-Mechanized Area		
<b>Date:</b> December 2020	<b>SLRU Location Within VRI Area</b> 	
<b>Evaluators:</b> D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker		
<b>Unit Narrative:</b> SLRU 004 is made up of the lower McDonald Wash and Wildhorse Mesa. The cultural resources (rock art) and non-mechanized nature of the unit indicates moderate sensitivity.		
	Rating	Explanation
<b>Type of Use</b>	Moderate	Hiking, hiking to see cultural sites
<b>Amount of Use</b>	Moderate	2,673 visits at McDonald Creek and Wildhorse Mesa in 2019 (RMIS data)
<b>Public Interest</b>	Moderate	Maintenance of cultural sites and surrounding setting are important to the public.
<b>Adjacent Land Uses</b>	High	Colorado River Corridor VRM II, Rabbit Valley Motorized Area
<b>Special Areas</b>	Not Applicable	
<b>Other Factors</b>	Moderate	2004 RMP VRM Class II-IV Pictographs/Petroglyphs; non-mechanized area
<b>Overall Unit Rating</b>	Moderate	

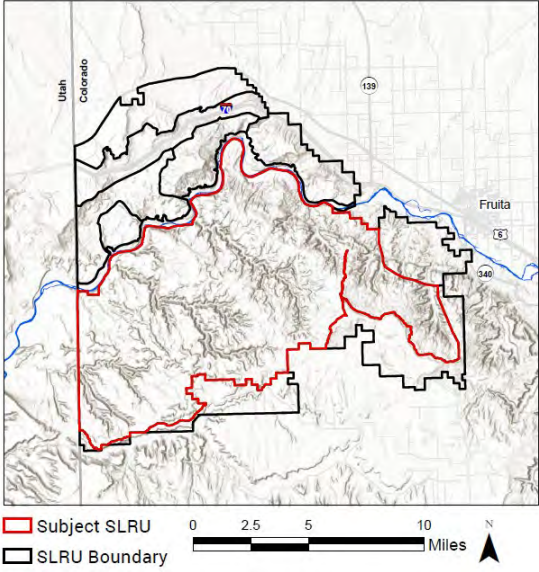


SLRU # 005		
Name: Rabbit's Ear		
<b>Date:</b> December 2020		<div>SLRU Location Within VRI Area</div> 
<b>Evaluators:</b> D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker		
<b>Unit Narrative:</b> SLRU 005 is located between I-70 and the Colorado River, with a prominent mesa (Rabbit's Ear) at the center. Low use and the presence of only a few roads and hiking trails, contributes to a moderate sensitivity rating.		
	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	Moderate	Hiking, ATV/4WD/UTV touring
Amount of Use	Low	843 visits in 2019 (RMIS data)
Public Interest	Low	Information on this area not requested often at Visitor Center.
Adjacent Land Uses	Moderate	I-70; Rabbit Valley Motorized Area; Colorado River Corridor
Special Areas	Moderate	Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail
Other Factors	Moderate	2004 RMP VRM Class II-III Audubon Important Birding Area
Overall Unit Rating	Moderate	Low usage

SLRU # 006		
Name: Mack Ridge		
Date: December 2020		<div>SLRU Location Within VRI Area</div> 
Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker		
Unit Narrative: SLRU 006 is dominated by a large mesa (Mack Ridge) between I-70 and the Colorado River. The heavy recreational use and national/international visitation warrants a high sensitivity rating.		
	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	High	Mountain biking, hiking
Amount of Use	High	69,885 visits at Kokopelli and Hawkeye Trailheads (2019 RMIS data). Primarily mountain biking (non-motorized). Vehicular traffic on Hawkeye Rd. and Kokopelli Trailhead access.
Public Interest	High	High quality recreation experiences partially rely on the setting, including the viewshed. Users expect this area to retain its current character.
Adjacent Land Uses	Moderate	I-70; Private Land; Horsethief Canyon of Colorado River Corridor
Special Areas	Not Applicable	
Other Factors	Moderate	2004 RMP VRM Class II, III, IV; Day Use Only, north portion is visible from I-70; Management is focused on mountain biking.
Overall Unit Rating	High	National and international public use contributes to sensitivity.



SLRU # 007		
Name: Colorado River Corridor		
Date: December 2020		
Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker		
Unit Narrative: SLRU 007 is made up of the spectacular Ruby and Horsethief Canyons of the Colorado River. The high amount of use and scenic quality of the river and canyon walls warrants a high sensitivity rating.		
<div>SLRU Location Within VRI Area</div> 		
	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	High	Float boating, camping, hiking, fishing, railroad use
Amount of Use	High	29,088 visits (2019 RMIS data)
Public Interest	High	Views of the canyon walls are highly important to boaters on the Colorado River. National visitors use river.
Adjacent Land Uses	High	Views of side canyons are important to users. VRM Class I in Wilderness.
Special Areas	Not Applicable	
Other Factors	High	RMP VRM Class II
Overall Unit Rating	High	The river canyons are a highly valued landscape, attracting national publics.

SLRU # 008		
Name: Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness		
Date: December 2020		
Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker		
Unit Narrative: SLRU 008 is the centerpiece landscape of McInnis Canyons NCA, with a number of scenic canyons and natural arch formations. The spectacular landscape and Wilderness status make the unit highly sensitive to change.		
<div>SLRU Location Within VRI Area</div> 		
	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	High	Hiking, hiking to see arches, backpacking, primitive camping, livestock grazing, equestrian, photography, rock climbing
Amount of Use	High	Rattlesnake Arches and Knowles Canyon Trailheads each had over 2,000 visits in 2019 (RMIS data). Devils Canyon access had 29,351 visits, some of which hike into the Wilderness.
Public Interest	High	Arches are mentioned more than any other feature. Devils Canyon is visible from I-70; inner canyon views are important to trail users.
Adjacent Land Uses	Moderate	Other SLRUs within MCNCA. Canyons are visible from I-70, at a distance.
Special Areas	High	Wilderness
Other Factors	High	RMP VRM Class I
Overall Unit Rating	High	Public values the scenery and wilderness character.



SLRU # 009

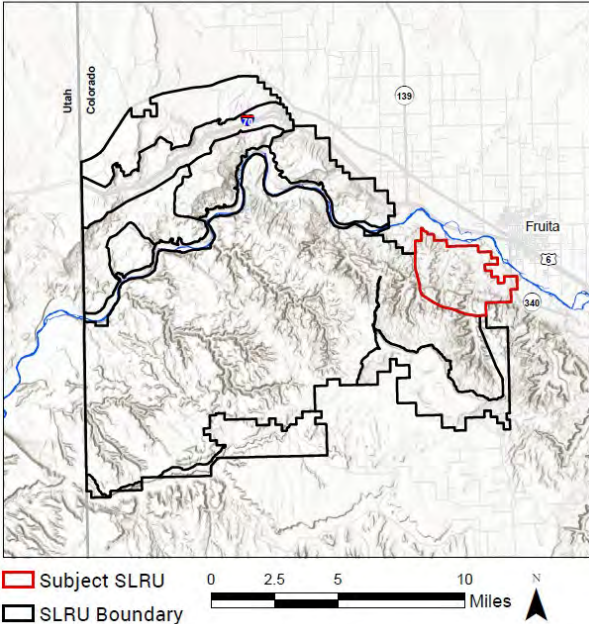
Name: Fruita Frontcountry

Date: December 2020

Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker

Unit Narrative: SLRU 009 is a front country area adjacent to population centers. The high level of use from local and national visitors, visibility from Fruita, and scenic quality make this unit highly sensitive to changes in the landscape.

SLRU Location Within VRI Area



	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	High	Hiking, dog walking, running. Day use.
Amount of Use	High	29,351 visits at Devils Canyon Trailhead (2019 RMIS data)
Public Interest	High	The viewshed from Fruita is a sensitive issue. The proximity of this open space to population centers is important to nearby residents.
Adjacent Land Uses	High	CO National Monument, Wilderness, urban areas
Special Areas	High	West portion of unit is Wilderness
Other Factors	High	2004 RMP VRM Class I (wilderness portion), Class II, day use only
Overall Unit Rating	High	

SLRU # 010

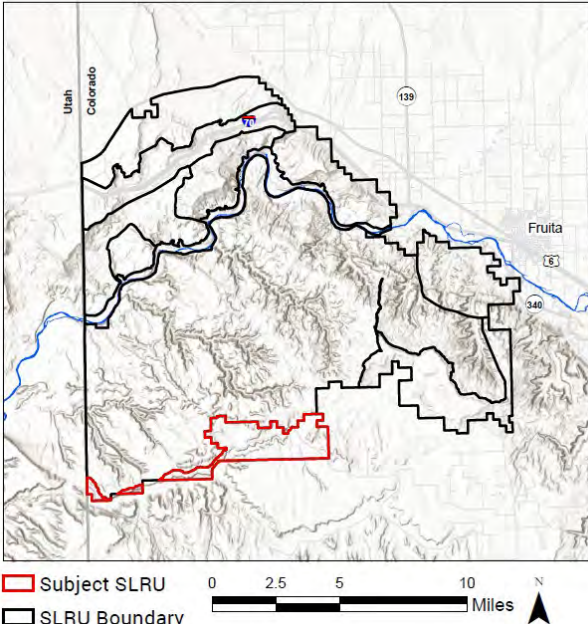
Name: Sieber Canyon

Date: December 2020

Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker

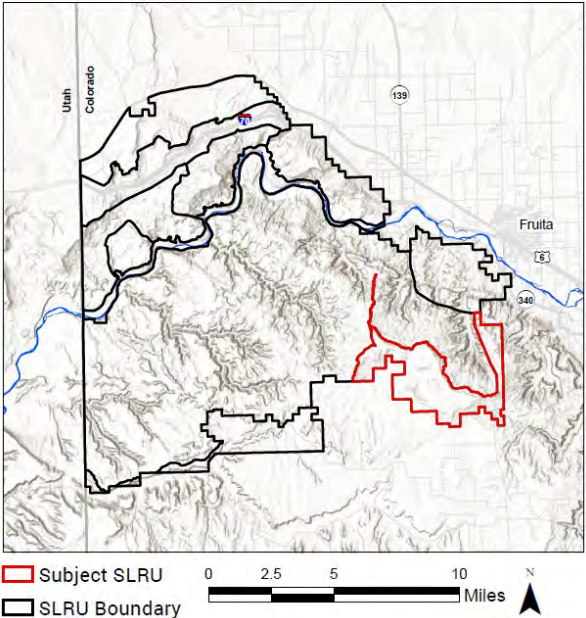
Unit Narrative: SLRU 010 is a sagebrush and grassy flat between Sieber Canyon and the mesas and canyons within Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. The area is remote from other parts of the NCA and receives low usage. Sensitivity is moderate, primarily because the unit is used to access Wilderness.

SLRU Location Within VRI Area



	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	Moderate	Vehicle access to Knowles Canyon and Jones Canyon Trailheads, livestock grazing, hunting, camping
Amount of Use	Low	433 visits at Jones Canyon Trailhead (2019 RMIS data)
Public Interest	Moderate	This area is most often used to access Wilderness. Scenic quality of Sieber Canyon important to some users.
Adjacent Land Uses	High	Adjacent Wilderness, Private land
Special Areas	Not Applicable	
Other Factors	Low	2004 RMP VRM Class IV
Overall Unit Rating	Moderate	



<div>SLRU # 011</div> <div>Name: Black Ridge</div> <div>Date: December 2020</div> <div>Evaluators: D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Walker</div> <div>Unit Narrative: SLRU 011 is primarily made up of Black Ridge, a mesa between private land and the canyons of Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. The landscape is known for the many communication towers on Black Ridge. Hunters and Wilderness visitors contribute to moderate sensitivity.</div>		
<div>SLRU Location Within VRI Area</div> 		
	Rating	Explanation
Type of Use	Moderate	Hunters may be concerned with visual quality; Vehicle access to Rattlesnake Aches TH, Livestock grazing, camping
Amount of Use	Moderate	2,166 visits at Knowles Canyon Trailhead (2019 RMIS data)
Public Interest	Low	
Adjacent Land Uses	High	Wilderness; Colorado National Monument; Private landowners
Special Areas	Not Applicable	
Other Factors	Low	2004 RMP VRM Class IV
Overall Unit Rating	Moderate	





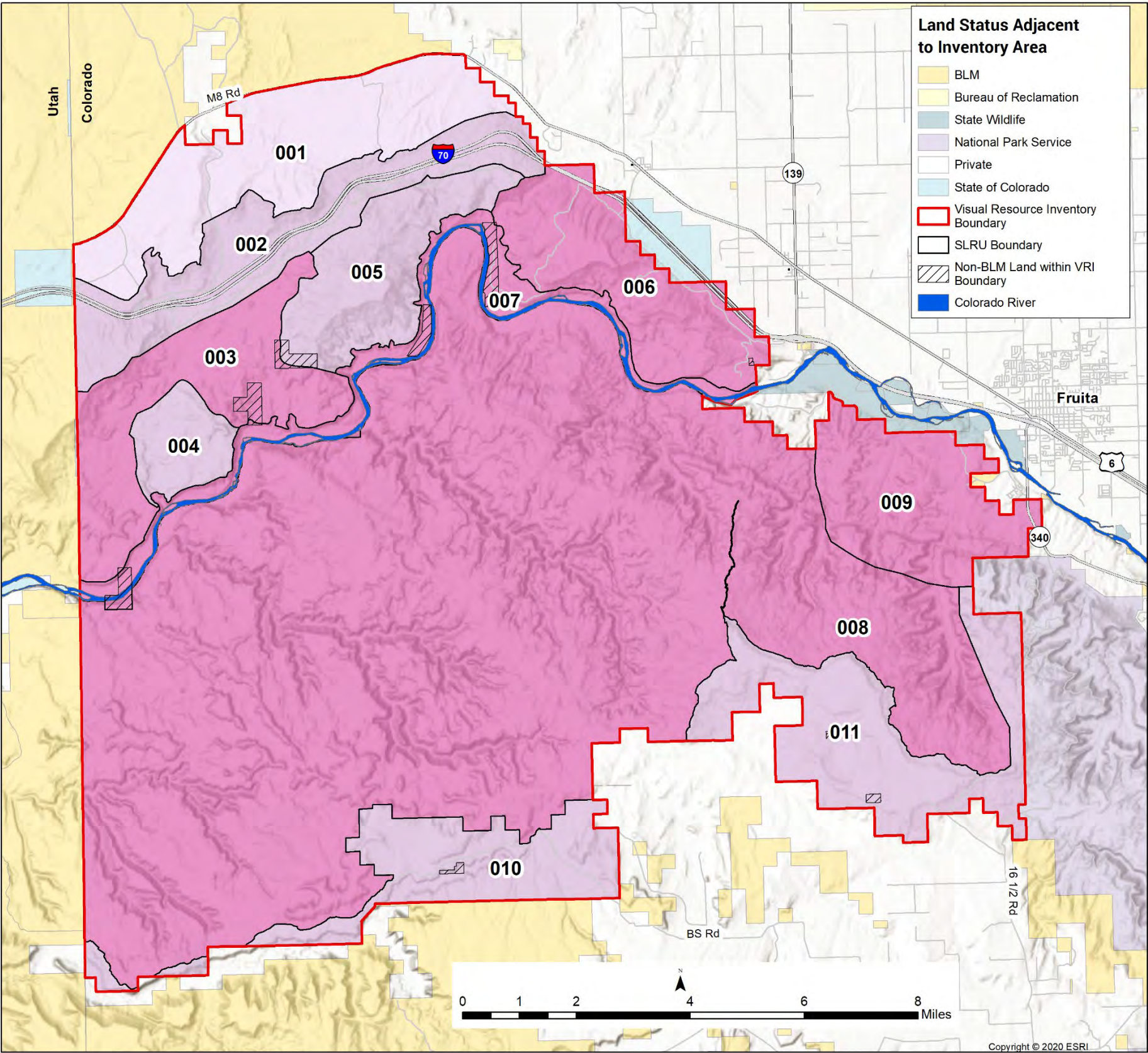


Figure 15

Sensitivity Level Classification

	Acres	% of Total Acres within VRI Boundary	BLM Acres within VRI Boundary	% of BLM Acres within VRI Boundary
VRI Total Acres	118,985	100%		
VRI Boundary BLM Acres	118,148	99%		100%
VRI Boundary Non-BLM Acres	837	1%		
Total Area Inventoried	118,985	100%	118,148	100%
Sensitivity Level - High	87,356	73%	86,688	73%
Sensitivity Level - Moderate	24,114	20%	23,945	20%
Sensitivity Level - Low	7,515	6%	7,515	6%

SLRU Number	SLRU Name
001	High North
002	I-70 Corridor/Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway
003	Rabbit Valley Motorized Area
004	McDonald Wash-Wildhorse Mesa Non Mechanized Area
005	Rabbit's Ear
006	Mack Ridge
007	Colorado River Corridor
008	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness
009	Fruita Frontcountry
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Black Ridge





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## CHAPTER 6

### INVENTORY FACTOR 3: VISUAL DISTANCE ZONES





## 6.1 Overview

Distance Zones (DZs) document areas based on their relative visibility from public vantage points. These public “viewing platforms” may be roads, trails, rivers, campsites, and similar locations. BLM Form H-8410-1 divides the landscape into distance zones, including the following:

**Near Foreground (NF) zone**—Areas visible from hiking/biking/equestrian trails, roads, floatable rivers, overlooks, highways or other viewing locations that are less than one-quarter mile away.

**Foreground-middleground (FM) zone**—Areas visible from major highways and other primary travelways, rivers, trails, or other viewing locations between 0 and 5 miles.

**Background (BG) zone**—Visible areas beyond the FM zone, 5-15 miles.

**Seldom-seen (SS) zone**—Areas that are not visible within the NF, FM and BG zones and areas beyond the BG zones.

Distance zone delineations can provide valuable information during the visual sensitivity level analysis because changes in easily visible areas are more noticeable and more likely to trigger public concern. Distance zone boundaries may help define an area’s Sensitivity Level Rating Unit (SLRU) boundaries. Distance zone delineations can also be valuable during the RMP process when adjustments to VRM classes are made to resolve resource allocation conflicts.

## 6.2 Data Collection Methods & Processes

BLM staff identified roads, trails, viewpoints, and other locations for use as viewing platforms in the distance zone delineation process as described in BLM H-8410-1. These are places from

which the public would most often view landscapes within McInnis Canyons NCA, including a few locations outside the NCA. Viewing platforms included the following: designated travel routes in the NCA, campsites along the Colorado River, Loma boat launch site, trailheads, and other sites.

The inclusion of all designated travel routes, such as vehicular, mountain biking, and hiking/equestrian, is a unique feature of this VRI. This approach is appropriate because roads and trails are the primary way the public views the MCNCA landscape. Nearby cities and towns were not included as viewing platforms due to their relatively long distance from the study area, although the viewshed from Fruita is included in the Sensitivity Levels analysis.

ECS performed distance zone buffering using GIS software in accordance with BLM H-8410-1. Distance zones were delineated from the viewing platforms using a ¼ mile buffer for the NF zone, five-mile buffer for the FM zone, and a viewshed analysis to identify the SS zone. The ¼-mile NF DZ is scaled to the relatively small size of the study area and captures the more detailed visual experience of walking through the landscape. Viewshed (or visibility) analysis was performed to identify areas that are not generally visible. SS designation does not mean these areas are never seen, merely that they are not visible from the viewing platforms. The DZs were clipped at the study area boundary to complement existing DZ delineations in the GJFO. Because the NF, FG/MG and SS zones captured all areas within the NCA, the BG zone is not applicable to this VRI.

The viewshed analysis was performed with GIS software using a 10-meter resolution digital elevation model to determine landscape visibility across the VRI area. To run the viewshed analysis, observation points were generated approximately ¼ mile apart for all linear platforms, such as roads, trails, and the Colorado River. Viewing platforms also included single-point locations, such as overlooks and river campsites. The viewshed

analysis employed a 100-acre minimum polygon size. A number of canyon bottoms lacking designated trails were classified as seldom seen (SS).

The viewshed analysis does not account for vegetation or structures within the inventory area. This type of analysis, based on a “bald” landscape, provides a worst-case scenario of visible areas. This method is appropriate for desert landscapes like MCNCA, where vegetation in many areas consists of grasses and sagebrush. Forested areas are made up of low and sparse pinyon-juniper trees, and does not significantly limit surface views.

## 6.3 Results

Figure 17 shows visual distance zone classifications and how much land falls within each Distance Zone in the VRI area. Approximately 55% of lands within the inventory area are within the Near Foreground (NF) zone (0-0.25 miles). This result is due to the relatively compact size of the inventory area, as well as the extensive network of roads and trails. 36% of the inventory area is in the Foreground-Middleground zone (0-5 miles). Approximately 9% of the inventory area falls within the SS zone, primarily deep canyons not visible from designated trails. As previously noted, none of the NCA lies within the Background (BG) zone (5-15 miles) due to the small size of the inventory area. Fully 86% of the approximately 812 privately owned acres in the VRI Area lie within the NF DZ.



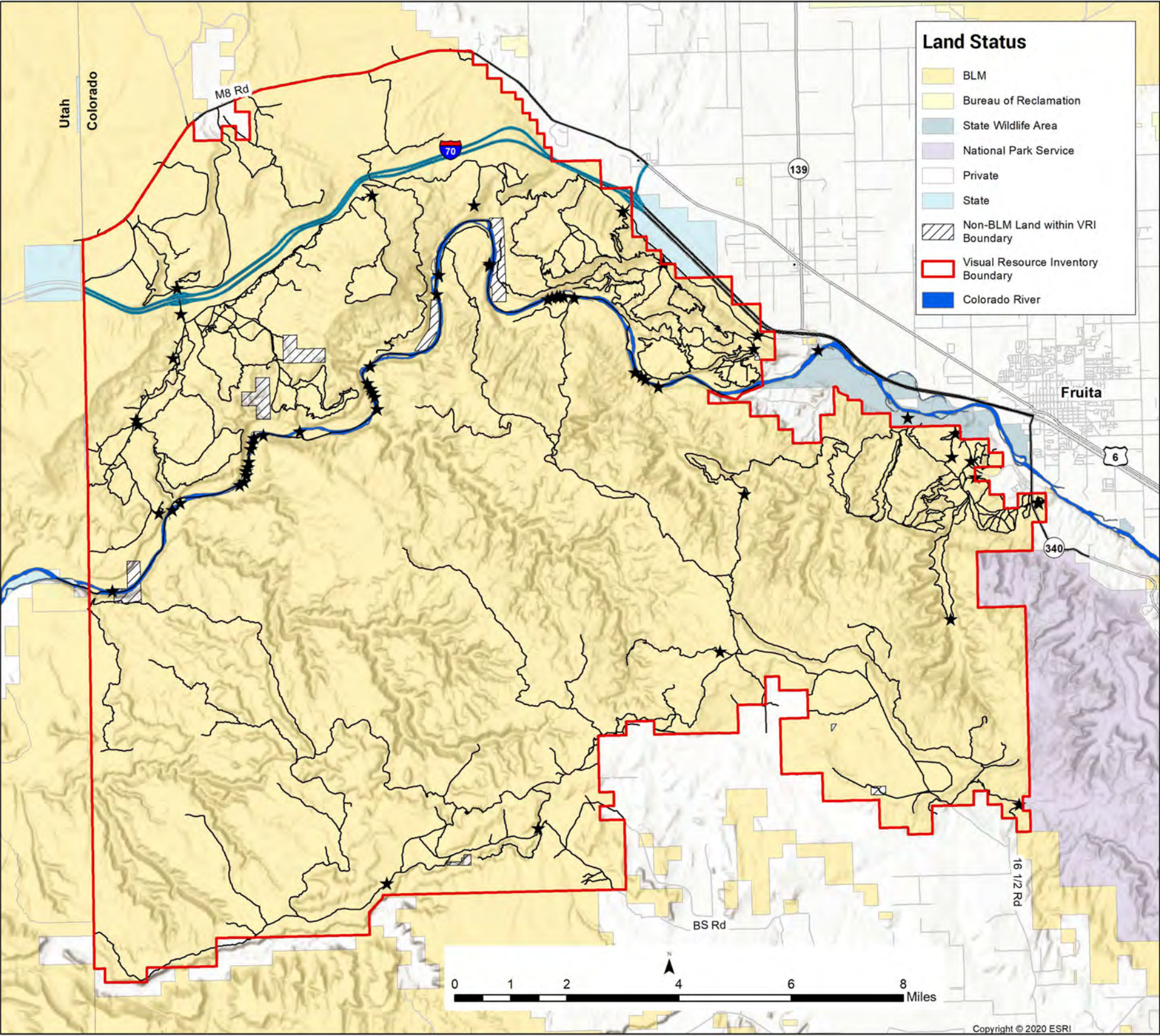


Figure 16  
Visual Distance Zone Viewing Platforms



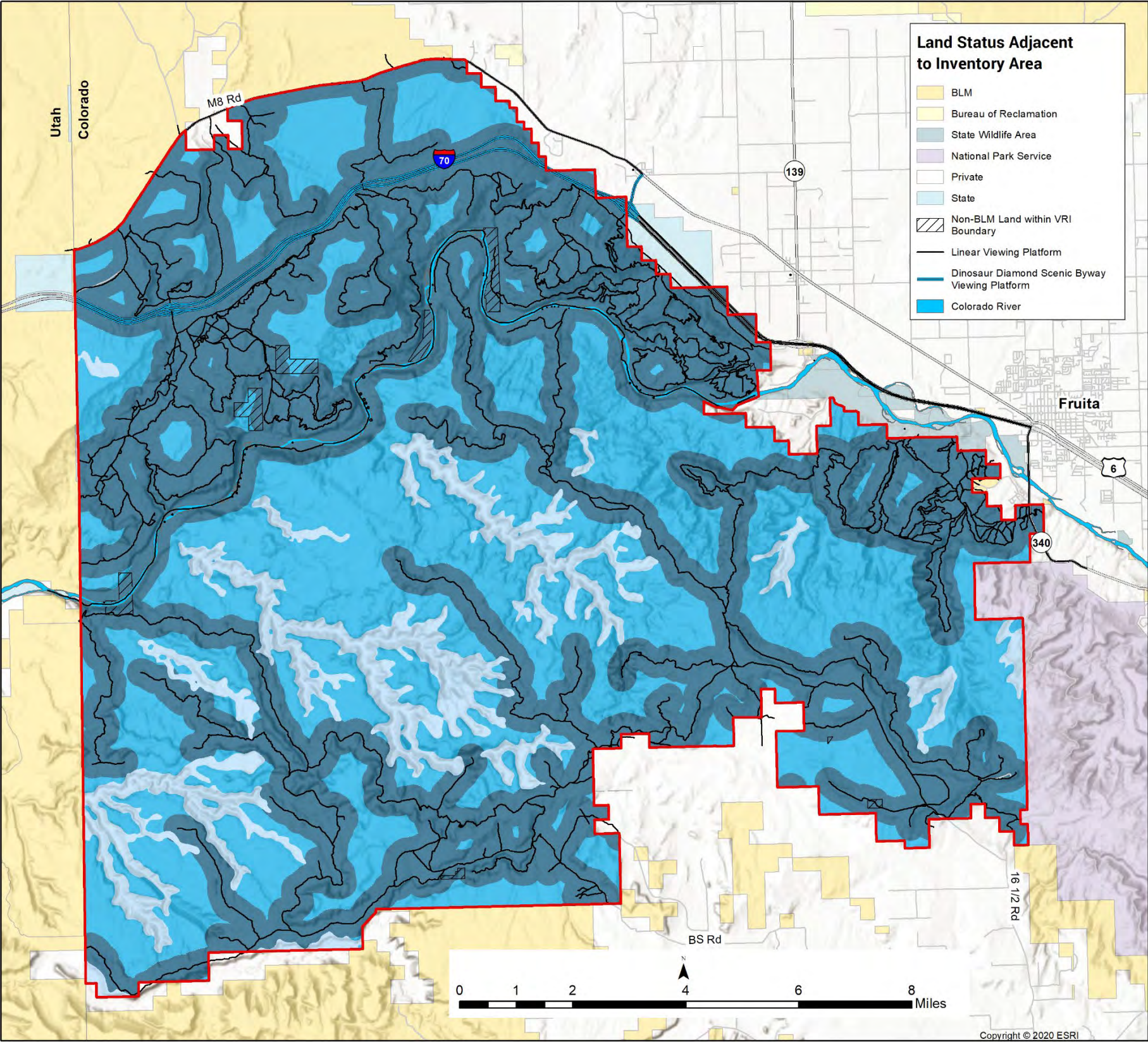


Figure 17

Visual Distance Zone Classification

	Acres	% of Total Acres within VRI Boundary	BLM Acres within VRI Boundary	% of BLM Acres within VRI Boundary
<span style="color: red;">▬</span> Visual Resource Inventory Boundary	118,985	100%		
VRI Boundary BLM Acres	118,148	99%		100%
VRI Boundary Non-BLM Acres	837	1%		
<b>Visual Resource Inventory</b>				
Total Area Inventoried	118,985	100%	118,148	100%
<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> Near Foreground	65,993	55%	65,282	56%
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Foreground/Midleground	42,299	36%	42,173	35%
<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> Seldom Seen	10,693	9%	10,693	9%
<span style="color: white;">■</span> Background	0	0%	0	0%



## CHAPTER 7

# VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY CLASSES





7.1 Overview

The VRM system includes four VRI classes. Class I is assigned to areas where current management requires maintaining a natural environment that is essentially unaltered by humans, such as Wilderness areas or Wilderness Study Areas.<sup>1</sup> Class I landscapes are designated via management actions such as Resource Management Plans. Classes II, III, and IV are assigned according to combinations of scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones as outlined in the BLM’s Visual Resource Inventory Matrix (Table 5).<sup>2</sup> Figure 18 shows VRI Class I overlaid on Wilderness; VRI Classes II, III, and IV were determined by overlaying final scenic quality ratings, sensitivity level ratings, and distance zones in ArcGIS. Figure 19 depicts the visual resource classes as inventoried, without accounting for Wilderness VRI Class I designation. The “as-inventoried” VRI classes are provided as additional information if needed for a future management process. Because the GIS mapping process results in overlapping, slivering, and small anomalies, VRI classification areas of less than 200 acres in size were modified to fit with surrounding mapped units.

7.2 Visual Resource Inventory Classes

A significant portion of the inventory area, approximately 59 percent (70,173 acres), is classified VRI Class I (Figure 18). The Class I area is designated per the 2004 Resource Management Plan, consisting of Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. VRI Classes II, III, and IV tend to be distributed in bands, with the Class II closer to the middle of the NCA, Class III at the next band, and Class IV closer to the VRI boundary. Approximately 15 percent (18,289 acres) of the inventory area is inventoried as VRI Class II. These areas are associated with distinct and dramatic landforms with variations in color and vegetation that resulted in scenic quality Class A ratings. Scenic quality Class B landscapes with high sensitivity levels also inventoried as Class II. VRI Class III areas account for approximately 12 percent (14,608 acres) of the inventory area. Class III areas generally include landscapes with Class B scenic quality ratings and moderate sensitivity, with a few remote seldom seen areas (e.g., Long Mesa SQRU). The remaining 13 percent (15,915 acres) is inventoried as VRI Class IV; these areas tend to be at the edges of the inventory area and characterized by lower scenic quality or sensitivity ratings (e.g., High North SQRU and SLRU).

<sup>1</sup> See BLM 8410-1 (V)(1)  
<sup>2</sup> VRI Classes were assigned per BLM Technical Note 407, p. 9, method 1.

Table 6 Visual Resource Inventory Classes

Special Areas		Assign Class I to all special areas; regardless of the area’s scenic quality, sensitivity levels, or distance zones.						
All Other Areas		Assign Class II, III, or IV to all other areas based on intersecting the scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones for each area; according to the matrix below.						
		Sensitivity Level						
		High			Medium			Low
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	II	III	III/IV*	III	IV	IV	IV
	C	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		F/M	BG	SS	F/M	B	SS	SS
		Distance Zones						



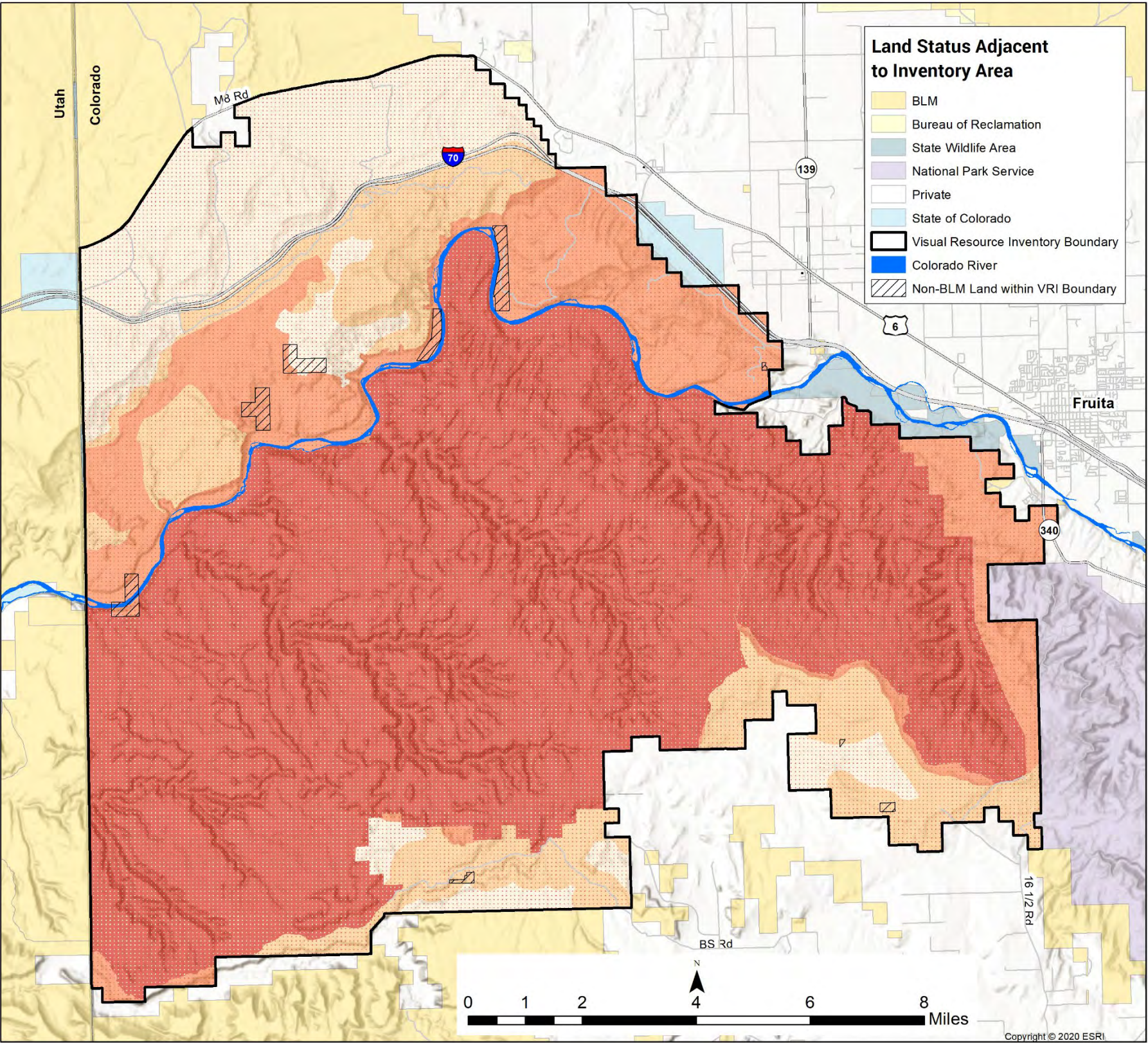


Figure 18

Visual Resource Inventory Classification

	Acres	% of Total Acres within VRI Boundary	BLM Acres within VRI Boundary	% of BLM Acres within VRI Boundary
Visual Resource Inventory Boundary	118,985	100%		
VRI Boundary BLM Acres	118,148	99%	118,148	100%
VRI Boundary Non-BLM Acres	837	1%	837	1%
Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried	118,985	100%	118,148	100%
VRI Class I	70,173	59%	70,173	59%
VRI Class II	18,289	15%	17,637	15%
VRI Class III	14,608	12%	14,538	12%
VRI Class IV	15,915	13%	15,800	13%



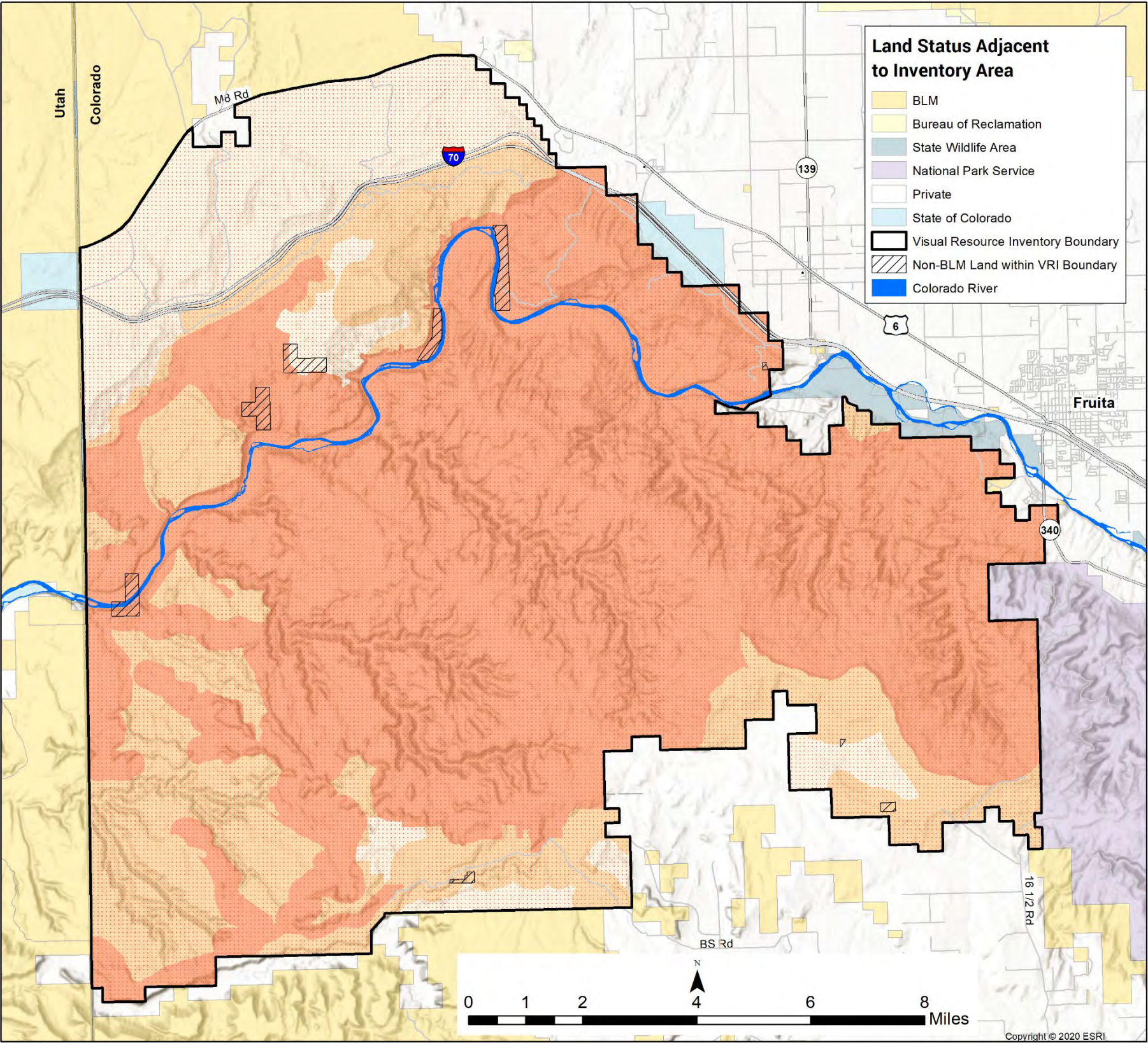


Figure 19

Visual Resource Inventory Classification  
As Inventoried

	Acres	% of Total Acres within VRI Boundary	BLM Acres within VRI Boundary	% of BLM Acres within VRI Boundary
Visual Resource Inventory Boundary	118,985	100%		
VRI Boundary BLM Acres	118,148	99%	118,148	100%
VRI Boundary Non-BLM Acres	837	1%	0	0%
<b>Visual Resource Inventory</b>				
Total Area Inventoried	118,985	100%	118,148	100%
VRI Class II	78,572	66%	77,908	66%
VRI Class III	24,497	21%	24,440	21%
VRI Class IV	15,916	13%	15,800	13%



## APPENDIX A SENSITIVITY LEVELS





# Appendix A.1

## Sensitivity Levels Land Manager Survey Results

The below survey was sent to local land managers to gauge public sensitivity to changes in the McInnis Canyons NCA landscape. The survey went live on Friday, September 4. The nine total responses to the eight questions are listed below.

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
Please provide your name, title, and the organization you work for.	To the best of your knowledge, what landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds does the public (or specific groups) consider important within MCNCA?	What user groups value these landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds? Examples: sightseers, recreationists, workers?	How does the public (or specific groups) use these landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds?	Why does the public (or specific groups) consider these landscapes, landscape features, and viewsheds important?	How important is adjacent scenery to these landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds?	In your experience, how much use have you observed in these landscapes, features, or viewsheds? Please rate the amount of use as high, moderate, or low.	To the best of your knowledge, what land use policies, plans, regulations, easements, covenants or other means are in place to protect sensitive viewsheds or scenic areas within or near MCNCA?
Heather Obrien, District 51	the Monument, the river, the Mesa, The Bookcliffs	walkers, runners, dog walkers, families, bird watchers, tourists	walking, running, walking dogs, viewing wildlife, frisbee golf, viewing nature,	because they allow access to nature close to our homes	vital – we want to be able to see the whole valley from there	When I first moved here, I would say low. Now, I would say moderately high. Some days it feels like being on the Front Range. During COVID, it was particularly high.	no idea
Dennis Lytle, Park Ranger, BLM	The river and it's adjacent canyons of diverse geologic features including the flora and fauna of the region.	All of the people.	Breathing the clean air it provides. Being surrounded by the natural environment. Learning the history of the land's usage and passings. Supporting the protection of this land by realizing the importance of having this open space.	It's vital to living life in nature and not destroying or developing and area for temporary use.	It's as important as the land itself. An example of adjacent parks might be Central Park in New York City. People continue to utilize the park for green grass and trees but the park is devoid of nature.	High	By being an NCA there are many protections and policies to maintain this land as it is. However, regardless of any policy or law there will always be an entity threatening to break those laws for their personal gain.



Appendix A SLRU

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
Please provide your name, title, and the organization you work for.	To the best of your knowledge, what landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds does the public (or specific groups) consider important within MCNCA?	What user groups value these landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds? Examples: sightseers, recreationists, workers?	How does the public (or specific groups) use these landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds?	Why does the public (or specific groups) consider these landscapes, landscape features, and viewsheds important?	How important is adjacent scenery to these landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds?	In your experience, how much use have you observed in these landscapes, features, or viewsheds? Please rate the amount of use as high, moderate, or low.	To the best of your knowledge, what land use policies, plans, regulations, easements, covenants or other means are in place to protect sensitive viewsheds or scenic areas within or near MCNCA?
Collin Ewing, BLM, MCNCA	Opal Hill, Mack Ridge, Devils Canyon, Pollock/Flume, Rabbit Valley are all visible from I-70 and the valley. Much of the wilderness and the river is visible from the Kokopelli trail system and rabbit valley and trail users enjoy the views. From the river the canyon walls on both sides of the river are important to the undeveloped experience.	local residents, recreationists, tourists, people driving through on I-70 or riding the Amtrak. recreational airplane pilots	Mostly for recreation. But also grazing, travel through (on interstate/RxR), utilities/communications (Black Ridge and rabbit Valley towers, fiber optic, powerline).	Studies indicate people place higher value on real estate with views of public land. High quality recreation experiences partially rely on the setting including the viewshed.	Adjacent scenery, you mean outside the NCA? Views from within the NCA of the LaSals, Bookcliffs, Grand Mesa, and the Grand Valley are all nice assets. The views of the Colorado National Monument, while not present from inside most of the NCA, are certainly important to the community and are more dominating than the views of the NCA from most vantage points.	high	The designating legislation and RMP are fairly protective. VRM classes 1, 2, and 3 designated in the RMP. However, the RMP does not identify specific visual features to be protected.
Mike Bennett, City Manager, City of Fruita	I would say all of it. The views from Fruita are an amazing backdrop and quality of place perspective for those of us who live here and visit here. The arches, the hiking trails, the mountain biking trails the horseback riding trails, the paleo area, beautiful monuments and vistas, etc.	Residents value this even from a distance as a backdrop to their home. Also recreationists, ranchers who graze cattle, river rafters floating and camping through, visitors, people working in the area.	Hiking, sightseeing, trail running, horseback riding, grazing cattle, rafting or floating the river, mountain biking, walking, etc.	They help define our area and provide much of the quality of life we enjoy.	Extremely important to complement and blend with and not take away from.	high	The City of Fruita has height restrictions to avoid blocking the view shed from new development. Usage rules and regulations.
Pete Firmin, Park Manager, James M. Robb-Colorado State Park (CPW)	Black Rocks, Ruby Horsethief, Rattlesnake canyon	River and trail users (hiking, biking, equestrian and boating).	Aesthetics and destination points.	Aesthetics	Very important.	High	Understand the impact of wilderness designation.
Brittany Williams, Admn. Asst. BLM	Area along the Colorado River. Devil's/Plume area (since it is "in their backyards".	recreationists	Rafting, hiking, horse back riding, birding, camping, dog walking!!!	They are important because they are right outside their doors and provide opportunities to get outside while staying close to civilization.	Pretty important. If they just wanted to walk their dog, they could do it around the neighborhood, but they like to take their animals out into the wilderness	High for both the river and hiking area	High for both the river and hiking area



Appendix A   SLRU

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
Please provide your name, title, and the organization you work for.	To the best of your knowledge, what landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds does the public (or specific groups) consider important within MCNCA?	What user groups value these landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds? Examples: sightseers, recreationists, workers?	How does the public (or specific groups) use these landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds?	Why does the public (or specific groups) consider these landscapes, landscape features, and viewsheds important?	How important is adjacent scenery to these landscapes, landscape features, or viewsheds?	In your experience, how much use have you observed in these landscapes, features, or viewsheds? Please rate the amount of use as high, moderate, or low.	To the best of your knowledge, what land use policies, plans, regulations, easements, covenants or other means are in place to protect sensitive viewsheds or scenic areas within or near MCNCA?
Andy Windsor, Supervisory ORP, GJFO	Anything along I70, anything along Hwy 340, anything along the Horsethief SWA road (Fruita Front Country), anything visible from the City of Fruita	All activity user groups (e.g. OHVs, cyclists, equestrians, etc), NPS (Colo. Natl Mon), businesses in the City of Fruita, local and county govts	Recreation activities, photography, promotional materials	The viewshed adds to the quality of life for local residents and as an attraction for tourism	Equally as important. Public land users value "undeveloped" landscapes. Viewsheds are also important economically (tourism and property values)	Front Country, Mack Ridge, Rabbit Valley, Colorado River = high Black Ridge = moderate	BLM VRM system
Aaron Selig, River Ranger, McInnis Canyons NCA	River, canyon walls, rolling hills, arches	boaters, bikers, hikers, general recreation, ohv, campers/RVers	recreation and escaping the city	Remote, quiet, wilderness aspects	Very, the railroad totally changes the canyon scenery in my opinion.	high, bike trails are busy, hiking trails are full, ruby is booked out for months during the summer	nca/wilderness designations
Nikki Grant-Hoffman, Ecologist, BLM	desert blooms, river corridor, wilderness canyons, wildlife viewing	birders, recreationists	scenery	different reasons, inherent natural beauty	Respondent skipped this question	high	RMP



Appendix A.2

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Delineation Methods

Sensitivity Level Rating Units (SLRUs) were drafted using the following inputs:

- Sensitivity Accounts
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit boundaries
- Public Land Manager Survey results
- Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness
- Notable landform features (e.g., arches, deep canyons, Colorado River)
- Highly visible cultural modifications (e.g., communication tower areas)
- High use areas (e.g., Mack Ridge, Colorado River Corridor, Fruita Frontcountry)
- Special Areas (e.g., Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway)
- 2004 MCNCA Resource Management Plan
- Viewsheds from Distance Zone Viewing Platforms and population centers
- Areas with few or no roads, or characterized by non-mechanized travel routes (e.g., Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, Rabbit’s Ear, McDonald Wash-Wildhorse Mesa)
- Wildlife habitat areas (e.g., pronghorn, desert bighorn, bald eagle)
- Cultural resource areas (e.g., McDonald Creek, Old Spanish Trail)

Below is a list of draft SLRUs with inputs used to guide delineation of the units. This information may also be used to guide scoring.

Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	Who are the concerned publics? (Who)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also, the importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)	Amount of public use (RMIS data unless otherwise noted)	Special Areas	Sources
MCNCA as a whole	Rec users; local towns; local businesses; tourism organizations; public land managers; hunters; paleontology professionals and enthusiasts; historians; social media influencers; float boaters; fishing enthusiasts; nearby residents; I-70 travelers; outdoor outfitters; Union Pacific Railroad; CPW; ranchers; telecommunications providers	Uses listed below	See factors below	High (249,402 visits in 2019)	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Public Law creating Wilderness; News accounts; Social Media accounts; VRI Scenic Quality; BLM staff knowledge; Land Manager survey; RMIS data



Appendix A SLRU

Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	Who are the concerned publics? (Who)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also, the importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)	Amount of public use (RMIS data unless otherwise noted)	Special Areas	Sources
Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Recreational users; hunters; publics who may not use the resource, but are nevertheless concerned; grazing permit holders; wilderness advocates	Hiking; backpacking; photography; hunting; equestrian use; nature study	Public law established Wilderness Wilderness maximizes scenic values by reducing the human footprint as much as possible. Undisturbed landscape is a nonrenewable resource. Wildlife habitat. Many canyons are within the Seldom Seen Distance Zone. Few visitors see into these canyons. Despite the moderate visitation numbers, these users consider an undisturbed canyon very important to their experience. Rattlesnake Arches area is the second highest concentration of arches outside Arches National Park. Habitat for desert bighorn, deer, seasonal elk, other species Cultural resources: Kit Carson etching Scenic qualities	Moderate (based on Dispersed Rattlesnake-Mee users--approx. 4,000 visits in 2019)  Moderate (6,500 visits Rattlesnake-Mee Canyons in 2019)	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Public Law creating Wilderness; News accounts; Social Media accounts; VRI Scenic Quality; BLM staff knowledge; Land Manager survey; RMIS data
Black Ridge outside Wilderness	Public traveling to Rattlesnake Arches Trailhead; campers; hunters; grazing permit holders; public utilities; telecommunications providers	Primarily a means to access Wilderness; some ranching and utility uses	Communications sites, roads, fences, corral constitute a significant cultural modification on natural landscape to general public; used for access to Rattlesnake Arches; open space adjacent to private land; highly visible from population centers	Moderate (2,166 visits at Knowles Canyon Trailhead in 2019)		Field visits; RMIS data
Colorado River Corridor	Float boaters; fishing enthusiasts; Union Pacific Railroad; CPW; Amtrak passengers	Viewing river from adjacent use areas (Kokopelli, Rabbit Valley); float boating; fishing	Recreational uses; economic benefits from river recreational use; serves as a railroad corridor; scenic qualities	High (29,088 visits in 2019)		News accounts; Social Media accounts; VRI Scenic Quality; BLM staff knowledge; Land Manager survey; RMIS data
Fruita Frontcountry	MCNCA recreational users; nearby residents; equestrians; rec outfitters; dinosaur enthusiasts/scientists; local outdoor oriented businesses	Recreational use (hiking, equestrian); paleontology interpretive hikes at Dinosaur Hill	Open space near urban & developed areas; Paleontology area; historic structure (Skinner Cabin); scenic qualities	High (38,448 visits in 2019) High (26,467 at Dinosaur Hill Trailhead in 2019)		News accounts; hiking apps; social media; BLM staff knowledge; Land Manager survey; RMIS data
High North area	Residents; hunters; occasional recreational users; maintenance workers (roads, irrigation facilities)	Minimal public use; hunting use; residents (several homes)	Open space adjacent to more scenic public lands nearby; open space adjacent to private lands; wildlife habitat (pronghorn); scenic qualities	Moderate (3,940 visits in 2019)		BLM staff knowledge; wildlife habitat data; RMIS data
I-70 Corridor through MCNCA	Scenic Byway users; dinosaur enthusiasts; I-70 travelers; Rabbit Valley recreational users	Travel on I-70; Trail Through Time interpretive hikes; access to Rabbit Valley and nearby rec areas	Opportunity for traveling public to experience natural landscape; Rabbit Valley Trail Through Time paleontology resource; DD Scenic Byway Corridor Mgt. Plan recognizes importance of scenery; scenic qualities; Old Spanish Trail corridor	High: Over 3 million travelers per year on I-70 through MCNCA (CDOT)	Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway Old Spanish Trail Audubon Society Important Bird Area	DD Scenic Byway Corridor Mgt. Plan; news accounts; social media; land manager survey; RMIS data
Mack Ridge	Recreational users; mostly mountain bikers; businesses that benefit from these users (outfitters; restaurants; hotels; bike shops)	Mountain biking; hiking	Large scale recreation landscape close to population centers; CO River corridor is a spectacular backdrop; scenic qualities	High (69,885 visits in 2019)		RMP; News accounts; Mountain Biking apps; Rec Use Permits; RMIS data
Rabbit's Ear	Hikers; local hiking groups; other users	Hiking	Relatively undisturbed area sandwiched between Rabbit Valley motorized area, I-70, and Colorado River; scenic qualities	Low (843 visits in 2019)		RMIS data; hiking apps
Rabbit Valley Motorized Area	Rec Users; I-70 travelers	Recreation; camping; viewing scenery	Concentrated area for OHV use with camping; scenic qualities; Old Spanish Trail Corridor	High (39,402 visits in 2019)	Audubon Society Important Bird Area	RMIS data; Social Media
Sieber Canyon outside Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Hikers; hunters; grazing permit holders	Hiking; hunting; grazing	Wildlife habitat; opportunity for solitude; scenic qualities	Low (433 visits in 2019)		RMIS data; Hawks Grazing Appeal



Appendix A SLRU

Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	Who are the concerned publics? (Who)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also, the importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)	Amount of public use (RMIS data unless otherwise noted)	Special Areas	Sources
Wildhorse Mesa-McDonald Creek non-mechanized area	Hikers; cultural resource enthusiasts	Hiking; viewing ancient rock art	Non mechanized experience adjacent to motorized area; cultural resource; scenic qualities	Moderate: (McDonald Creek: 2,056 visits in 2019) Low: (Wildhorse Mesa: 617 visits in 2019)	Audubon Society Important Bird Area	RMIS data; Social Media



# Appendix A.3

## Sensitivity Accounts

Research method approach: sources were consulted for mentions of scenery, including planning documents, newspaper articles, social media, land manager survey.

BLM Policy Guidance, H-8410-1 was consulted to guide research.

Source Name (Who)	Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)
MCNCA VRI Statement of Work	FAA communications site	Public views site from locations in the NCA	Cultural modification on natural landscape to general public; provides navigation aid for FAA and flying public.
Aerial photos	Rabbit Valley communications site; Black Ridge communications site	Public views site from locations in the NCA	Cultural modification on natural landscape to the general public; provides communication for users
<a href="http://www.westerncoloradoheritage.org/culturearchaeology-2/">http://www.westerncoloradoheritage.org/culturearchaeology-2/</a>	Former Jouflas Ranch	Interpretive history	Jouflas family's long occupation of the area is documented in newspaper articles, as well as a campground and trail bearing the Jouflas name.
Twitter.com	Dinosaur fossil areas, Colorado River Corridor, Rattlesnake Arches, Kokopelli Trail System	Amateur paleontology, recreational boating, mountain biking, hiking, travel on Amtrak	Scenic quality, recreational activities, paleontology opportunities
Youtube.com McInnis canyons national conservation area <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8TAhLKNT5U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8TAhLKNT5U</a>	Rabbit Valley, Rattlesnake Arches, Mee Canyon, Devils Canyon, Hawkeye Road, Hawkeye Trail, Fruita Paleo Area, ancient Ceratosaurus River channel, old BS Road	Hiking, drone filming, driving	Approximately 55 Youtube videos showing landscapes, recreational activities, and unique features within the NCA.
BLM video of MCNCA <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1eEn4a8TLE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1eEn4a8TLE</a>	NCA, BRC Wilderness, CO River	Hiking, boating, sightseeing, photography, motorized use, mountain biking, equestrian, paleontology	Unique, colorful cliffs, deep canyons, sculpted arches. Fragile and beautiful desert environment.
<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/McInnis-Canyons-National-Conservation-Area/106146339417105">https://www.facebook.com/pages/McInnis-Canyons-National-Conservation-Area/106146339417105</a>	Various	All uses	152 likes, 1132 visits on FB as of 7/24/20
Same source as above	Various	All uses	We -found ourselves taken up and in-on this desert 🌵 adventure. Spring reached the canyon floor awakening vibrant life. Shadows tucked into crimson barrel cactus petals, emerald propellor wings of hummingbirds, bush cooked cattails in buttered sauté, silence as our companion. @McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area
Colorado Canyons Association Facebook page, posted 4/28/20	Catalpa Wilderness camp	STEAM based education	Awareness & stewardship of natural resources
<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kokopellis-Trail-System/159337690756882">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kokopellis-Trail-System/159337690756882</a>	Kokopelli Trail System	Mountain biking	242 likes, 7,451 visits on FB as of 7/24/20
<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Black-Ridge-Canyons-Wilderness/105981216099903">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Black-Ridge-Canyons-Wilderness/105981216099903</a>	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Hiking, other wilderness uses	54 likes, 558 visits on FB as of 7/24/20
<a href="https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1013061259/mcinnis-canyons-national-conservation-area/">https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1013061259/mcinnis-canyons-national-conservation-area/</a>	Various	Hiking, biking, nature photography	Thousands of posts and photos



Appendix A SLRU

Source Name (Who)	Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)
<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/cyclingwesterncoloradotrailconditions/permalink/2166596223486998/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/cyclingwesterncoloradotrailconditions/permalink/2166596223486998/</a>	Rabbit Valley	Unregulated dispersed camping	Recreation and natural area with heavy impacts from dispersed camping. "Rape of Rabbit Valley"
BLM Recreation Management System Visitor Data	Ruby-Horsethief (CO River); Pollock Bench Trailhead; Jones Canyon Trailhead; Knowles Canyon Trailhead; Mack Ridge Trailheads; Rabbit Valley; Dinosaur Hill; Fruita Paleo area; Canyons within NCA; Devils Canyon Trailhead		The RMS tracks use of BLM facilities, trails, roads, trailheads, river use, etc. Usage numbers total 249,402 visits Oct. 1, 2018-Sep. 30, 2019.
Mesa County Draft Resource Management Plan (4-27-20) <a href="https://www.mesacounty.us/planning/codes-plans-policies/plans/resource-management-plan/">https://www.mesacounty.us/planning/codes-plans-policies/plans/resource-management-plan/</a>	MCNCA	Tourism	Tourists visit Mesa County year-round for its abundant natural resources and federal land recreational opportunities
Mesa County Draft RMP	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness; arches, alcoves, 7 major red rock canyon systems	Hikers, equestrians, campers, backpacking, rafters, canoe users, kayakers	Access to outdoor recreation & natural resource values
Mesa County Draft RMP	Wildlife habitat areas: mule deer, mountain lion, desert bighorn sheep, golden/bald eagles	Hunters; photographers; hikers	Unique high desert canyon and mesa habitat. Remote.
Tripadvisor.com user reviews <a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d11687466-Reviews-McInnis_Canyons_Conservation_Area-Fruita_Colorado.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d11687466-Reviews-McInnis_Canyons_Conservation_Area-Fruita_Colorado.html</a> 7 Reviews (7-24-20)	MCNCA	Hiking, mountain biking, float boating, viewing paleontology	Example review Oct. 2016  A full kaleidoscope of desert topography, flora and fauna.
<a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d4309305-Reviews-Devils_Canyon_Hiking_Trails-Fruita_Colorado.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d4309305-Reviews-Devils_Canyon_Hiking_Trails-Fruita_Colorado.html</a>  30 Reviews (7-24-20)	Devils Canyon Trails, Kodel Canyon Trails Paleontology Resources	Hiking, dog walking, viewing paleontology	<b>Feb. 2020 Review: Easily accessible hiking, lovely views.</b>  Review May 2019: The rock formations are spectacular.  Review Dec 2017: amazing views of the red rock and the Grand Valley.  Review May 2017: a spectacular area wear one spur after another terminates right before your eyes. It is truly an amazing sight.
<a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d145622-Reviews-Black_Ridge_Wilderness_Study_Area-Fruita_Colorado.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d145622-Reviews-Black_Ridge_Wilderness_Study_Area-Fruita_Colorado.html</a> 6 Reviews (7-24-20)	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, Rattlesnake Arches	Hiking, backpacking, scenic views, rabbit hunting	Review Sep 2017: <b>Super cool sites to see around Fruita</b> I really enjoyed my hike to see the arches. The beginning is fairly boring. The arches and more spectacular scenery start after the trail wraps around the corner and heads south into the Canyon.
Instagram.com	#mcinniscanyons	Recreation, photography	244 posts as of 7/24/20
Instagram.com	#mcinniscanyonsnationalconservationarea	Recreation, photography	115 posts of 7/24/20
<a href="https://www.blm.gov/visit/old-spanish-trail">https://www.blm.gov/visit/old-spanish-trail</a>	Old Spanish National Historic Trail Corridor	Travel on I-70; heritage travel	Hiking, scenery, camping
<a href="https://oldspanishtrail.org/">https://oldspanishtrail.org/</a>	Old Spanish National Historic Trail Corridor	Today's travelers along the trail can experience a dramatic western landscape and a region rich in adventure, history and lore.	To study, preserve and protect, interpret and educate, and promote respectful use of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and closely related historic routes.
Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form	North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail	Historic researchers, OST enthusiasts	Historic remnant of OST, swale visible on the ground.



Appendix A SLRU

Source Name (Who)	Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)
SHOP Doc NO. ME.LM.R714 BLM CRIR: 1011-05 OAHPI400 Temporary Resource Number: 6-28-2011-Seg3			
<a href="https://www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-scenic-historic-byways">https://www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-scenic-historic-byways</a>	I-70 Corridor	Scenic Byway users	I-70 is part of the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway. Hunt for fossils and footprints made by massive dinosaurs and rock art left behind by Fremont Indians along sandstone canyons and mesas. <b>Northwest region:</b> Grand Junction to Rangely over Douglas Pass, through Dinosaur into Utah.
Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan Public Meeting and Survey Results (p. 118-127) <a href="https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways/northwest/dinosaur-diamond/ScenicByway-DinosaurDiamondCMP">https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways/northwest/dinosaur-diamond/ScenicByway-DinosaurDiamondCMP</a>	Dinosaur Hill; Rabbit Valley; Kokopelli Trail; Fruita Paleo Area; CO River; Black Ridge Canyons WSA (now Wilderness); Rattlesnake Arches)	Dinosaur enthusiasts; recreationists; history buffs; families; seniors; international visitors	Maintaining Scenic Byway integrity Diversity of stakeholders, including: Dinosaur enthusiasts; recreationists; history buffs; families; seniors; international visitors; Fruita; Mesa County, Fruita Chamber of Commerce, CDOT, BLM, Museum of Western Colorado; other stakeholders located in Utah
Mesa County Zoning Code & Map; Mesa County Master Plan. <a href="https://emap.mesacounty.us/viewer/?maptype=futureland">https://emap.mesacounty.us/viewer/?maptype=futureland</a>	Private lands within MCNCA	Private ownership of certain lands within MCNCA; Mesa County zoning allows specific uses and development	All private lands within the NCA are zoned AFT: Agriculture, Forestry Transitional District. Table 7.1 states that Large Lot Rural/Ag 35+ is the minimum lot size.
Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area RMP (2004) <a href="https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90893/109290/2004-1028_MCNCA_Approved_RMP_ROD.pdf">https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90893/109290/2004-1028_MCNCA_Approved_RMP_ROD.pdf</a>	Private lands within MCNCA	Private ownership; zoning allows certain uses and development	BLM may request Mesa County consideration of land use permitting restrictions on private inholdings for protecting the overall landscape and land use character.
Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area RMP (2004)	Roads within Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Historic and protected use for grazing access & emergency response	Historic and protected use for grazing access & emergency response
Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area RMP (2004)	Roads & OHV Trails within the NCA (I-70 Corridor, Rabbit Valley, Black Ridge area)	Recreational motorized use of roads & trails	Recreational motorized use of roads & trails
Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area RMP (2004)	Future utility corridors	Utility companies	No new aboveground utilities are permitted. Any new utilities are required to be underground.
Colorado Canyons Land Health Assessment (2003) <a href="https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90902/109299/2003-01_Colorado_Canyons_NCA_Land_Health_Assessment.pdf">https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90902/109299/2003-01_Colorado_Canyons_NCA_Land_Health_Assessment.pdf</a>	Rabbit Valley	hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, sightseeing, camping, hunting, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use.	Need to maintain scenic values for public enjoyment of the following activities: Survey (early 1990s) Hiking/walking 24% Mountain biking 17.8% Viewing dinosaur fossils 13% Horseback riding 7.2% OHV 10.6% Camping (near vehicle) 4.8% Sightseeing/driving for pleasure 4.3%
Colorado Canyons NCA Land Health Assessment (2003)	Colorado River Corridor	Float boating (86%), camping	A total of 7,666 people floated Ruby Canyon in 2001
McInnis Canyons NCA 2019 Annual Manager's Report <a href="https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/blm_co_ucrd_MCNCA_ManagersReport_FY19%20Final.pdf">https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/blm_co_ucrd_MCNCA_ManagersReport_FY19%20Final.pdf</a>	All areas in NCA	Unconfined recreation, hiking, biking, OHV, camping, etc.	NCA's naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental values such as cultural and geological resources present.



Appendix A SLRU

Source Name (Who)	Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)
<a href="https://forestpolicypub.com/2019/05/25/rabbit-valley-recreation-the-dangers-of-some-ruining-it-for-all/">https://forestpolicypub.com/2019/05/25/rabbit-valley-recreation-the-dangers-of-some-ruining-it-for-all/</a>	Rabbit Valley dispersed camping areas	Recreational camping at dispersed sites	Sense of freedom, privacy, views from dispersed sites.
Colorado Canyons NCA RMP (2004) <a href="https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90893/109290/2004-1028_MCNCA_Approved_RMP_ROD.pdf">https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90893/109290/2004-1028_MCNCA_Approved_RMP_ROD.pdf</a>	Rabbit Valley Communications Site	Tower tenants/owners; ommunications workers; general public views the site from I-70 and trails/roads within the NCA	Site is easily visible from I-70. RMP places restrictions on placement of any new communications facilities.
Colorado Canyons NCA RMP (2004)	Canyon bottoms: Mee, Knowles, Rattlesnake, Jones	No grazing.	Fragile desert ecosystem. Emphasis is on recreational users, nature study.
Colorado Canyons NCA RMP (2004)	Lower Bench, Colorado Ridge; North of Black Ridge	Grazing allotments excluded. Public use over grazing permit holders.	Emphasis is on natural resource over livestock grazing.
Colorado Canyons NCA RMP (2004)	Recreation Management Zones	Recreational users within these zones	Provides public recreation amenity within the NCA: Mack Ridge, Rabbit Valley, Pollock, etc.
Colorado Canyons NCA RMP (2004) MCNCA Travel Map	Day use areas (Kokopelli, Pollock/Devils; Rattlesnake Arches Road access)	Recreational users within these zones	These areas focus on day users. Overnight camping use is prohibited to enhance the day user experience.
Colorado Canyons NCA RMP (2004)	Areas important to CPW (Loma Boat Launch, bighorn sheep range, sage grouse habitat, fishing access, etc.)	Public that CPW serves (fishing enthusiasts, hunters)	CPW and its public value a landscape that provides wildlife habitat.
Colorado Canyons NCA RMP (2004)	Rabbit Valley paleo & cultural areas	Hiking, viewing paleontology resources, rock art, scientific study	Important to people who value these resources. Map is Figure 2-4 in the RMP.
Colorado Canyons Land Health Assessment (2003) <a href="https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90902/109299/2003-01_Colorado_Canyons_NCA_Land_Health_Assessment.pdf">https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90902/109299/2003-01_Colorado_Canyons_NCA_Land_Health_Assessment.pdf</a>	Rattlesnake Mee Knowles Canyons Colorado River allotment	General public/rec users	For example, under current agreement with grazing permittees in the Wilderness, grazing has been excluded from Rattlesnake, Mee and Knowles Canyons to enhance riparian habitat. Grazing has also been eliminated from the Colorado River allotment to protect riparian vegetation and scenic values.
Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Management Plan Management Objective 2: Provide for Primitive Recreation Opportunities <a href="https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90893/109290/2004-1028_MCNCA_Approved_RMP_ROD.pdf">https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69354/90893/109290/2004-1028_MCNCA_Approved_RMP_ROD.pdf</a>	All areas within BRCW	Wilderness visitors, those who may not visit the area but have a concern about the land	Proposed management actions to achieve Objective 2: “greater aesthetic appreciation”
Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Management Plan Management Strategy Objective 1: Maintain and enhance Wilderness Values (naturalness, outstanding solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental features)	All areas within BRCW	Wilderness visitors	Maintain and enhance Wilderness Values (naturalness, outstanding solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental features)
Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Management Plan	Mee Canyon Alcove	Hiking, horseback riding, nature study	Enhances hiking experiences, enhanced sense of freedom, enjoying canyon country aesthetics, physical fitness.
Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Management Plan	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Hiking, horseback riding, nature study	The wilderness provides opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. Solitude.
Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Management Plan	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness (upland areas only)	Cattle grazing	Rangeland for cattle; economic benefits
CO Canyons Legislative Act, Public Law 106-353 106th Congress	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Hiking, backpacking, photography	The Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Study Area has wilderness value and offers unique geological, paleontological, scientific, and recreational resources. No motorized or bicycle use.



Appendix A SLRU

Source Name (Who)	Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)
CO Canyons Legislative Act, Public Law 106-353 106th Congress	Black Ridge Communications Site	Communications site; utility corridor	Use for communications and utility corridor protected.
CO Canyons Legislative Act, Public Law 106-353 106th Congress	Federal Aviation Administration Site	Communications site; utility corridor	Use for communications and utility corridor protected.
CO Canyons Legislative Act, Public Law 106-353 106th Congress	All areas adjacent to the NCA	Act of Congress	No Buffer Zones. The Congress does not intend for the establishment of the Conservation Area or the Wilderness to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around the Conservation Area or the Wilderness. The fact that there may be activities or uses on lands outside the Conservation Area or the Wilderness that would not be allowed in the Conservation Area or the Wilderness shall not preclude such activities or uses on such lands up to the boundary of the Conservation Area or the Wilderness consistent with other applicable laws.
CO Canyons Legislative Act, Public Law 106-353 106th Congress	Colorado River up to 100-year high water mark	Motorized watercraft on CO River	CO River is excluded from the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness and the NCA. This exclusion allows motorized use on the river and other mechanical contrivances that are not allowed within wilderness areas.
<a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d145624-Reviews-Mary_s_Loop-Fruita_Colorado.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d145624-Reviews-Mary_s_Loop-Fruita_Colorado.html</a> 30 user reviews	Mary's Loop (Kokopelli Trail System)	Hiking, mountain biking	Review Jun 2019: <a href="#">Hiking and Biking At Its Best</a> Whether you are hiking or biking this trail and its companions offer some of the best desert riding in the state. With its series of trails there is no shortage of the diversity one can find. The scenic views and its rock formations are truly spectacular.  Review Nov 2018: <a href="#">Mountain Bike Heaven</a> Mary's Loop serves as the backbone for an entire network of trails which are some of the best mountain bike trails in the world. There is a great deal of variety here including trails for timid novices up to world class experts, all with fantastic scenery.
Same source as above			Review Sep 2017: You can see the Colorado River, some great views of canyons and from the north side of the ridge some nice views of the Bookcliffs and the Grand Valley.
Same source as above			Review July 2017 The views from the trail along the top of the ridge are awesome, with views of the Colorado River and the canyons of Black Ridge to the south, and the Grand Valley and Book Cliffs to the north
Same source as above			Review May 2014: <a href="#">Mtn Bike or Hike this trail has great views!</a>
<a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d8407797-Reviews-Rattlesnake_Canyon-Fruita_Colorado.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60776-d8407797-Reviews-Rattlesnake_Canyon-Fruita_Colorado.html</a> 12 reviews (7-24-20)	Rattlesnake Arches	Hiking to view arches	Review posted Aug 2017: This is a beautiful canyon. The arches are great to see. The canyon views are incredible. Review posted Jul 2017: If you make it into the canyon; it's well worth the effort, because of it's beauty and remoteness.
Multiple mountain bike map apps (MTB Project, Tailforks, Gaia, etc.)	Kokopelli Trails, also Rabbit Valley Trails	Locals and visitors using trail system	Trail users comment on the scenic qualities and natural environment.
Strava.com	Trails and roads within MCNCA	Trail and road use	Access to exercise in an outdoor environment
Mountain Biking Special Recreation Permits DNA DOI-BLM-CO-S081-2017-0003-DNA	Kokopelli Trails; Rabbit Valley	Guided mountain biking tours	The scenic qualities of the NCA are essential to the financial viability of guided bike tours.
Rabbit Valley Camping Project EA DOI-BLM-CO-S081-2018-0005-EA	Rabbit Valley	Dispersed camping, other uses	Camping management would better protect the resources
National Audubon Society <a href="https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/rabbit-valley-recreation-management-area">https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/rabbit-valley-recreation-management-area</a>	Rabbit Valley Recreation Area	Birding	The site is among the best in the state for finding Gray Vireos and Scotts Orioles. An avg of 30 wintering waterfowl and 400 max were observed by nominator 1978-9.
McInnis Canyons Science Plan	McDonald Creek Cultural Resource Area	Hiking, viewing rock art	Rare irreplaceable evidence of historic cultures in area
<a href="http://www.coloradowestoutdoors.com/home/hiking/rabbit-valley/mcdonald-creek/">http://www.coloradowestoutdoors.com/home/hiking/rabbit-valley/mcdonald-creek/</a>	McDonald Creek Cultural Resource Area	Rock art	Rare irreplaceable evidence of historic cultures in area
McInnis Canyons Science Plan	Trail Through Time Dinosaur Quarry	Hiking, guided tours, professional excavation	Important paleontology resources (dinosaur fossils)
McInnis Canyons Science Plan	Dinosaur Hill	Hiking, professional excavation	Paleontology resources, important discoveries
Rabbit Valley Paleontological Site	Fossil concentrations	Viewing dinosaur fossils	Paleontology resources, important discoveries
Fruita Paleontological Site	Fossil concentrations	Viewing dinosaur fossils	Paleontology resources, important discoveries
McInnis Canyons Science Plan	Split Rock Trail	Hiking	Paleontology resources, important discoveries



Appendix A SLRU

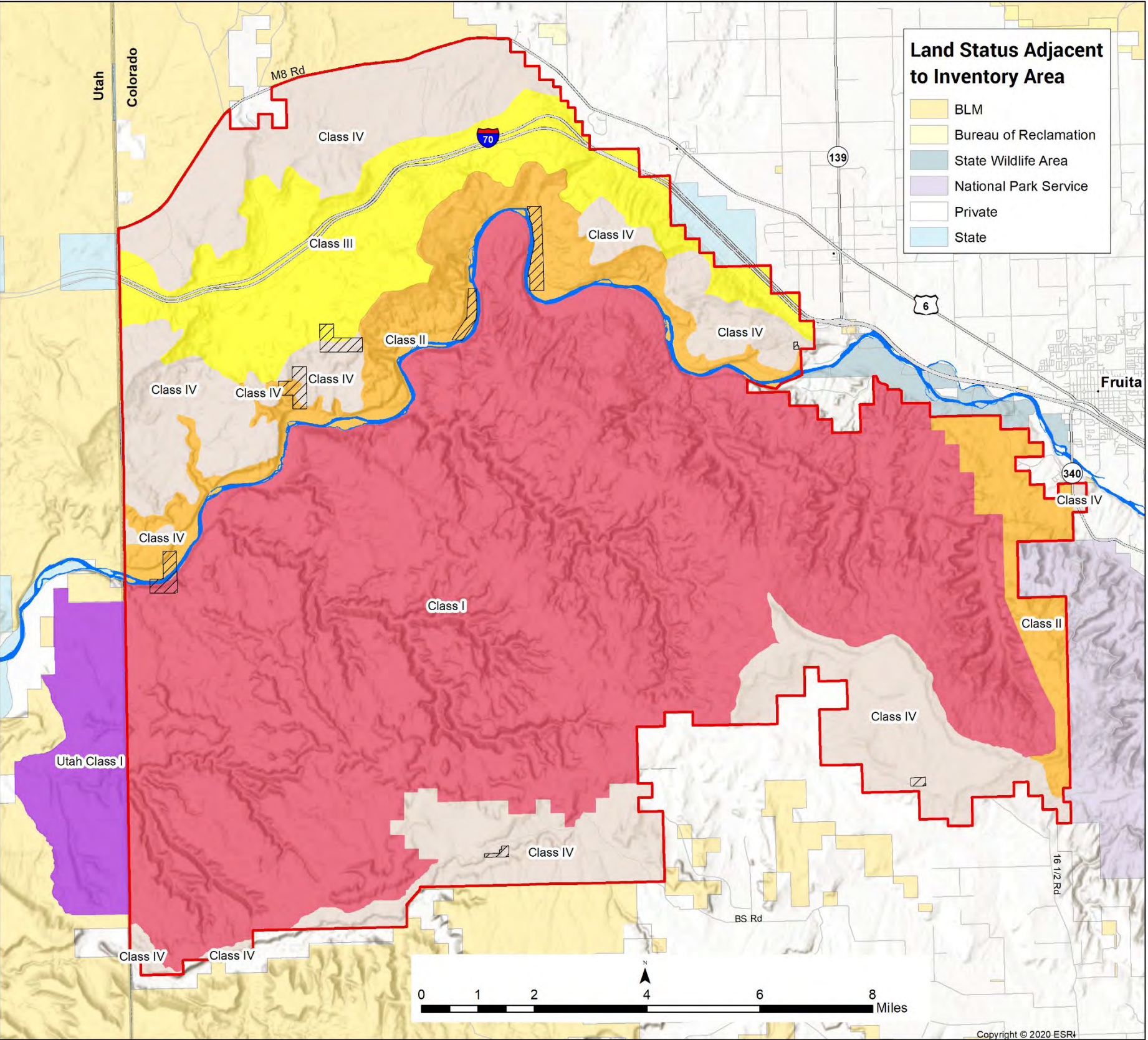
Source Name (Who)	Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)
McInnis Canyons Wikipedia page	Rattlesnake Arches		Second largest concentration of natural arches in the world.
<a href="https://huntscore.com/hunts/co/elk/b65f66fb-7234-4310-8d5a-ce11dda0f5b9">huntscore.com/hunts/co/elk/b65f66fb-7234-4310-8d5a-ce11dda0f5b9</a>	GMU 40 (includes entire NCA)	Big game hunting	Late season hunting opportunities when game moves down in elevation from snowy areas.
<a href="https://coloradocanyonsassociation.org/recreation-mcinnis-canyons">coloradocanyonsassociation.org/recreation-mcinnis-canyons</a>	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Big game hunting	Outstanding opportunities to hunt for deer, elk, bear, mountain lion, waterfowl, turkey, and chukar. Every year, 4 or 5 <a href="#">desert bighorn ram tags</a> are issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife for unit S56; nearly all of these once-in-a-lifetime tags are filled in Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area.
<a href="https://coloradocanyonsassociation.org/recreation-mcinnis-canyons">coloradocanyonsassociation.org/recreation-mcinnis-canyons</a>	Colorado River Corridor	Hunting and fishing	Sections along the Colorado River provide excellent hunting and fishing opportunities for waterfowl, catfish, and more.
<a href="https://coloradocanyonsassociation.org/recreation-mcinnis-canyons">coloradocanyonsassociation.org/recreation-mcinnis-canyons</a>	Rabbit’s Ear Trail	Hiking only	Trail leads to an impressive vista of the Colorado River extending into the La Sal Mountains in Utah.
<a href="https://blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/mcinnis-canyons">blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/mcinnis-canyons</a>	Wild Horse Mesa	Equestrian and hiking	Wild Horse Mesa Recreation Management Zone
<a href="https://blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/mcinnis-canyons">blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/mcinnis-canyons</a>	McDonald Creek	Hiking, viewing rock art	Outstanding scenery, fragile desert canyon.
<a href="https://blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/mcinnis-canyons">blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/mcinnis-canyons</a>	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Hiking, horseback riding, nature study	Wild roadless area; Enhances hiking experiences, enhanced sense of freedom, enjoying canyon country aesthetics, physical fitness.
<a href="https://mesacounty.us/planning/codes-plans-policies/plans/resource-management-plan/">mesacounty.us/planning/codes-plans-policies/plans/resource-management-plan/</a>	Black Ride Canyons Wilderness	Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, backpacking, camping, rafting, canoeing, and kayaking	The Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness is over 75,000 acres within the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. This area is known for distinctive spires and arches, massive alcoves, beautiful desert patina, and seven major red rock canyon systems
<a href="https://gofruita.com/thingstodo/mcinnis-canyons">gofruita.com/thingstodo/mcinnis-canyons</a>	Rattlesnake Arches	Hiking, photography	Second largest concentration of natural arches in the world.
visitgrandjunction.com	McInnis Canyons NCA	Hiking, biking	Tourism benefits
<a href="https://cpw.state.co.us/swa/Loma%20Boat%20Launch%20SWA">cpw.state.co.us/swa/Loma%20Boat%20Launch%20SWA</a>	Loma Boat Launch SWA	River boat put-in; parking	Allows rare point of vehicular public access to the river.
<a href="https://copmoba.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Kokopelli_Loops_trail-map.pdf">https://copmoba.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Kokopelli_Loops_trail-map.pdf</a>	Kokopelli Trail System/Loops	Mountain biking, hiking, trail running, equestrian	Large number of users on this non-motorized trail system on Mack Ridge and surrounding areas.
Mountain Biking Special Recreation Permits DOI-BLM-CO-S081-2017-0003-DNA	Kokopelli Trail System/Loops	Mountain biking, hiking, trail running, equestrian	Large number of users on this non-motorized trail system on Mack Ridge and surrounding areas.
Google Earth user	Knowles Canyon Overlook	Viewing the landscape	Popular and spectacular viewing location
McInnis Canyons NCA Facebook Page	sandstone canyons, natural arches, spires, and alcoves carved into the Colorado Plateau, through which runs a 24mi stretch of the Colorado River. Included in the MCNCA is the 75500acre Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Hiking, biking, OHV use, boating	Natural values
<a href="https://gazette.com/life/a-wild-rugged-colorado-experience-no-signs-no-parking-lot-at-this-increasingly-popular-spot/article_773b6076-7bd9-11e8-9c2e-6bbdcc23b6c4.html">https://gazette.com/life/a-wild-rugged-colorado-experience-no-signs-no-parking-lot-at-this-increasingly-popular-spot/article_773b6076-7bd9-11e8-9c2e-6bbdcc23b6c4.html</a> 7/24/20	Knowles Overlook	Appreciation of scenic views, geology, nature	Beautiful, spectacular landscapes. Relative solitude.
Same source as above	Old Spanish Trail	History appreciation	Preserving history
Same source as above	Rattlesnake Aches	Hiking, photography	Rare natural phenomenon



Appendix A SLRU

Source Name (Who)	Land Feature(s) that are important (What)	How does the public interface with feature(s)? (How)	Why are these feature(s) important? (Also importance of adjacent scenery) (Why)
Same source as above	Rabbit Valley	OHV	Recreational uses
<a href="https://moabtimes.com/2020/06/11/tales-of-trails-day-trip-to-devils-canyon-pollock-bench-offers-a-taste-of-mcinnis-canyons/">https://moabtimes.com/2020/06/11/tales-of-trails-day-trip-to-devils-canyon-pollock-bench-offers-a-taste-of-mcinnis-canyons/</a> 7/24/20	Devils/Pollock Canyon	Hiking	Great views and opportunities for exercise
Same source as above	Flume Canyon	Hiking, equestrian use	Opportunity to experience the natural environment
Same source as above	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Hiking	Opportunity to experience the natural environment
Same source as above	Rattlesnake Arches	Hiking	Opportunity to experience the natural environment, rare features
Same source as above	Old Spanish Trail	History	Opportunity to experience the natural environment, historic preservation
Same source as above	Paleontology	Prehistory	Opportunity to experience the natural environment, education
Same source as above	Grazing	Ranching	Economic benefits, lifestyle
Same source as above	Colorado River	Float boating	Opportunity to experience the natural environment
Same source as above	Kokopelli Trail, Kokopelli Trail System	Mountain biking	Opportunity to experience the natural environment and exercise
<a href="https://www.gjsentinel.com/">https://www.gjsentinel.com/</a>	McInnis Canyons NCA	Hiking, biking, paleontology, float boating, camping, hunting, fishing, OHV, 4 wheeling	362 results from searching “McInnis Canyons” on the gjsentinel website. 7/24/20
<a href="https://www.denverpost.com/2018/10/31/fossil-theft-mcinnis-canyons/">https://www.denverpost.com/2018/10/31/fossil-theft-mcinnis-canyons/</a>	Paleontology Areas	Theft of valuable fossils	Limited, nonrenewable resource
<a href="https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/western_colorado/will-minor-was-no-minor-observer-of-natural-world/article_f16a7e4c-ab41-11ea-9cc5-d7baf70fbe73.html">https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/western_colorado/will-minor-was-no-minor-observer-of-natural-world/article_f16a7e4c-ab41-11ea-9cc5-d7baf70fbe73.html</a>	Black Ridge, other areas used for sheep grazing	Grazing, tending sheep	Economic benefit of cultivating livestock; observing nature: bears, birds etc. in the natural environment
<a href="https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/western_colorado/mcinnis-canyons-turns-20-its-just-turned-out-to-be-a-real-gem/article_87ce7970-1545-11eb-aa79-efc92b4fa605.html">https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/western_colorado/mcinnis-canyons-turns-20-its-just-turned-out-to-be-a-real-gem/article_87ce7970-1545-11eb-aa79-efc92b4fa605.html</a>	Entire MCNCA	All uses	Land protection; economic benefits
Hawks Grazing Decision Appeal	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness	Hiking, equestrian use	Quiet, solitude, desire for non motorized uses in Wilderness areas.

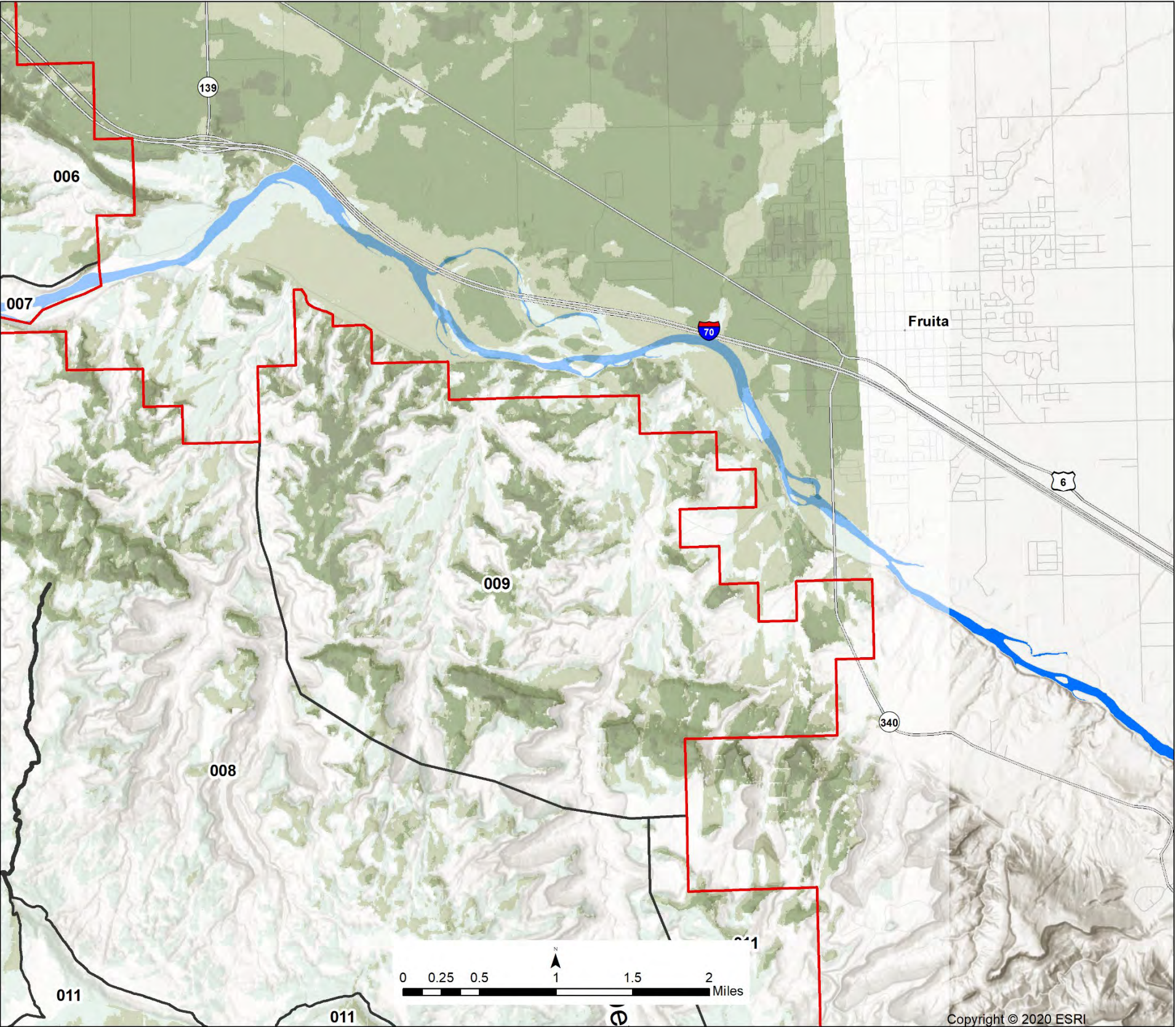




Appendix A.4  
Figure 20  
VRM Classes  
2004 MCNCA Resource Management Plan

- Class I
- Class II
- Class III
- Class IV
- Utah Class I
- Non-BLM Land within VRI Boundary
- Visual Resource Inventory Boundary
- Colorado River





Appendix A.5  
Figure 21  
Viewshed Analysis from  
Fruita, Colorado

- Not Visible
- Not Visible
- Partially Visible
- Majority Visible
- Visible
- Inventory Area
- SLRU Boundary
- Colorado River

SLRU Number	SLRU Name
001	High North
002	I-70 Corridor/Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway
003	Rabbit Valley Motorized Area
004	McDonald Wash-Wildhorse Mesa Non Mechanized Area
005	Rabbit's Ear
006	Mack Ridge
007	Colorado River Corridor
008	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness
009	Fruita Frontcountry
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Black Ridge



## APPENDIX B VISUAL DISTANCE ZONES





Point Viewing Platforms

This table is a list of the point viewing platforms used in the Visual Distance Zone Analysis.

Number	Name	LAT	LONG
1	Knowles Overlook Campground	39.13557702	-109.0278415
2	Joufflas Campground	39.17553404	-109.022021
3	Castle Rocks Picnic Area	39.15979526	-109.0347142
4	Loma Boat Launch	39.17384725	-108.8079414
5	Jones Canyon Trailhead	39.0387039	-108.9549814
6	Mee Canyon Trailhead	39.09663052	-108.84281
7	Rattlesnake Arches Trailhead	39.13705088	-108.8334859
8	Knowles Canyon Trailhead	39.05205514	-108.9044906
9	Dinosaur Hill Trailhead	39.13312172	-108.7363722
10	Devils Canyon Trailhead	39.13992813	-108.7568694
11	Pollock Canyon Trailhead	39.15572137	-108.7787063
12	Kokopelli's Trailhead	39.17808218	-108.8279832
13	Hawkeye Trailhead	39.21085256	-108.8716795
14	Trail Through Time Trailhead	39.19364484	-109.0200896
15	McDonald Creek Trailhead	39.15856066	-109.0341302
16	Fruita Paleo Area Trailhead	39.15138036	-108.7630384
17	Rabbit Valley Trailhead	39.1869501	-109.0190499
18	Rabbit's Ear Trailhead	39.21644565	-108.9546691
19	Mack Ridge/Steve's Loop/Moore Fun Trailhead	39.19701144	-108.858589
20	Rattlesnake	39.16527823	-108.8611936
21	Beavertail 1	39.1672792	-108.8654711
22	Beavertail 2	39.16813712	-108.8667882
23	Bull Draw	39.16915324	-108.8688874
24	Banjo	39.18874667	-108.888363
25	Cottonwood 1	39.18915115	-108.8918564
26	Cottonwood 2	39.18920126	-108.8931116
27	Cottonwood 3	39.18921994	-108.8940981
28	Cottonwood 4	39.18904865	-108.895709
29	Cottonwood 5	39.18859163	-108.8971426
30	Salt Creek 1	39.19763819	-108.9163515
31	Salt Creek 2	39.19816454	-108.9162446
32	Fault Line 1	39.19552257	-108.9331485
33	Fault Line 2	39.19059185	-108.9339988
34	Mee Corner	39.17229692	-108.9566255

Number	Name	LAT	LONG
35	Mee 1	39.16797303	-108.9577344
36	Mee 2	39.16645306	-108.9566612
37	Mee 3	39.16554528	-108.9560882
38	Mee 4	39.16438638	-108.9553445
39	Mee Canyon	39.16119942	-108.9545601
40	Dog Island	39.15587247	-108.9805172
41	Split Rock	39.15519537	-108.992592
42	Black Rocks 1	39.1545035	-108.9957056
43	Black Rocks 2	39.15308418	-108.9963402
44	Black Rocks 3	39.15160184	-108.9968391
45	Black Rocks 4	39.14841346	-108.9975994
46	Black Rocks 5	39.14695341	-108.9979558
47	Black Rocks 6	39.14594127	-108.9986376
48	Black Rocks 7	39.14487956	-108.9985062
49	Black Rocks 8	39.14319701	-108.9992667
50	Black Rocks 9	39.14235182	-109.0008375
51	Island Camp	39.13807102	-109.0206413
52	Knowles	39.13627132	-109.0232786
53	May Flats	39.11588264	-109.0438062
54	Skinner Cabin	39.14538858	-108.7643575
55	Devils Canyon Cabin	39.10354778	-108.7662107
56	Rustlers Trailhead	39.17455093	-108.829249
57	Opal Hill Trailhead	39.14416487	-108.758097
58	Salt Creek Overlook Picnic Area	39.21335103	-108.9209312
59	Dinosaur Hill Picnic Area	39.13287589	-108.7359639
60	Black Ridge Trailhead	39.05522764	-108.7449325



## APPENDIX C PHOTO LOG





Appendix C.1 Photo Log

SQRU Number	IOP Number	POP Number	Reason/Purpose for Photo	Source	File Name
008		001	Example of McInnis Canyons NCA sign	Espinoza Consulting Services	Black Ridge McInnis Canyons sign.jpg
008		002	Shows highly visible array of communication towers	Espinoza Consulting Services	Black Ridge communications site from Rattlensake Arches.jpg
008		003	Shows highly visible array of communication towers	BLM	Black Ridge communications site_pc_bob_wick.JPG
008		004	Example of cultural modifications in Black Ridge	Espinoza Consulting Services	Black Ridge corral.jpg
008		005	Highlights sage parks in Black Ridge	Espinoza Consulting Services	Black Ridge dirt road, junipers, sage.jpg
005		006	Shows variety of rock types along Colorado River	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Black Rocks & cliffs.jpg
005		007	Shows variety of rock types along Colorado River	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Black Rocks.jpg
005		008	Example of cultural modification	BLM	CO River Faultline_Cabin.JPG
005		009	Shows river texture	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Horsethief Canyon river ripples.jpg
005		010	River corridor landscape	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Knowles Canyon Overlook pano.jpg
005		011	River corridor landscape	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Knowles Canyon overlook.jpg
005		012	Public use-sensitivity	BLM	CO River Knowles Overlook CG people looking at map.jpg
005		013	Cultural modifications within river corridor	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Mee 2 Campsite Amtrak.jpg
005		014	Multi-hued landscape	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Mee 2 Campsite colored cliffs.jpg
005		015	Evening colors in river corridor	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Mee 2 Campsite evening pano.jpg
005		016	Multiple textures of water & landscape	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Mee 2 Campsite evening texture.jpg
005		017	Evening colors in river corridor, landform variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Mee 2 Campsite glowing cliffs.jpg
005		018	Multiple textures of water & landscape	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Mee 2 Campsite morning texture.jpg
005		019	Multiple textures of water & landcape	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Mee 2 Campsite rippled river & cliffs.jpg
005		020	Evening colors in river corridor	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Mee 2 Campsite shadowed cliffs.jpg
005		021	Recreational use	BLM	CO River Ruby-Horsethief-frisbee_pc_aaron_selig.jpg
005		022	Multi-layered landscape above river	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River Rustlers Overlook.jpg
005		023	Unique river corridor landscape	BLM	CO River Salt_Creek_Overlook.JPG
005		024	Water sculpted landscape	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River black rocks wave like formation.jpg
005		025	Wildlife in river corridor	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River blue heron.jpg
005		026	Vegetation variety in river corridor	BLM	CO River cottonwood_gallery.jpg
005		027	Wildlife in river corridor	BLM	CO River desert_bighorn_pc_aaron_selig.jpg
005		028	Cultural modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River fault line cabin & train.jpg
005		029	Geologic features	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River fault line pano.jpg
005		030	Water sculpted landscape	BLM	CO River from Knowles Overlook CG.jpg
005		031	Recreational use	BLM	CO River knowlesoverlook-ebike_pc_bob_wick.JPG
005		032	Landscape variety in river corridor	BLM	CO River mouth_of_knowles.jpg
005		033	Recreational use	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River people in boats & black rocks.jpg
005		034	Recreational use	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River people in boats.jpg
005		035	Vegetation variety in river corridor	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River riparian vegetation.jpg
005		036	Recreational use	BLM	CO River ruby-horsethief-camping_pc_aaron_selig.jpg
005		037	Landscape variety	BLM	CO River ruby_cyn_battlement.jpg



Appendix C Photo Log

SQRU Number	IOP Number	POP Number	Reason/Purpose for Photo	Source	File Name
005		038	Weather can add to dramatic landscape	BLM	CO River shadows and fog.jpg
005		039	Variety of vegetation in river corridor	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River trees & cliffs.jpg
005		040	Water texture in landscape	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO River water ripples & trees looking south.jpg
005		041	Cultural modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	CO river train & cliff.jpg
009		042	Unique landscape feature	BLM	Canyons Akiti Arch.jpg
009		043	Unique landscape feature	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Cedar Tree Arch no people.jpg
009		044	Unique landscape feature recreational use	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Cedar Tree Arch with people.jpg
009		045	Unique landscape feature	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Centennial Arch.jpg
009		046	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Knowles Canyon upper.jpg
009		047	Unique landscape feature	BLM	Canyons Mee Alcove_2.jpg
009		048	Unique landscape feature	BLM	Canyons Mee_Alcove_1.jpg
009		049	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Rattlesnake Arches Trail upland view.jpg
009		050	Complementary landscape & vegetation, color	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Rattlesnake Canyon & vegetation.jpg
009		051	Landscape variety and deep canyon	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Rattlesnake overlook.jpg
009		052	Unique landscape feature	BLM	Canyons Rattlesnake_Arch_pc_bob_wick.JPG
009		053	Sunset colors, recreational use	BLM	Canyons Rattlesnake_pc_bob_wick.JPG
009		054	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Upper Knowles Canyon.jpg
009		055	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Upper Knowles entrada.jpg
009		056	Sagebrush parks example	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons Upper Knowles sage.jpg
009		057	Effects of wildfire on landscape	Espinoza Consulting Services	Canyons burn area dunes & trees.jpg
007		058	Cultural modification	Espinoza Consulting Services	Devils Canyon Kit Carson etching.jpg
007		059	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Devils Canyon landscape 1.jpg
007		060	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Devils Canyon landscape 2.jpg
007		061	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Devils Canyon looking south.jpg
007		062	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Devils Canyon upland looking east.jpg
007		063	Landscape variety, wingate layer	Espinoza Consulting Services	Devils Canyon wingate.jpg
007		064	Cultural modifications	BLM	Devils Canyon_Devils_Cabin.JPG
006		065	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Devils-Pollock entrada cliffs.jpg
006		066	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Devils-Pollock overlook.jpg
006		067	Seasonal vegetation	BLM	Devils-Pollock wildflowers.jpg
013		068	Vegetation variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Harley dead juniper.jpg
013		069	Cultural modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	Harley showing I-70.jpg
013		070	Vegetation variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Harley yucca & reddish cliff.jpg
001		071	Cultural modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	High North fence.jpg
001		072	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	High North grassy landscape.jpg
001		073	Wildlife	Espinoza Consulting Services	High North pronghorn.jpg
011		074	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Jones Canyon and butte.jpg
011		075	Vegetation variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Jones Canyon blue aster.jpg
011		076	Cultural modifications, landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Jones Canyon fence & entrada butte.jpg



Appendix C    Photo Log

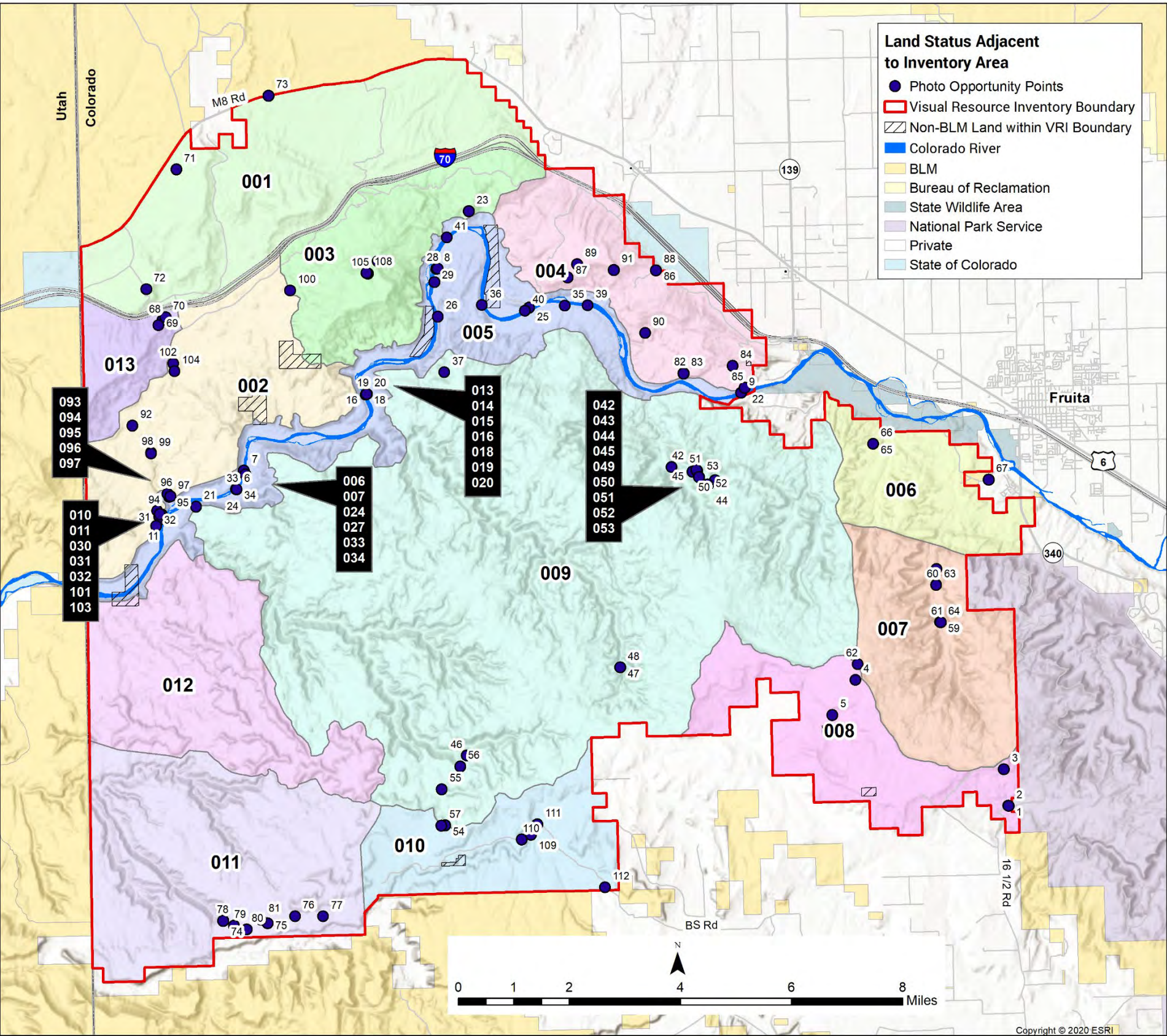
SQRU Number	IOP Number	POP Number	Reason/Purpose for Photo	Source	File Name
011		077	Vegetation texture	Espinoza Consulting Services	Jones Canyon grass texture & adjacent scenery.jpg
011		078	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Jones Canyon inner.jpg
011		079	Vegetation variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Jones Canyon stark dead juniper.jpg
011		080	Cultural modification, sagebrush park	Espinoza Consulting Services	Jones Canyon trail & sage.jpg
011		081	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Jones Canyon upland with butte.jpg
004		082	Landscape variety	BLM	Mack Ridge Horsethief Bench Overlook_1.jpg
004		083	Landscape variety	BLM	Mack Ridge Horsethief Bench Overlook_2.jpg
004		084	Vegetation variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Mack Ridge Lions Loop Road & vegetation.jpg
004		085	Recreational use	Espinoza Consulting Services	Mack Ridge Rustlers Overlook bike riders.jpg
004		086	Recreational use	Espinoza Consulting Services	Mack Ridge TH Sign with people.jpg
004		087	Landscape with little vegetation	Espinoza Consulting Services	Mack Ridge barren slope.jpg
004		088	Cultural modification	Espinoza Consulting Services	Mack Ridge cattle guard.jpg
004		089	Cultural modification	Espinoza Consulting Services	Mack Ridge communications site close up.jpg
004		090	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Mack Ridge entrada.jpg
004		091	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Mack Ridge overlook of river & canyons.jpg
002		092	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley Castle Rocks mottled lichen & moss rock.jpg
002		093	Cultural modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley McDonald Wash Ghost Bear Alcove.jpg
002		094	Cultural modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley McDonald Wash Ghost Bear close up.jpg
002		095	Cultrual modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley McDonald Wash Ghost Bear .jpg
002		096	Cultural modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley McDonald Wash Ghost Bear interpretation.jpg
002		097	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley McDonald Wash lower canyon.jpg
002		098	Cultural modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley McDonald Wash rock art sheep.jpg
002		099	Cultural modifications	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley McDonald Wash rock art.jpg
002		100	Recreation impacts on landscape	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley dispersed camping with rocks.jpg
002		101	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley low grassy hills.jpg
002		102	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit Valley rounded entrada layer.jpg
002		103	Recreational use	BLM	Rabbit Valley_ORV_pc_bob_wick.JPG
002		104	Recreational use	BLM	Rabbit Valley_atv_pc_bob_wick.JPG
003		105	Wildlife	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit's Ear lizard on rock.jpg
003		106	Vegetation variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit's Ear ridge stippled trees.jpg
003		107	Landscape and vegetation variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit's Ear ridge with river.jpg
003		108	Vegetation texture	Espinoza Consulting Services	Rabbit's Ear wiry tufted grass.jpg
010		109	Landscape and vegetation variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Sieber Canyon butte & sage.jpg
010		110	Unique vegetation type	BLM	Sieber Canyon sagebrush park.JPG
010		111	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Sieber Canyon shadowed butte.jpg
010		112	Landscape variety	Espinoza Consulting Services	Sieber Canyon white cliff & sage.jpg
001	0001		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0001 Crow Ridge
001	0002		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0002 High North from M8 Road
002	0003		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0003 Rabbit Valley from Knowles Overlook Campground



Appendix C    Photo Log

SQRU Number	IOP Number	POP Number	Reason/Purpose for Photo	Source	File Name
002	0004		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0004 Rabbit Valley Castle Rock
002	0005		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0005 Rabbit Valley from Jouflas Campground
001	0006		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0006 High North Interstate
003	0007		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0007 Rabbit's Ear & Ruby Canyon Overlook
003	0008		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0008 Rabbit's Ear ridge looking east
003	0008		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0008 Rabbit's Ear ridge looking west
004	0009		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0009 Mack Ridge looking south
004	0010		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0010 Mack Ridge Koko Hogback
005	0011		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0011 CO River Rustlers Overlook
005	0012		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0012 CO River Pizza Point
005	0013		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0013 CO River Horsethief Overlook
003	0014		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0014 Rabbit's Ear from Salt Creek Overlook
005	0015		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0015 CO River Fault Line
005	0016		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0016 CO River Mee 2 Campsite Sunset
005	0017		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0017 CO River Black Rocks
005	0018		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0018 CO River Overlook_pc_eric_coulter
012	0019		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0019 Long Mesa
011	0020		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0020 Jones Canyon
011	0021		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0021 Jones Canyon Upland
009	0022		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0022 Canyons Knowles Canyon
009	0023		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0023 Canyons Knowles Canyon Upland
010	0024		Inventory Observation Point	BLM	IOP 0024 Sieber Canyon Overlook from BS Road
010	0025		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0025 Sieber Canyon Landscape
009	0026		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0026 Canyons Rattlesnake Canyon
006	0027		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0027 Devils-Pollock Frontcountry overlook
006	0028		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0028 Devils-Pollock Frontcountry bridge
007	0029		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0029 Devils Canyon North
009	0030		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0030 Canyons Mee Canyon Overlook
007	0031		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0031 Devils Canyon Upland
008	0032		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0032 Black Ridge Flats
008	0033		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0033 Black Ridge
001	0034		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0034 Crow Ridge flats
013	0035		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0035 Harley
013	0036		Inventory Observation Point	Espinoza Consulting Services	IOP 0036 Harley from Crow Ridge





Appendix C.2  
Figure 22  
Photo Opportunity Points (POPs)

POPs are listed in  
Appendix C.1

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Number	SQRU Name
001	High North
002	Rabbit Valley
003	Rabbit's Ear
004	Mack Ridge
005	Colorado River Corridor
006	Devils/Pollock Frontcountry
007	Devils Canyon
008	Black Ridge
009	Combined Canyons
010	Sieber Canyon
011	Jones Canyon
012	Long Mesa
013	Harley



## APPENDIX D PROCESS RECORD





Appendix D.1

Process Record

Below is a record of major events and milestones during the McInnis Canyons NCA VRI process.

DATE	MILESTONE
6/19/2020	VRI Kickoff Virtual Meeting
7/2/2020	Staff Engagement Virtual Workshop
8/24/2020	Draft DZ Maps & Data submitted
9/21/2020-9/25/2020, 9/29/2020, 10/1/2020, 10/16, 2020	Field Work
10/28/2020	Draft SQRU Scoring Maps & Data submitted
11/2/2020	7 SQRU Factor Maps (SQRU Scoring pages) submitted to BLM
11/6/2020	SQRU Scoring page comments returned by BLM
11/10/2020	Draft SLRUs submitted to BLM
11/16/2020	Revised SQRU Scoring pages submitted to BLM
11/19/2020	BLM provided feedback on SLRU boundary changes based on Fruita viewshed; ECS made changes and updated maps
12/2/2020	SLRU units scored by BLM staff
12/15/2020	Draft Inventory Classes submitted to BLM
12/31/2020	Draft VRI Report submitted to BLM
1/5/2021	BLM staff confirmed VRI boundaries to exclude NCA within Utah. This area has a valid VRI conducted in 2010
1/5/2021	BLM staff requested inclusion of SQRU, SLRU, DZ, and VRI Classes showing adjacent lands to include Utah
1/8/2021	Updated draft VRI Report submitted to BLM
1/13/2021	Draft geodatabase submitted to BLM
1/20/2021	Final draft VRI Report submitted to BLM
2/1/2021	Draft geodatabase comments returned
2/3/2021	Geodatabase approved by BLM
February, 2021	BLM approval of VRI Report; Final Deliverables provided to BLM



Appendix D.2

Fieldwork Dates, Personnel, SQRUs visited

Date	ECS Personnel	BLM Personnel	SQRUs Visited
9/21/2020	G. Baker	D. Ben-Horin, A. Selig, D. Lytle, D. Gourley	Devils Canyon, Devils/Pollock Frontcountry, Mack Ridge
9/22/2020	G. Baker	D. Ben-Horin, C. Ewing, J. Von Guerard, I. Salamanca	Mack Ridge
9/23/2020	G. Baker	D. Ben-Horin, M. Heinritz, A. Spencer, M. Grant-Hoffman	Combined Canyons, Black Ridge
9/24/2020	G. Baker	D. Ben-Horin, J. von Guerard, B. Esparza, A. Johnston, A. Selig	Colorado River Corridor
9/25/2020	G. Baker	D. Ben-Horin, J. von Guerard, B. Esparza, A. Johnston, A. Selig	Colorado River Corridor
9/29/2020	G. Baker	D. Ben-Horin, C. Ewing	Rabbit’s Ear, Rabbit Valley
10/1/2020	G. Baker	D. Ben-Horin, C. Ewing, P. Sever	Combined Canyons, Long Mesa, Jones Canyon, Sieber Canyon
10/16/2020	G Baker	D. Ben-Horin, G. Baker, R. Lewis, M. Deras, E. Kowalski	High North

Field Work Participant List:

G. Baker D. Ben-Horin M. Deras C. Ewing B. Esparza D. Gourley M. Grant-Hoffman M. Heinritz A. Johnston E. Kowalski	R. Lewis D. Lytle A. Selig P. Sever I. Salamanca J. von Guerard
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Appendix D.3

BLM Staff Engagement Meeting Minutes

McInnis Canyons NCA Visual Resource Inventory Project

Meeting format: Virtual Meeting, via Teams

Thursday, July 2, 2020, 9:00 AM–12 Noon

**Meeting Objective:** ECS will provide basic Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) instruction to BLM staff, and tips for reviewing deliverables. ECS will also gather knowledge critical to the inventory process and content development. The meeting was not recorded. Notes were added to the PDF maps to capture BLM comments.

- 1. Introductions
  - a. Attendees:
    - i. BLM: Dan Ben-Horin, Matthew Heinritz, Anjelica Spencer, Marlinda Jacks, M.N. Hoffman, Paul Sever, Erin Kowalski, Karla Rogers.
    - ii. ECS: Garry Baker, Ryan Walker
- 2. Project description
  - a. Garry Baker did a quick description of the project. The planning area includes McInnis Canyons NCA within the GJFO.
- 3. Overview of VRI. The Overview objective is to provide BLM staff with basic familiarity of VRI principles and how to fill out VRI worksheets.
  - a. Garry went over BLM slides describing SQRUs, Viewing Platforms, SLRUs and scoring methods.
- 4. Mapping exercise. The mapping exercise objective is to have BLM staff review, evaluate and adjust maps using local and subject matter knowledge. BLM staff may apply local knowledge critical to scenic quality rating unit boundaries, distance zone viewing platforms, and visual sensitivity aspects of the inventory. PDF maps will be available at the MCNCA VRI SharePoint page: <https://ecsarch.sharepoint.com/sites/McInnisCanyonsNCAVRI>

- ECS went over each map and took notes of staff comments and suggested changes. ECS took “sticky notes” directly in the PDFs to document BLM staff comments (attached to these minutes).
- a. SQRUs (Scenic Quality Rating Units)
    - i. ECS will make changes to the SQRU boundaries and return these maps to BLM the week of July 6.
    - ii. Each SQRU will have a minimum of three IOPs (Inventory Observation Points). BLM will provide updated IOPs with lat/long data and provide these to ECS the week of July 13. IOPs will be supplemented with “special places,” officially termed Photo Opportunity Points (POPs).
    - iii. ECS will provide updated IOP maps to BLM the week of July 20.
  - b. Distance Zones (Viewing Platforms)
    - i. ECS will incorporate changes to the Viewing Platforms and return the updated map to BLM the week of July 6.
  - c. SLRUs (Sensitivity Level Rating Units)
    - i. The group discussed how to gather information for the SLRUs.
    - ii. BLM will generate a list of contacts to populate the SLRUs. After the list is generated, BLM will do an introductory call/email to each contact. This information should be completed by the week of July 20.
    - iii. ECS will conduct phone or online meetings with each contact using the SOW Appendices and Form 8400-6 as guides. ECS will then use the accounts to draft preliminary SLRU boundaries.
    - iv. Sensitivity Level Rating Units (SLRUs)
      - 1. SLRU boundaries and completed Form 8400-6 for each SLRU will be done later in the project.

Draft level SQRU and IOPs will be completed prior to field work.

- 5. Field Work. The objective of the Field Work discussion is to specify forms that will be completed, how to fill out these forms, establish dates for field work, and go over field protocols. Worksheets should be filled out in the field by interdisciplinary teams.

2-3 interdisciplinary teams will visit each SQRU and IOP. It is estimated to take 3 days for land fieldwork, and 2 days for river field work, for a total of 5 field days. The teams will fill out



**Appendix D    Process Record**

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SQRU Form 8400-1 for each SQRU. Photos and notes will be taken at each IOP. IOPs will include 2-3 representative landscape points (see Factors to Consider, Policy Manual 8410), and additional special or unique points. Examples of special points are petroglyph panels, historic cabins, alcoves, arches, and cottonwood galleries.

The weeks of Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 31 were discussed as potential fieldwork time slots.





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## APPENDIX E REFERENCES





Appendix E References

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## APPENDIX F

# VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES ON ADJACENT LANDS





Appendix F

McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area is approximately 123,460 acres in size, spanning across the Colorado-Utah border, with 118,985 acres in Colorado and 4,475 acres in Utah. A visual resource inventory was conducted for the Utah portion in 2010. The Colorado portion remained un-inventoried until 2021 and is the subject of this inventory.

Maps in Appendix F.1 through F. 4 below include VRI ratings for McInnis Canyons NCA within Colorado and Utah, as well as surrounding lands not in the NCA. This information is provided to have complete VRI information for McInnis Canyons NCA in one document.

The narrative for the two SQRUs that apply to NCA lands within Utah is provided as well. For more complete information on the McInnis Canyon NCA VRI areas in Utah, please contact the BLM Moab Field Office.

Unit: SQUTY01000006 UT Y01000 006 Dolores Triangle North

Evaluators: CJohnson, JKeller, JJames, TMurdock

Score: 17.5 B

Narrative: High cliffs, steep canyons, prominent buttes; moderate variety in vegetation and color. The unit consists of a raised plateau with deeply incised valleys that drain northwest toward the Colorado River. The unit is mainly undeveloped. The unit primarily has dense evergreen cover with patches of grasses and shrubs.

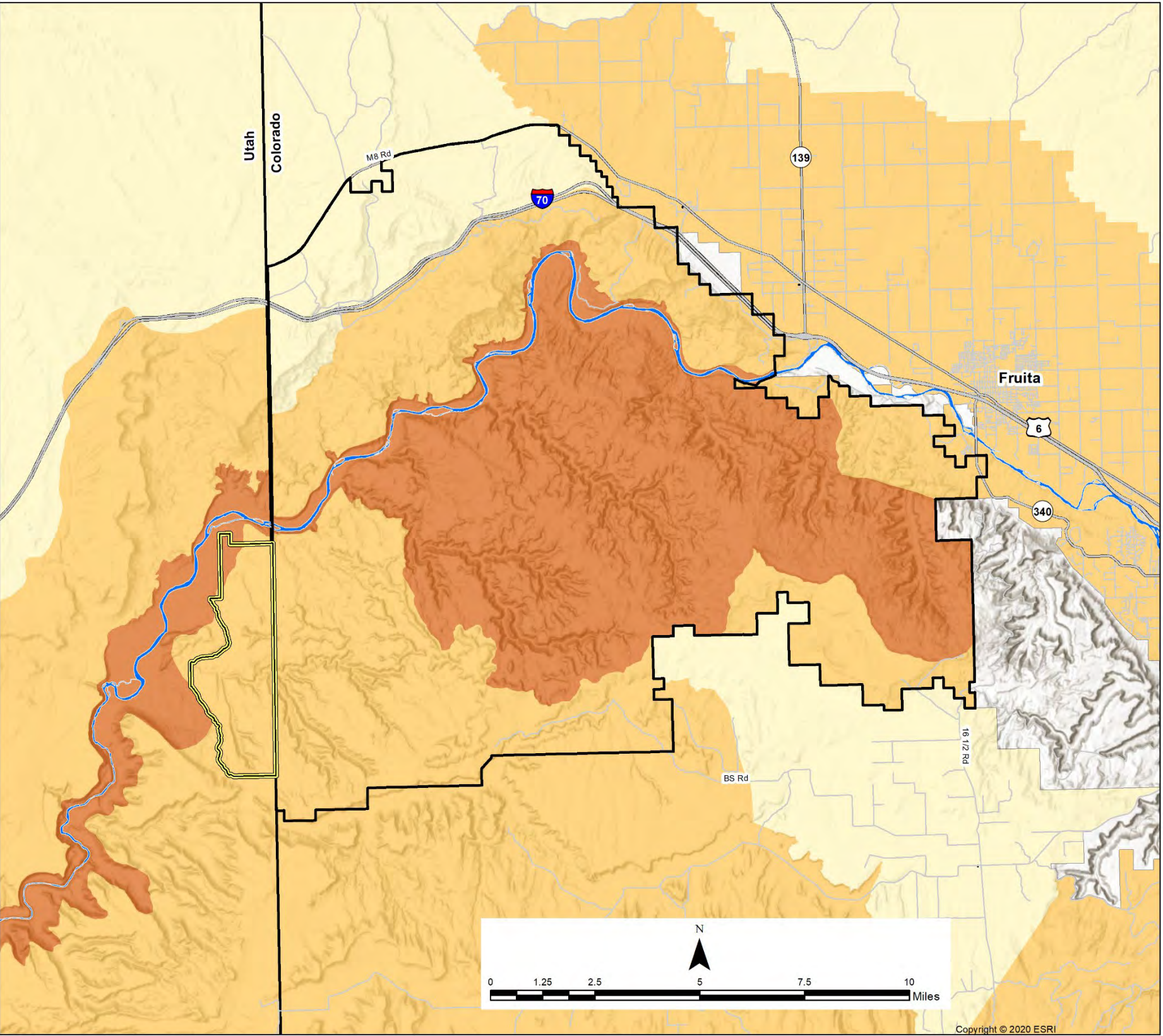
Unit: SQUTY01000008 UT Y01000 008 Westwater Canyon/Beaver Creek

Evaluators: CJohnson, JKeller, JJames, TMurdock, MMeyer, RDonigan, RSweeten

Score: 22.5 A

Narrative: High, steep canyons; high variety of vegetation and colors, dominant waterways. The unit includes the river valleys of the Colorado and Dolores rivers, as well as numerous prominent canyons draining to these rivers. The unit is mostly undeveloped and primarily consists of deeply incised canyons, though some areas are wider and less enclosed. The slope is covered in grass and sage with extensive cottonwoods and riparian vegetation in some locations.



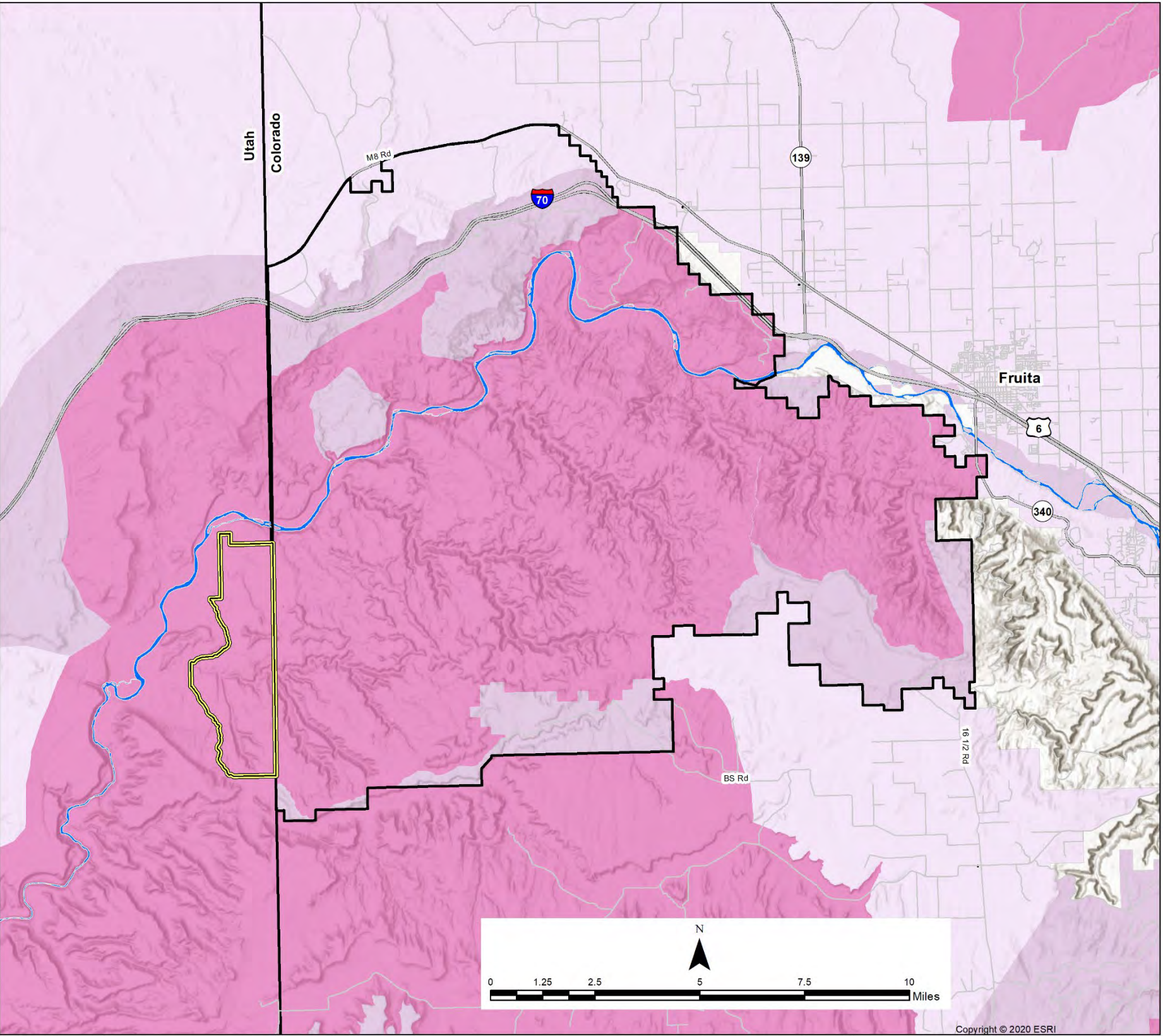


Appendix F.1  
Figure 23

Scenic Quality Rating including Adjacent Lands

- MCNCA VRI Scenic Quality Rating Unit Polygons
- Scenic Quality Rating Code
- A - 18.5 or More Total Score for Scenic Quality
  - B - 11.5 to 18 Total Score for Scenic Quality
  - C - 11 or Less Total Score for Scenic Quality
  - N - Not Inventoried
  - MCNCA in Utah
  - MCNCA in Colorado
  - Colorado River



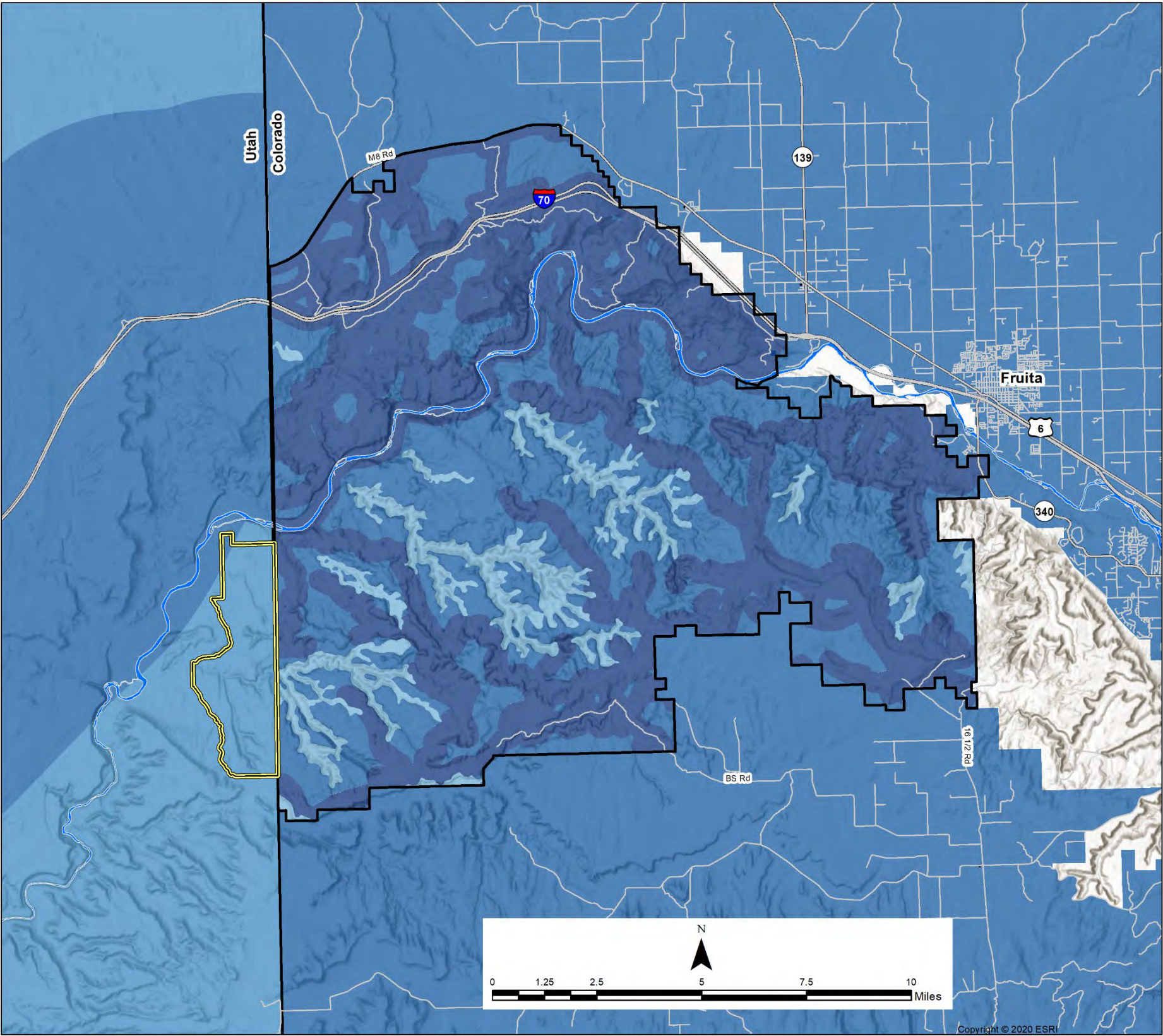


Appendix F.2  
Figure 24

Sensitivity Level Rating including  
Adjacent Lands

- MCNCA VRI Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Polygons
- Overall Rating
- Maintenance of Visual Quality has High Value
  - Maintenance of Visual Quality has Moderate Value
  - Maintenance of Visual Quality has Low Value
  - Not Inventoried
  - MCNCA in Utah
  - MCNCA in Colorado
  - Colorado River



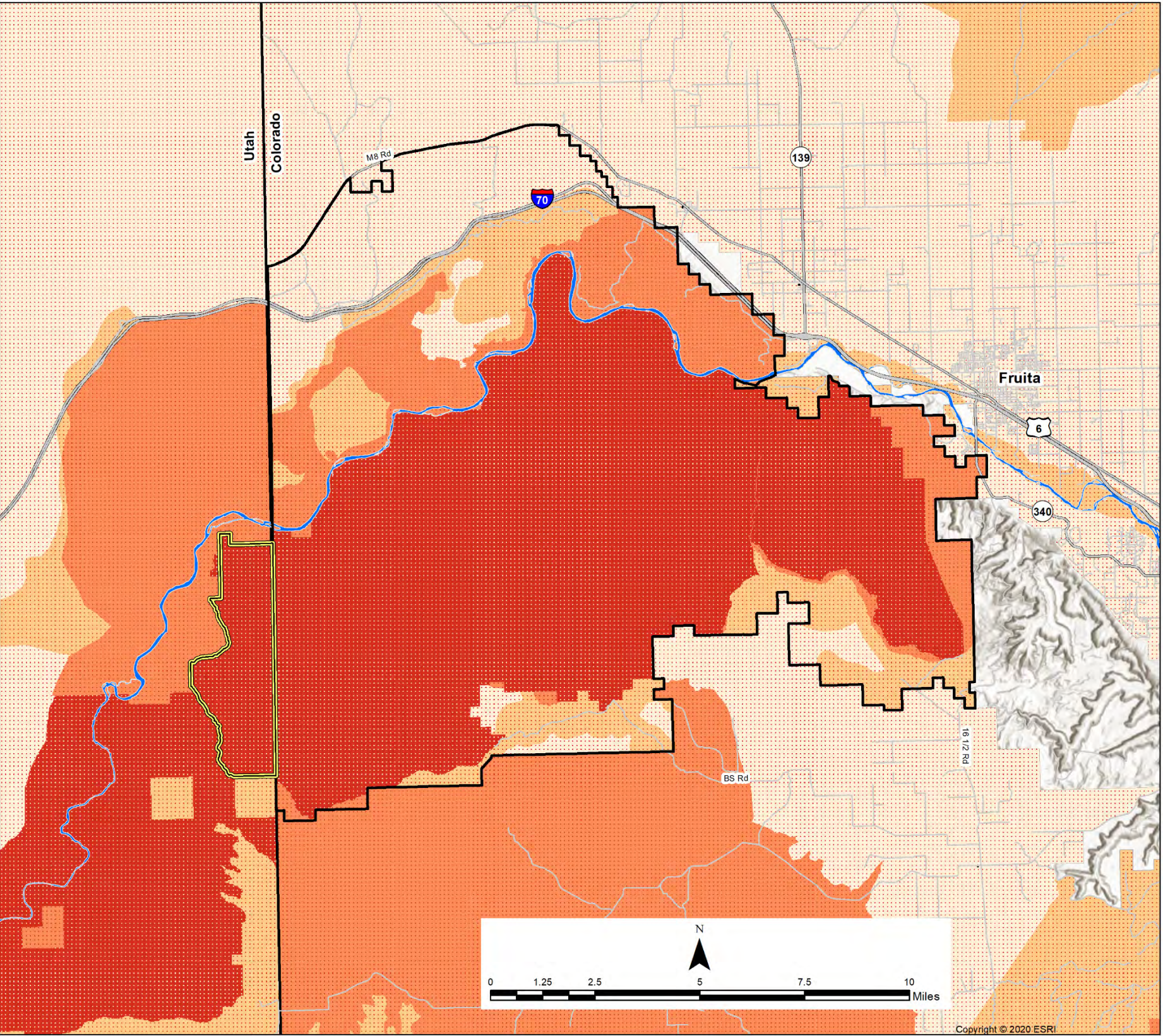


Appendix F.3  
Figure 25

Visual Distance Zones including  
Adjacent Lands

- MCNCA VRI Visual Distance Zone Polygons
- Visual Distance Zone Code
- Near Foreground. Up to 1/4 mile.
  - Foreground-Middleground. Visibility generally up to 5 miles.
  - Background. Visibility generally from 5 to 15 miles.
  - Seldom Seen. Hidden from view, or not in foreground/middleground or background visibility zones
  - Not Inventoried
  - MCNCA in Utah
  - MCNCA in Colorado
  - Colorado River





Appendix F.4  
Figure 26  
  
Visual Resource Inventory Classification  
including Adjacent Lands

- MCNCA VRI Classes Polygon
- VRI Class Code
- VRI Class I
  - VRI Class II
  - VRI Class III
  - VRI Class IV
  - Not Inventoried
  - MCNCA in Utah
  - MCNCA in Colorado
  - Colorado River