

Glossary

Administratively Available for Oil and Gas Leasing: These are the National Forest System (NFS) lands, after the Record of Decision is signed, that will be available through administrative processes for oil and gas leasing. The BLM will make an independent decision, after permission to lease from the Forest Service is granted, offer the NFS lands at a competitive lease sale.

Affected environment: The biological and physical environment that will or may be changed by proposed actions and the relationship of people to that environment.

Air pollution: Any substance or energy form (heat, light, noise, etc.) that alters the state of the air from what would naturally occur. Classifications established under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration portion of the Clean Air Act, which limits the amount of air pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be significant; Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate well controlled growth would be insignificant; and Class III applies to areas where industrial deterioration would generally be insignificant.

Airshed: Basic geographic units in which air quality is managed.

Alluvial aquifer: An aquifer formed by material laid down by physical processes in a stream channel or floodplain.

Alpine: Alpine is usually defined as the treeless region in high mountains above timberline. In this cold, windswept environment, some areas may be free of snow early in spring and others lie blanketed with drifts for most or all of summer.

Alternative: A combination of management prescriptions applied in specific amounts and locations to achieve a desired management emphasis as expressed in goals and objectives. One of several policies, plans, or projects proposed for decision-making. An alternative need not substitute for another in all respects.

Agriculture: A habitat type characterized by land planted and kept in crops.

Analysis area: One or more capability areas combined for the purpose of analysis in formulating alternatives and establishing various impacts and effects.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): The quantity of forage typically consumed by a cow-calf pair over a month-long period.

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT): The total volume of traffic passing a point or segment of a roadway facility in both directions for 1 year divided by the number of days in the year.

Aquatic: Occurring in, or closely associated with, water.

Aquifer: A saturated water-bearing formation, or group of formations, which yield water in sufficient quantity to be of consequence as a source of supply.

Application for Permit to Drill (APD): This form (3160-3 Application for Permit to Drill or Reenter) is required for each proposed well, and for re-entry of existing wells (including disposal and service wells), to develop an onshore lease for federal oil and gas leases for action by appropriate federal agencies,

pursuant to applicable laws and regulations. With each copy of Form 3160-3, the operator must submit to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) a Drilling Plan that discusses downhole specifications and procedures to be approved by BLM and a Surface Use Plan of Operations (SUPO) that examines surface uses, including access roads, well-site layout, cut and fill diagrams, reclamation procedures, production facility locations, and so on to be approved by the surface-managing agency. The complete filing and processing requirements are described in detail in Federal On-Shore Order #1.

Area of Potential Effect (APE): The geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. Additionally, the APE is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking (36 CFR 800.16[d]).

Attainment Area: A geographic area in which levels of a criteria air pollutant meet the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standard for that specific pollutant.

Background: The zone in a landscape located from 4 miles from the viewer to the horizon.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act: A law that prohibits the take, possession, selling, purchasing, bartering, or transporting of live or dead bald or golden eagles, or any parts, nests, or eggs of these birds.

Best Management Practice (BMP): BMPs are practices that provide for state-of-the-art mitigation of specific impacts that result from surface operations. BMPs are voluntary unless they have been analyzed as a mitigation measure in the environmental review for a Master Development Plan, Application for Permission to Drill, Right-of-way, or other related facility and included as a Condition of Approval (Federal On-Shore Order #1).

Big game: Large animals that may be taken by hunters, pursuant to local government restrictions and regulations.

Biological Assessment (BA): A BA must be prepared for federal actions that are “major construction activities” to evaluate the potential effects of the proposal on listed or proposed species. The contents of the BA are at the discretion of the federal agency and will depend on the nature of the federal action (50 CFR 402.12(f)). A BA may be prepared for any project for which formal consultation is required. Both programmatic and project level proposals are considered to be actions subject to Endangered Species Act. The contents of the BA are at the discretion of the federal agency, and will depend on the nature of the federal action (50 CFR §402.12(f)).

Biological Evaluation (BE): A BE is a documented Forest Service review of Forest Service actions in sufficient detail to determine how an action or proposed action may affect any threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species (FSM 2670.5 – Definitions). A BE is conducted to: 1) Comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA); 2) Ensure that actions do not contribute to loss of viability of native or desired non-native plant or animal species, or cause a trend towards listing under the ESA; and 3) Provide a standard by which to ensure that endangered, threatened, proposed, and sensitive species and critical habitats receive full consideration in Forest Service decision-making. A BE may be used to satisfy consultation requirements for a biological assessment (FSM 2672.4).

Biological Opinion: An official report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service issued in response to a formal Forest Service request for consultation or conference. It states whether the federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): A federal agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior that is responsible for carrying out a variety of programs for the management and conservation of resources on 258 million acres. The BLM manages multiple resources and uses, including energy and minerals, timber, forage, recreation, wild horse and burro herds, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness areas, and archaeological, paleontological and historical sites. The BLM has been designated as the-lead federal agency for the EIS for Previously Issued leased on the WRNF.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land or Public Land: Land or interest in land owned by the U.S. and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through BLM without regard to how the U.S. acquired ownership, except lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf and land held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

Candidate species: Plant and animal taxa considered for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Species. These are taxa for which the Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions. [61 FR 7596-7613 (February 28, 1996)]

Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1963 and Amendments: The federal law that defines the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality and the stratospheric ozone layer. The last major change in the law, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, was enacted by Congress in 1990. Legislation passed since then has made several minor changes. The Clean Air Act was incorporated into the United States Code as Title 42, Chapter 85.

Clean Water Act (CWA): The framework that regulates water quality standards and pollutant discharges into waters of the U.S. Sections 303d and 305b require that water quality of streams, rivers, and lakes are assessed on a regular basis, that waters found to be in violation of water quality standards are listed as impaired, and that priorities be set for actions to improve the water quality.

Class I Area: All international parks, national parks larger than 6,000 acres, and designated wilderness areas larger than 5,000 acres that existed on August 7, 1977, are considered class 1 areas. The 1977 Clean Air Act amendments provide the most protection to these pristine lands, severely limiting the amount of additional air pollution that can be added to these areas.

Class II Area: Areas of the country protected under the Clean Air Act, but identified for somewhat less stringent protection from air pollution damage than a class I area, except in specified cases.

Closed for Oil and Gas Leasing through Management Direction: These are National Forest System lands the Deciding Official will make a discretionary decision on to close to oil and gas leasing for a temporary period of time with his/her Record of Decision on this analysis.

Concern Level: As used in scenery management system, a measure of people's concern for the scenic quality of the national forests. There are three concern levels (1 - Most concern; 2 – Moderate concern; 3 – Least concern). Higher concern levels are assigned to important and high-use transportation corridors and view facilities.

Condition of Approval: A site-specific requirement included in an Approved Application for Permit to Drill or Sundry Notice that may limit or amend the specific actions proposed by the operator. Conditions of Approval minimize, mitigate, or prevent impacts to public lands or other resources. Best Management Practices may be incorporated as a Condition of Approval (Federal On-Shore Order #1).

Controlled Surface Use Stipulation (CSU): A stipulation that can be attached to federal leases that modifies the right to develop federal lands for oil and gas development. For a CSU, use and occupancy

is allowed (unless restricted by another stipulation), but identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. a CSU stipulation allows the surface management agency to require relocation of a proposed facility or activity by more than 200 meters from the proposed location if necessary to achieve the desired level of protection.

Cooperating agency: A federal, state, or local government agency that has accepted an invitation to participate in the NEPA process by the lead federal agency. The invitation is generally formal and accompanied by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. Typically, a cooperating agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental issue which will be addressed by the NEPA analysis (40 CFR 1508).

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): Coordinates federal environmental efforts and works closely with agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives. CEQ was established within the Executive Office of the President by Congress as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and additional responsibilities were provided by the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970.

Critical habitat: For ESA-listed species consists of: (1) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Act on which are found those physical or biological features (constituent elements) (a) essential to the conservation of the species and (b) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (2) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Act, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. [ESA §3 (5)(A)] Designated critical habitats are described in 50 CFR §17 and 226.

Cumulative impacts: The direct and indirect effects of a proposed project alternative's incremental impacts when they are added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of who carries out the action (40 CFR 1508.7).

Decommission: Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads or trails to a more natural state. The road or trail is permanently removed from the transportation system. The activities range from blocking the entrance, scattering boughs on the roadbed, revegetating and water barring, to removing fills and culverts, reestablishing drainage-ways, pulling back shoulders, and recontouring the slopes for full obliteration.

Direct effects: Environmental impacts caused by an action and that occur at the same time and place (40 CFR 1508.8).

Discharge area: An area where groundwater is lost naturally from an aquifer through seeps, springs, of hydraulic connection to other aquifers. The water leaving an aquifer is called discharge.

Distance Zones: Landscape areas denoted by specified distances from the observer. Used as a frame of reference in which to discuss landscape attributes or the scenic effect of human activities in a landscape. These zones include Immediate Foreground (up to 300'), Foreground (300 feet to 0.5 mile), Middleground (0.5 to 4 miles), and Background (4 miles or more).

Disturbance: A discrete event, either natural or human induced, that causes a change in the existing condition of an ecological system.

Ecological Classification: A multifactor approach to categorizing and delineating, at different levels of resolution, areas of land and water having similar characteristic combination of the physical environment (such as climate, geomorphic processes, geology, soil, and hydrologic function), biological communities

(such as plants, animals, microorganisms, and potential natural communities), and the human dimension (such as social, economic, cultural, and infrastructure).

Ecological Unit: An assessment area based on vegetation, soils, geology, and geomorphology. A continuous geographic area over which the macro-climate is sufficiently uniform to permit development of similar ecosystems on sites with similar properties.

Ecoregion: areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources.

Endangered species: A taxonomic group of either plant or animal species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. These plants are considered "federally listed" because a final rule designating them as endangered has been published in the Federal Register by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA): A law establishing a regulatory system to protect species that are at risk of extinction. NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decide whether to list species as Threatened or Endangered. Under the Act, federal agencies must avoid jeopardy to and aid the recovery of listed species.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Part of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an EIS is a comprehensive public document that analyzes the impacts of a major federal action that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. When complete, it is a tool for decision making as the EIS describes the positive and negative environmental effects of a proposed action, describes alternative actions and provides an analysis of environmental impacts and ways to mitigate such impacts across all alternatives considered in detail. An EIS examines physical and biological resources, resource uses, fire management, special designations, and social and economic conditions.

Environmental justice: A concept disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of a federal agency's programs, policies, and activities on minority or low-income populations.

Ephemeral stream: One that flows only in direct response to precipitation and whose channel is at all times above the water table.

Exception: A one-time exemption from a stipulation that is determined on a case-by-case basis. Suspends the restrictions of a stipulation for a specified period of time, activity, or portion of the area where applied but remains in effect relative to other periods of time, activities, or areas where applied.

Existing Scenic Integrity: ("Existing Scenic Condition") - Current state of the landscape, considering previous human alterations.

Far Field: Typically refers to an air quality analysis that addresses impacts on sites greater than 50 kilometers from an emission source.

Federal lands: Are all lands and interests in lands owned by the U.S. that are subject to the mineral leasing laws, including mineral resources or mineral estates reserved to the U.S. in the conveyance of a surface or non-mineral estate (43 CFR 3160.0 – 5 Definitions).

Federal mineral estate: Subsurface mineral estate administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

Federally listed: Species listed as *Threatened* or *Endangered* by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fen: Fens are wetlands with water-saturated substrates and an accumulation of about 30 centimeters or more of peat (organic soil material). Peatlands, which include fens, bogs, and muskegs, are widely distributed across boreal regions. Fens are much less common in the lower latitudes of the continental U.S. In Colorado, these unique and ancient ecosystems are somewhat more common than in the northern Rockies, and may be the most common wetland type in the 8,500 to 10,000 feet elevation range. Fens are relict wetlands from the last glaciation, and as a result have very unique characteristics found nowhere else on the landscape.

Floodplain: That portion of a river valley adjacent to the stream channel which is covered with water when the stream overflows its banks during flood stage.

Fluid Minerals: Oil, gas, coal bed natural gas, and geothermal resources.

Forb: An herbaceous plant that is not a grass or not grasslike.

Forest/Woodland: A habitat type characterized by being dominated by trees. Forests are densely covered by trees and have a continuous or nearly continuous canopy and little shade reaching the forest floor. In a woodland, trees are more widely scattered and sunlight reaches the floor, often supporting an understory of shrubs, grasses, and/or forbs.

Foreground: The zone in a landscape that is located from up to ½ mile from the viewer.

Fragmentation: The breaking up of contiguous areas of vegetation/habitat into smaller patches.

Fugitive dust: Visible emissions released from sources other than stacks; for instance, dust blown from storage piles, road dust, or emissions leaking from sides of buildings or open areas in buildings.

Game species: Species of animals that are hunted or fished, for purposes of sport, recreation, and food capture.

Geographic Information System (GIS): A computer representation of data that is geographically distributed in three dimensions. These data can be generated and displayed to show their physical location. Each data set with a certain type of information constitutes a “layer” in the GIS. GIS layers can be superimposed to show the spatial relationships of different items.

Grasslands: Habitat types dominated by grasses (family Poaceae) with little woody vegetation or other forbs.

Grazing allotments: Grazing allotments are categorized into one of three management categories: Improve (I), Maintain (M), or Custodial (C). These categories are based on present conditions, potential for improvement, other resource conflicts, and opportunities for positive economic return on public investments.

Greenhouse gas (GHG): Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include, but are not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

Groundwater: Underground water that is generally found in the pore spaces of rocks or sediments and that can be collected with wells or that flow naturally to the Earth’s surface via seeps or springs.

Habitat types: Communities of plants that typically occur together.

Hazardous material: A substance, pollutant, or contaminant that, due to its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.

High Scenic Integrity Level: A scenic integrity level meaning human activities are not visually evident. In high scenic integrity areas, activities may only repeat attributes of form, line, color, and texture found in the existing landscape character.

Historic property: Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

Human Impact or Influence: A disturbance or change in ecosystem composition, structure, or function caused by humans.

Hydrology: The science of dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water.

Hydraulic conductivity: Hydraulic conductivity (K) is a measure of the capacity of an aquifer to transmit water, relating flow velocity to hydraulic gradient (or slope of the water table) having units of length per unit of time. A property of the porous medium and the fluid (water content of the medium). In general, the greater the hydraulic conductivity of an aquifer, the greater is its ability to provide water to a well.

Hydraulically connected: A condition in which groundwater moves easily between aquifers that are in direct contact.

Impact: The effect, influence, alteration, or imprint caused by an action.

Indicator: An indicator provides a clue to a matter of larger significance or makes perceptible a trend or phenomenon that is not immediately detectable. It is a sign or symptom that makes something known with a reasonable degree of certainty. An indicator reveals, gives evidence. Its significance extends beyond what is actually measured to a larger phenomenon of interest.

Indian tribe: An Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including a native village, regional corporation, or village corporation, as those terms are defined in Section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 USC 1602), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians. Government-to-government consultation is required for any project between the federal government and the government of any potentially impacted tribe.

Indirect effects: Environmental impacts that are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR 1508.8).

Intermittent or seasonal stream: One which flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface source such as melting snow in mountainous areas.

Invasive species: A species that is not native to the habitat under consideration and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm (EO 13112). Invasive plants are typically adaptable, aggressive, and have a high reproductive capacity.

Invertebrates: Animals that lack a back bone and are represented by a wide variety of taxonomic groups in freshwater environments.

Landslide: Any mass-movement process characterized by downslope transport of soil and rock, under gravitational stress, by sliding over a discrete failure surface; or the resultant landform. Can also include other forms of mass wasting not involving sliding (rockfall, etc.).

Legally Closed for Oil and Gas Leasing: The lands Legally Closed for Oil and Gas Leasing are those withdrawn for oil and gas leasing by an existing act, order, statute, or executive communication.

Lead Agency: The agency or agencies preparing, or having taken primary responsibility for preparing an environmental document as required by NEPA. For the EIS for Previously Issued leased on the WRNF, the BLM is the lead agency.

Lease (Lands): A type of special use authorization (usually granted for uses other than linear rights-of-way) that is used when substantial capital investment is required and when conveyance of a conditional and transferable interest in National Forest System lands is necessary or desirable to serve or facilitate authorized long-term uses and that may be revocable and compensable according to its terms (36 CFR 251.51).

Lease (Oil and Gas): Lease means any contract, profit-share arrangement, joint venture, or other agreement issued or approved by the U.S. under a mineral leasing law that authorizes exploration for, extraction of or removal of oil and gas (43 CFR 3160.0- 5).

Leasable Minerals: Minerals whose extraction from federal land requires a lease and the payment of royalties. Leasable minerals include coal, oil and gas, oil shale and tar sands, potash, phosphate, sodium, and geothermal steam.

Lease Notice (LN): A notice that can be attached to an oil and gas lease that provides more detailed information concerning limitations that already exist in law, lease terms, regulations, or operation orders. Addresses special items the lessee would consider when planning operations, but does not impose new or additional restrictions.

Locatable Minerals: Mineral deposits that are subject to acquisition by the location and maintenance of mining claims. Locatable minerals include both metallic, nonmetallic, and certain uncommon variety minerals.

Low Scenic Integrity Level: Low scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears moderately altered." Deviations begin to dominate the valued landscape character being viewed but they borrow valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect, and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes, or architectural styles outside the landscape being viewed. They should not only appear as valued character outside the landscape being viewed, but also compatible or complimentary to the character within.

Management Areas: Units of federal land having different management emphasis or direction.

Middleground: The zone between the Foreground and the Background in a landscape, located from 0.5 mile to 4 miles from the viewer.

Mineral: All minerals and mineral fuels including some non-solid substances such as petroleum and natural gas (30 USC 21a).

Mineral Materials: A collective term used to describe petrified wood and common varieties of sand, gravel, stone, pumice, cinders, clay, and other similar materials. Extraction and use requires a permit or sales contract. Common varieties do not include deposits of materials that are considered valuable

because of some property giving them distinct and special value (36 CFR 228.42). Also referred to as saleable or common-variety minerals.

Mineral Rights: Generally, mineral rights include title to the mineral and the necessary authority to enter upon and use as much of the surface overlying the mineral estate as is reasonably necessary to explore for, develop, extract, and process the reserved minerals. Interpretation of mineral rights must be consistent with the terms of the deed and applicable law (FSM 2830.5).

Moderate Scenic Integrity Level: Moderate scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears slightly altered." Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed.

Migratory bird: A bird that moves seasonally to different ranges to maximize breeding and feeding opportunities

Migratory Bird Treaty Act: A law enacted in 1918 that prohibits pursuing, hunting, taking, capturing, killing, possessing, selling, bartering, purchasing, delivering, transporting, and receiving any migratory birds, parts, nests, or eggs.

Mitigation: 1) Avoiding or reducing possible adverse impacts to a resource by limiting the timing, location, or magnitude of an action and its implementation; 2) rectifying possible adverse impact by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the affected environment or resource; 3) reducing or eliminating adverse impacts by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of an action.

Modification: Temporary or permanent change for the term of the lease to a stipulation, such as a change in the areas, activities, or periods of time where applied, but it does not eliminate the stipulation.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): Established by the USEPA, the NAAQS represent maximum acceptable concentrations that generally may not be exceeded more than once per year, except the annual standards, which may never be exceeded (40 CFR 50).

National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA): A law passed in 1976 amending the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act. NFMA requires the preparation of regional and forest plans and the preparation of regulations to guide that development.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA): Federal statute, signed into law on January 1, 1970, that contains procedures to ensure that federal agency decision makers take environmental factors into account. The two major purposes of the NEPA process are citizen involvement and better informed decisions. The Act establishes national policy and goals for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the environment, and provides a process for implementing these goals within the federal agencies. The Act also establishes the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and requires an environmental impact statement on all major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. [42 USC 4332 2(2)(C).]

National Forest System (NFS): As defined in the Forest Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, the "National Forest System" includes all national forest lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the U.S., all national forest lands acquired through purchase, exchange, donation, or other means, the national grasslands and land use projects administered under title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tennant Act (50 Stat. 525, 7 USC. 1010-1012), and other lands, waters, or interests therein that are administered by the Forest Service or are designated for administration through the Forest Service as a part of the system (36 CFR 212.1, 36 CFR 261.2).

National Forest System Land: All lands, waters, or interests therein administered by the Forest Service (36 CFR 251.51).

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended: Act directing federal agencies to consider the effects of their programs and projects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If a proposed action might impact any archaeological, historical, or architectural resource, this act mandates consultation with the proper agencies.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): The official register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and maintained by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

National Scenic Byway: To be designated as a National Scenic Byway, a road should have at least one of six scenic byway intrinsic qualities (archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic) that is regionally significant.

National Scenic Byway (NSB) Program: The National Scenic Byways (NSB) Program was established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, and reauthorized in 1998 under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. Under the program, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads based on their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. There are 150 such designated Byways in 46 states. The Federal Highway Administration promotes the collection as the America's Byways®.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition.

Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of people's work substantially unnoticeable.

Near Field: Typically refers to an air quality analysis that addresses impacts within 50 kilometers of an emission source.

Nitrogen oxides: A group of compounds consisting of various combinations of nitrogen and oxygen atoms.

No Action Alternative: An alternative that maintains established trends or management direction.

No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation: A stipulation that can be attached to federal leases that modifies the right to develop Federal lands, under which use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral exploration or development is prohibited to protect identified resource values. No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations are considered a major constraint as they do not allow for surface use or occupancy. For example, a lessee of a NSO stipulation area must develop any surface infrastructure outside the NSO stipulation area and would need to use advanced technology, such as directional drilling, to access the oil and gas resource under the NSO stipulation area. NSO stipulations are applied to the standard lease form as conditions of the lease. An NSO stipulation is appropriate when the standard terms and conditions, other less restrictive lease stipulations, and best management practices for permit approval are determined to be insufficient to achieve the resource protection objectives. NSO stipulations would be attached to leases by the BLM as identified by the Forest Service in conformance with the current Forest Plan during the review and consent to lease process for proposed new leases on National Forest System Lands.

Nonattainment area: An area that does not meet air quality standards set by the Clean Air Act for specified localities and periods.

Notice of Intent: A public notice published in the Federal Register that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered in the decision making for a proposed action. It also provides background information on the proposed project in preparation for the scoping process.

Noxious weed: A legal term, meaning any plant officially designated by a federal, state, or local agency as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property.

Old growth: A forest type at least 200 years of age with moderate to low canopy closure; a multi-layered, multi-species canopy dominated by large overstory trees; numerous large snags; heavy accumulations of fallen wood; smaller trees in various age classes, as well as shrubs and herbaceous vegetation in the understory and on the forest floor.

Onshore Oil and Gas Orders: These are formally numbered orders issued by the Director (Bureau of Land Management) that implements and supplements the regulations under 43 CFR 3160 – Onshore, Oil, and Gas Operations (43 CFR 3160.0 -5(o)). The Chief of the Forest Service may also issue, or cosign with the Director, Bureau of Land Management, Onshore Oil and Gas Orders necessary to implement and supplement the Forest Service regulations (36 CFR 228.105). Onshore Oil and Gas Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR 228.105 are binding on all operations conducted on National Forest System lands.

Outstanding Mineral Rights: Mineral rights owned by a party other than the surface owner at the time the surface was conveyed to the U.S. There is usually no contractual or other legal relationship between the U.S. and the owner of outstanding mineral rights (FSM 2830.5).

Overstory: Layer of foliage in a forest canopy including the trees in a timber stand. Tall mature trees that rise above the shorter understory trees.

Ozone: A regional air pollutant generated in the atmosphere through photochemical reactions involving oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds.

Paleontological Resource: Any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the Earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on Earth. The term does not include (a) any materials associated with an archaeological resource (as defined in §3(1) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979); or (b) any cultural item (as defined in §2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. (Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, subtitle D, Paleontological Resources Preservation).

Permeability: Ability of an Earth material (i.e., rock or soil) to transmit fluids (usually water) through its pores when subjected to a difference in pressure or a description of the ease with which a fluid may move through a porous medium.

Permit (Lands): A special use authorization that provides permission, without conveying an interest in land, to occupy and use National Forest System land or facilities for specified purposes and that is both revocable and terminable (36 CFR 251.51).

Perennial Stream: One that flows with water present continuously during an average water year.

Physiographic: Pertaining to the features and phenomena of nature.

Potable: Water considered safe for consumption.

Prime farmland: A land use classification used by the USDA (7 CFR 657.5) where a favorable growing season, adequate precipitation or irrigation source, and soil characteristics result provide good to excellent crop production.

Proposed Endangered or Threatened: Candidate species, subspecies, or varieties found to warrant listing as either threatened or endangered and officially proposed as such in a Federal Register notice after the completion of a status review and consideration of other protective conservation measure, but for which a final determination has not been made.

Public Land or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land: Land or interest in land owned by the U.S. and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through BLM without regard to how the U.S. acquired ownership, except lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf and land held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

Purpose and Need (NEPA): Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the need to take an action may be something the agency identifies itself, or it may be a need to make a decision on a proposal brought to it by someone outside of the agency, for example, an applicant for a permit. Alternatives are measured against how well they meet the underlying need and best achieve the purposes to be attained.

Raptor: A bird of prey that feeds upon smaller animals.

Recharge: The replenishment of groundwater in an aquifer, usually by natural processes through the movement of precipitation into an aquifer.

Reclamation: Is the act of returning disturbed lands as near to its predisturbed condition as is reasonably practical (Onshore Oil and Gas Order #1).

Record of Decision (ROD): The document that is prepared to substantiate a decision based on an EIS. The ROD is the final step for the BLM, Western, and USFS in the EIS process. The ROD states the final agency decisions, identifies the alternatives considered and discusses mitigation, enforcement and monitoring commitments.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS): A framework for stratifying and defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. The settings, activities, and opportunities for obtaining experiences are arranged along a continuum or spectrum divided into seven classes: primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, roaded modified, rural, and urban.

Region 2 (R2): See Rocky Mountain Region.

Regional Forester's Sensitive Species: "Those plant and animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by: - Significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density. - Significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution" (FSM 2670.5).

Rehabilitation: Actions taken to restore or reclaim site productivity, water quality, or other values. For visual resources, rehabilitation is returning a landscape with existing visual impacts and deviations to a desired level of scenic quality formerly found in the natural landscape.

Research Natural Area (RNA): Formally designated tracts of land where natural processes are allowed to continue and where natural features are preserved for education and research. These conditions are ordinarily achieved by allowing natural physical and biological processes to prevail without human

intervention. However, under unusual circumstances, deliberate manipulation may be used to maintain the unique feature that the RNA was established to protect.

Responsible Official: The Forest Service employee who has the delegated authority to make a specific decision.

Restoration: To bring back to an original state.

Revegetation: The reestablishment and development of plant cover. This may take place naturally through the reproductive processes of the existing flora or artificially through the direct action of reforestation or reseeded.

Right-of-Way: A privilege or right to cross over or use the land of another party for egress and ingress such as roads, pipelines, irrigation canals, or ditches. The right-of-way may be conveyed by an easement, permit, license, or other instrument (FSM 5460.5).

Riparian: A transitional ecosystem between aquatic (usually riverine) and terrestrial (upland) environments. Riparian ecosystems are identified by distinctive soil characteristics and vegetation communities that require free water.

Roadless Area: An area in a national forest or national grassland that: (1) is larger than 5,000 acres or, if smaller, contiguous to a designated wilderness or primitive area, or lies east of the 100th Meridian and therefore under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Wilderness Act; and (2) contains no roads; and (3) has been inventoried by the Forest Service for possible inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System.

Rocky Mountain Region (R2): The Forest Service organizational unit consisting of Colorado, Wyoming, and parts of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Also known as Region 2.

Scale: The degree of resolution at which ecological processes, structures, and changes across space and time are observed and measured.

Scenic Attractiveness: The scenic importance of a landscape based on human perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landform, rockform, waterform, and vegetation pattern. Reflects varying visual perception attributes of variety, unity, vividness, intactness, coherence, mystery, uniqueness, harmony, balance, and pattern. It is classified as Class: A-Distinctive, Class B-Typical or Common, or Class C-Indistinctive.

Scenic Byway: A public road having special, scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, and/or natural qualities that have been recognized as such through legislation or some other official declaration.

Scenic Integrity: Degree of intactness of the landscape character or, conversely, the degree of visible disruption of the landscape character. A landscape with very minimal visual disruption is considered to have high scenic integrity (USFS 1996).

Scenic Quality Rating: The relative scenic quality (A, B, or C) assigned to a landscape by applying the scenic quality evaluation key factors; scenic quality A being the highest rating, B a moderate rating, and C the lowest rating.

Scoping: Part of the federal environmental analysis process required under NEPA where significant issues are identified for detailed analysis. Scoping includes, but is not limited to, a formal scoping period early in the analysis process in which members of the public are invited to review the proposed project and identify possible issues or concerns with the project.

Section 106: Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, federal agencies must identify and evaluate cultural resources and consider the impact of undertakings they fund, license, permit, or assist on historic properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The federal agencies must afford the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment on these undertakings.

Sedimentary rock: A rock resulting from the consolidation of loose sediment that has accumulated in layers.

Sedimentation: The deposition or accumulation of sediment.

Seed Set: To produce seeds after flowering.

Sensitive species: Those plants and animals identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trend in populations or density and significant or predicted downward trend in habitat capability.

Shrubland: A habitat type characterized by woody vegetation smaller than trees (in general, having multiple main stems and being less than 20 feet in height and 6 inches diameter at breast height at maturity).

Soil erosion: The movement of soil particles, usually as a result of wind or water forces. Many factors affect soil erosion, including soil grain size, cohesion factor, soil moisture content, type and amount of vegetative cover, precipitation amount and intensity, steepness of slope, and wind speed.

Solitude: The state of being alone or remote from others; a lonely or secluded place.

Special Recreation Permit (SRP): Issued by the BLM and the USFS for some recreational uses on federal lands and waters. SRPs are issued as a means to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors.

Special Use Permit (SUP): A legal document that allows occupancy, use, rights, or privileges of National Forest System (NFS) land. The authorization is granted for a specific use of the land for a specific period of time. See also **Permit**.

Special Status Species: Species of plants or animals that have been designated by government agencies as needed special monitoring, conservation, or protection, usually due to declining populations. This group includes federally endangered and threatened species as well as other designations.

Species: A group of interbreeding individuals not interbreeding with another such group; similar and related species are grouped into a genus.

Species of Local Concern: Plant Species of Local Concern (SOLC) are species that are documented or suspected to be at risk at a forest-wide scale, but do not meet the criteria for regional Sensitive Species designation because they are reasonably secure within parts of their range within R2. These could include species with declining trends in only a portion of Region 2.

Split Estate: An area of land where the surface is non-federally owned and the subsurface mineral resources are federally owned, or vice versa. Stipulation: A provision that modifies standard lease rights and is attached to and made a part of the oil and gas lease.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): Created under Section 101 of the NHPA to survey and recognize historic properties, review nominations for properties to be included in the National Register of

Historic Places, review undertakings for the impact on the properties as well as support federal organizations, state and local governments, and the private sector. States are responsible for setting up their own SHPO; therefore, each SHPO varies slightly on rules and regulations.

Subsidence: The sinking of the earth's surface because of the withdrawal of water or mineral resources.

Summer or Spring-Summer-Fall range: A population or portion of a population of animals use the documented habitats within this range annually only (from the previous winter) to the onset of persistent winter conditions (variable, but commonly this period is between 5/1 and 11/30).

Take: Harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, collecting, or attempting to engage in any such conduct toward a species listed under the ESA.

Terrestrial: Occurring on land.

Threatened and Endangered Species (TES): Threatened and endangered species listed or candidates for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and those species listed by the BLM and the Forest Service as sensitive.

Threatened species: Those species officially listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range. [ESA §3(20)]

Timing Limitation (TL) Stipulation: A stipulation that can be attached to federal Leases that modifies the right to develop federal lands, under activities may be limited annually for a specified period lasting more than 60 days. Timing stipulations (TLs) do not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities unless the findings of analysis demonstrate the continued need for such mitigation and that less stringent, project-specific mitigation measures would be insufficient. TL stipulations would be applied to leases where standard lease terms and permit-level decisions are deemed insufficient to protect sensitive resources but where a No Surface Occupancy stipulation is deemed overly restrictive. In general, TL stipulations are used to protect resources that are sensitive to disturbance during certain periods. Such stipulations are generally applicable to specific areas, seasons, and resources. They are commonly applied to wildlife activities and habitat, such as winter range for deer, elk, and moose; nesting habitat for raptors and migratory birds; and breeding areas. Buffer zones are also used to further mitigate impacts from any human activities. The size of buffers can also be specific to species and location, and can change based on findings of science or movement of species. TL stipulations would be attached to leases by the BLM as identified by the Forest Service in conformance with the current Forest Plan during the review and consent to lease process for proposed new leases on National Forest System lands.

Topsoil: The uppermost soil layer, generally ranging from a few inches to less than 1 foot in thickness. Topsoil is the site of greatest organic content, contains the most soil nutrients, and supports the greatest amount of plant life.

Traditional Cultural Property (TCP): A property that is eligible for the NHRP because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jurisdictional Wetlands: Wetlands that are regulated by the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. Areas must exhibit three characteristics of wetlands (hydrology, hydrophytes, and hydric soils) and must be navigable, or hydrologically connected to navigable waters, in order to be classified as jurisdictional wetlands. It is important to understand that some areas that function as wetlands ecologically, but exhibit only one or two of the three wetland characteristics, do not currently qualify as USACE jurisdictional wetlands, and thus activities in these wetlands are not regulated

under the Section 404 program. In addition, artificial water conveyance systems constructed within upland areas (such as agricultural drainage ditches or converted cropland) may develop some wetland characteristics overtime, however, these areas are not considered as jurisdictional wetlands, as long as they are not located within historical wetland systems. Jurisdictional wetlands include **Waters of the United States**.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS): A federal agency under the Department of Agriculture that manages 193 million acres of public land for multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wood, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness areas, and archaeological, paleontological and historical sites.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): A 1940 reorganization plan (54 Stat. 1232) in the Department of the Interior consolidated the Bureau of Fisheries and the Bureau of Biological Survey into one agency to be known as the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife was created as a part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior on November 6, 1956, by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (70 Stat. 1119). That act was amended on July 1, 1974, by Public Law 93-271 (88 Stat. 92) to, among other purposes, abolish the position of Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife and designate the Bureau as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Understory: Foliage layer beneath the forest canopy. Young trees that are growing beneath the tall mature trees in a timber stand.

Unit area (oil and gas): The area described in an agreement as constituting the land logically subject to exploration and development under such agreement.

Unitized land: Those lands and formations within a unit area that are committed to an approved agreement or plan.

Vegetation Communities: A combination of dominant plant species that live together in the same region or on the same landform.

Very High Scenic Integrity Level: Very high scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "is" intact with only minute if any deviations. The existing landscape character and sense of place is expressed at the highest possible level.

Very Low Scenic Integrity Level: Very low scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued lands "appear heavily altered." Deviations may strongly dominate the valued landscape character. They may not borrow from valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes or architectural styles within or outside landscape being viewed. However deviations must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain (landforms) so that elements such as unnatural edges, roads, landings, and structures do not dominate the composition.

Viability: Capable of living, developing, or germinating under favorable conditions.

Viewshed: Total visible area from a single observer position, or the total visible area from multiple observer positions. Viewsheds are accumulated seen-areas from highways, trails, campgrounds, towns, cities, or other viewer locations. Examples are corridor, feature, or basin viewsheds.

Visual Quality Objectives (VQO): Forest Service Management standards that identify five degrees of alteration to the natural landscape based on the landscape's diversity of natural features and the public's concern for scenic quality.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC): Chemicals that produce vapors readily at room temperature and at normal atmospheric pressure. Volatile organic compounds include gasoline, industrial chemicals such as benzene, solvents such as toluene and xylene, and tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene, the principal dry cleaning solvent).

Waters of the United States: Broadly defined by statute, regulation, and judicial interpretation to include all waters that were, are, or could be used in interstate commerce such as rivers, streams (including ephemeral streams), reservoirs, lakes, and adjacent wetlands. The USACE Wetlands Delineation Manual dated January 1987 and its current supplements must be used to determine if an area has sufficient wetland characteristics to be a water of the United States.

Watershed: The area that drains to a common waterway.

Waiver: Permanently eliminates the restrictions of a stipulation, including all areas, activities, or periods of time to which applied. Explanation: A waiver, may not be approved unless, (1) the authorized officer determines that the factors leading to the stipulation's inclusion in the lease have changed sufficiently to make the protection provided by the stipulation no longer justified or (2) the proposed operations would not cause unacceptable impacts (43 CFR 3101.1-4). A waiver may be approved if the record shows that circumstances or relative resource values have changed or that the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts and that less restrictive requirements would meet resource management objectives.

Wetlands: Defined for regulatory purposes as "Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water (hydrology) at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation (hydrophytes) typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (hydric soils). Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas (CFR 328.3 and 40 CFR 232.2(r))."

Winter Range: Areas that are used by animals, primarily big game, during winter months when forage is scarce and snow is often deep.

Wilderness Act of 1964: The Wilderness Act designated all previously existing Wild Areas, Canoe Areas, and Wilderness Areas as Wilderness. In 1964, these areas on national forests totaled 9.1 million acres and represented the entire National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics: These attributes include the area's size, its apparent naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. They also may include supplemental values.

Withdrawn lands: Public domain held back for the use or benefit of an agency by reservation, withdrawal, or other restrictions for a special government purpose. There are four major categories of formal withdrawals: Administrative; Presidential Proclamations; congressional; and Federal Power Act or Federal Energy Regulatory Commission withdrawals. Withdrawals must accomplish one or more of the following: Transfer total or partial jurisdiction of federal land between federal agencies; Close (segregate) federal land to operation of all or some of the public land laws and mineral laws; Dedicate federal land to a specific public purpose.

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Index

Acid neutralizing capacity (ANC)	3.2-7, 4.2-4, 4.2-14, 4.2-15
Agriculture	1-13, 1-14, 2-71, 3.2-19, 3.2-21, 3.4-1, 3.5-8, 3.6-1, 3.6-8, 3.11-2, 3.11-5, 3.17-8, 3.17-11, 3.17-14, 3.17-15, 3.17-17, 3.17-26, 3.17-27, 3.17-28, 4.1-3, 4.1-8, 4.2-32, 4.6-35, 4.11-4, 4.17-12
Air Quality Related Values	3.2-3, 3.2-5, 3.2-11, 3.2-12, 3.2-13, 3.2-14, 4.2-1, 4.2-3, 4.2-4, 4.2-13, 4.2-32, 4.2-33, 4.2-34, 4.2-35
Allotments	2-89, 3.14-1, 3.14-3, 3.14-5, 3.14-6, 3.14-8, 3.17-12, 4.1-4, 4.14-1, 4.14-2, 4.14-3, 4.14-4, 4.14-5, 4.14-6, 4.14-7, 4.14-8, 4.14-9, 4.14-10, 4.14-11, 4.17-7, 4.17-30, 4.19-4, 4.20-3
Alluvial	3.3-19, 3.4-2, 3.5-13, 3.5-17, 3.5-18, 3.5-21, 3.5-22, 3.5-23, 4.5-13, 4.5-14, 4.16-11
Application for Permit to Drill (APD)	1-8, 1-12, 2-64, 2-66, 2-67, 2-68, 2-70, 2-71, 2-72, 3.4-2, 4.1-1, 4.1-2, 4.1-8, 4.2-12, 4.3-1, 4.3-8, 4.3-9, 4.3-12, 4.3-13, 4.4-1, 4.4-6, 4.4-7, 4.5-1, 4.6-2, 4.6-9, 4.6-14, 4.7-1, 4.7-2, 4.7-24, 4.8-1, 4.8-2, 4.8-7, 4.9-1, 4.10-1, 4.10-2, 4.11-1, 4.11-3, 4.11-4, 4.11-5, 4.11-6, 4.11-7, 4.12-1, 4.13-1, 4.13-3, 4.14-11, 4.15-1, 4.15-6, 4.16-1, 4.16-2, 4.16-7, 4.16-14, 4.16-15
Aquifer	1-17, 2-72, 2-82, 3.5-17, 3.5-18, 3.5-21, 3.5-22, 3.5-23, 3.5-25, 4.5-1, 4.5-12, 4.5-13, 4.5-14, 4.5-17
Backcountry	2-88, 3.13-2, 3.13-5, 3.13-6, 4.13-5
Battlement Mesa	3.3-2, 3.3-6, 3.3-23, 3.5-14, 3.5-15, 3.5-16, 3.5-18, 3.6-18, 3.12-1, 3.12-5, 3.15-2, 4.8-4, 4.12-2, 4.13-3, 4.15-5, 4.15-7, 4.16-12
Bear	2-68, 2-74, 2-85, 2-84, 3.7-22, 3.7-25, 3.7-27, 3.13-6, 4.2-59, 4.7-5, 4.7-6, 4.7-9, 4.7-14, 4.7-17, 4.7-23, 4.7-29, 4.7-32, 4.7-34, 4.7-35
Best Management Practice (BMP)	1-14, 1-17, 2-64, 2-68, 2-70, 2-71, 2-90, 3.4-5, 4.1-2, 4.2-57, 4.3-4, 4.5-12, 4.5-16, 4.5-21, 4.6-9, 4.6-34, 4.7-1, 4.7-2, 4.8-1, 4.8-2, 4.13-3, 4.15-1, 4.15-5, 4.15-11, 4.15-12, 4.15-13, 4.15-20, 4.15-21, 4.15-22, 4.16-3, 4.16-4, 4.16-6, 4.16-7, 4.19-2, 4.19-4, 4.20-3

Bighorn sheep	2-2, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-84, 2-88, 3.7-8, 3.7-21, 3.7-22, 3.7-36, 3.12-1, 3.13-6, 4.7-5, 4.7-8, 4.7-9, 4.7-14, 4.7-15, 4.7-21, 4.7-23, 4.7-28, 4.7-29, 4.7-32, 4.7-33, 4.7-34, 4.7-36, 4.12-4, 4.13-5
Biological Assessment (BA)	2-86, 3.6-12, 3.7-30, 3.7-31, 3.7-35, 4.8-7
Biological Evaluation (BE)	3.6-12, 3.6-17, 3.7-21, 3.7-30, 3.7-37, 4.6-8
Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC)	3.7-6, 3.7-7, 3.7-29
Black-footed ferret	3.7-30
Bluehead sucker	3.8-3, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 3.8-11, 4.8-6, 4.8-8, 4.8-10
Bonytail	3.8-3, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 3.8-11, 3.8-12, 4.1-5, 4.8-7
Boreal toad	2-86, 3.8-3, 3.8-4, 3.8-5, 3.8-6, 3.8-11, 3.8-12, 4.8-3, 4.8-5, 4.8-9, 4.8-13, 4.8-16, 4.8-20, 5-5
Canada lynx	2-85, 3.7-2, 3.7-4, 3.7-29, 3.7-30, 3.7-31, 4.2-60, 4.7-1, 4.7-17, 4.7-22, 4.7-30, 4.7-32, 4.7-33, 4.7-34, 4.7-35, 5-5
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	2-73, 3.2-20, 3.2-21, 3.2-22, 3.16-2, 3.17-18, 4.2-1, 4.2-9, 4.2-10, 4.2-12, 4.2-58, 4.2-59
Carbon monoxide (CO)	2-16, 2-59, 1-15, 3.2-1, 3.2-4, 3.2-5, 3.2-14, 3.2-17, 3.2-20, 3.13-5, 4.2-4, 4.2-6, 4.2-9, 4.2-10, 4.2-36, 4.8-7
Carbondale	1-1, 1-15, 1-20, 2-64, 3.3-13, 3.5-14, 3.5-16, 3.6-1, 3.10-1, 3.10-2, 3.12-2, 3.13-1, 3.15-2, 3.16-9, 3.17-1, 3.17-2, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-5, 3.17-8, 3.17-22, 3.17-25, 3.17-26, 4.2-56, 4.5-5, 4.5-6, 4.5-7, 4.5-8, 4.5-10, 4.5-17, 4.5-18, 4.9-1, 4.10-1, 4.10-10, 4.10-11, 4.10-14, 4.11-6, 4.15-1, 4.15-22, 4.17-1, 4.17-2, 4.17-5, 4.17-6, 5-1, 5-3, 5-6
Class I area	3.2-2, 3.2-3, 3.2-7, 3.2-14, 4.2-33, 4.2-35
Class II area	1-19, 2-16, 3.2-2, 3.2-3, 3.2-7, 4.2-13, 4.2-14, 4.2-31, 4.2-32
Clean Air Act (CAA)	3.2-1, 3.2-2, 3.2-3, 3.2-4, 3.2-7, 3.16-1, 4.2-1
Clean Water Act (CWA)	3.5-1, 3.5-7, 3.5-8, 3.6-1, 3.6-8, 4.5-1, 4.6-3, 4.8-10
Climate	1-16, 3.2-21, 3.4-1, 3.4-2, 3.4-5, 4.2-1, 4.2-58, 4.2-59, 4.2-60, 5-7, 5-8
Coalbed natural gas (CBNG)	3.3-5, 3.3-14, 3.3-20, 3.3-23, 3.3-24, 3.5-21, 3.5-22, 4.3-1

Colorado Air Resource Management Modeling Study (CARMMS)	2-80, 3.2-13, 3.2-14, 3.2-15, 3.2-16, 3.2-17, 3.2-18, 3.2-19, 3.2-20, 4.1-5, 4.2-1, 4.2-3, 4.2-4, 4.2-5, 4.2-6, 4.2-7, 4.2-8, 4.2-9, 4.2-10, 4.2-11, 4.2-12, 4.2-13, 4.2-14, 4.2-15, 4.2-16, 4.2-17, 4.2-18, 4.2-19, 4.2-20, 4.2-21, 4.2-22, 4.2-23, 4.2-24, 4.2-25, 4.2-26, 4.2-27, 4.2-28, 4.2-29, 4.2-30, 4.2-31, 4.2-32, 4.2-33, 4.2-34, 4.2-35, 4.2-36, 4.2-37, 4.2-38, 4.2-39, 4.2-40, 4.2-41, 4.2-42, 4.2-43, 4.2-44, 4.2-45, 4.2-46, 4.2-47, 4.2-48, 4.2-49, 4.2-50, 4.2-51, 4.2-52, 4.2-53, 4.2-54, 4.2-56, 4.2-57, 4.2-58, 4.2-59, 4.16-12
Colorado Air Resource Protection Protocol (CARPP)	3.2-13, 4.2-1, 4.2-2, 4.2-3, 4.2-11, 4.2-55, 4.2-56
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)	3.2-1, 3.2-3, 3.2-4, 3.2-5, 3.2-21, 3.5-1, 3.5-8, 3.5-13, 3.5-15, 3.5-16, 3.5-17, 3.16-1, 3.16-3, 3.16-4, 4.2-1, 4.2-9, 4.2-48, 4.2-59, 4.5-1, 4.5-3, 4.5-16, 4.16-8, 4.16-9, 4.16-10
Colorado hookless cactus	3.6-8, 3.6-14, 3.6-19, 4.6-12, 4.6-14, 4.6-15, 4.6-16, 4.6-17, 4.6-25, 4.6-26, 4.6-27
Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC)	2-73, 2-74, 2-81, 3.2-18, 3.2-19, 3.3-20, 3.3-23, 3.3-24, 3.5-1, 3.5-13, 3.5-17, 3.5-22, 3.16-4, 3.17-18, 3.17-19, 3.17-22, 3.17-25, 4.1-6, 4.1-8, 4.3-13, 4.3-15, 4.5-1, 4.5-2, 4.5-5, 4.5-6, 4.5-7, 4.5-8, 4.5-9, 4.5-14, 4.5-15, 4.15-5, 4.16-2, 4.16-3, 4.16-8, 4.16-9, 4.16-11, 4.17-8
Colorado pikeminnow	3.8-3, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 3.8-11, 3.8-12, 4.1-5, 4.8-7
Colorado Roadless Area (CRA)	2-88, 3.12-2, 3.12-5, 3.12-6, 4.12-2, 4.12-3, 4.12-4, 4.12-5, 4.12-6, 4.15-1, 4.15-11, 4.15-12, 4.15-13, 4.15-21, 4.15-22, 4.15-24, 4.15-25
Colorado Roadless Rule (CRR)	1-1, 2-67, 3.12-1, 3.12-2, 4.12-1, 4.12-2, 4.12-4, 4.12-5, 4.13-3, 4.15-5
Community character	3.6-1, 3.17-25
Condition of Approval (COA)	1-11, 1-17, 2-64, 2-70, 2-71, 2-74, 2-84, 3.4-2, 4.1-2, 4.2-3, 4.2-57, 4.3-1, 4.3-4, 4.5-2, 4.6-6, 4.6-9, 4.6-16, 4.6-17, 4.6-28, 4.6-34, 4.7-1, 4.7-2, 4.7-6, 4.7-9, 4.7-11, 4.7-13, 4.7-33, 4.8-1, 4.10-1, 4.11-3, 4.13-3, 4.16-7, 4.19-2

Controlled Surface Use (CSU)	1-11, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-11, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 2-39, 2-40, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-45, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-52, 2-53, 2-54, 2-67, 2-80, 2-81, 2-82, 2-83, 2-84, 2-86, 2-88, 2-89, 3.3-1, 4.3-3, 4.3-4, 4.3-5, 4.3-6, 4.3-7, 4.3-8, 4.3-9, 4.3-10, 4.3-11, 4.3-12, 4.3-13, 4.3-14, 4.4-1, 4.4-2, 4.4-3, 4.4-4, 4.4-5, 4.4-6, 4.4-7, 4.4-8, 4.5-2, 4.5-3, 4.5-4, 4.5-13, 4.5-16, 4.5-17, 4.5-18, 4.5-19, 4.6-2, 4.6-4, 4.6-5, 4.6-7, 4.6-10, 4.6-15, 4.6-17, 4.6-18, 4.6-19, 4.6-20, 4.6-21, 4.6-22, 4.6-25, 4.6-26, 4.6-27, 4.6-28, 4.6-29, 4.6-30, 4.6-31, 4.6-32, 4.6-33, 4.6-34, 4.7-2, 4.7-4, 4.7-5, 4.7-6, 4.7-8, 4.7-9, 4.7-23, 4.7-24, 4.7-26, 4.7-30, 4.7-31, 4.8-3, 4.8-4, 4.8-5, 4.8-13, 4.8-14, 4.8-15, 4.8-16, 4.8-17, 4.8-19, 4.8-20, 4.8-21, 4.10-2, 4.10-11, 4.10-12, 4.11-1, 4.11-4, 4.11-5, 4.11-6, 4.12-2, 4.12-3, 4.12-4, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, 4.13-3, 4.13-5, 4.13-6, 4.13-7, 4.13-8, 4.13-9, 4.13-10, 4.13-11, 4.13-12, 4.14-7, 4.15-4, 4.15-6, 4.15-8, 4.15-9, 4.15-11, 4.15-13, 4.15-14, 4.15-15, 4.15-16, 4.15-21, 4.15-22, 4.15-23, 4.15-24, 4.15-25, 4.15-26, 4.16-5, 4.16-8, 4.16-17, 4.17-8
Cooperating Agency	1-1, 1-19, 1-20, 2-64, 3.4-1, 5-3, 5-5
Cutthroat trout	2-5, 2-6, 2-24, 2-25, 2-27, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-52, 2-54, 2-67, 2-86, 3.8-2, 3.8-3, 3.8-5, 3.8-6, 3.8-7, 4.8-2, 4.8-3, 4.8-4, 4.8-9, 4.8-11, 4.8-12, 4.8-13, 4.8-17, 4.8-18
Data Analysis Unit (DAU)	3.7-7, 3.7-8, 3.7-11, 3.7-12, 3.7-15, 3.7-17, 3.7-18, 3.7-21, 3.7-22, 3.7-26, 4.7-2
De Beque	1-1, 1-15, 3.3-20, 3.5-14, 3.5-15, 3.5-16, 3.10-1, 3.10-2, 3.10-5, 3.13-6, 3.15-2, 3.16-7, 3.17-1, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-5, 3.17-8, 3.17-10, 3.17-22, 3.17-25, 4.2-55, 4.10-6, 4.15-1, 4.17-1, 4.17-5, 4.17-6, 5-1, 5-6
DeBeque milkvetch	3.6-8, 3.6-17, 3.6-19
DeBeque phacelia	2-83, 3.6-8, 3.6-14, 3.6-19, 4.6-1, 4.6-12, 4.6-14, 4.6-15, 4.6-16, 4.6-17, 4.6-21, 4.6-26, 4.6-27
Directional drilling	2-74, 4.5-4, 4.12-5, 4.15-2
Eagles Nest Wilderness	3.2-7, 3.2-17, 3.2-18, 4.2-14, 4.2-33

Elk	2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-11, 2-26, 2-84, 2-85, 2-84, 2-85, 2-84, 3.2-17, 3.2-18, 3.3-5, 3.5-16, 3.7-1, 3.7-8, 3.7-11, 3.7-12, 3.7-13, 3.7-15, 3.7-17, 3.7-35, 3.11-5, 3.12-2, 3.13-6, 3.13-10, 3.17-11, 4.7-1, 4.7-5, 4.7-6, 4.7-8, 4.7-9, 4.7-11, 4.7-12, 4.7-13, 4.7-21, 4.7-22, 4.7-23, 4.7-24, 4.7-26, 4.7-27, 4.7-28, 4.7-31, 4.7-32, 4.7-33, 4.7-34, 4.7-35, 4.9-1, 4.11-1, 4.11-3, 4.11-4, 4.11-6, 4.11-7, 4.11-8, 4.12-1, 4.12-5, 4.12-6, 4.13-7, 4.15-1, 4.15-13
Erosion	1-17, 2-68, 3.3-6, 3.3-23, 3.4-1, 3.4-2, 3.4-4, 3.4-5, 4.2-7, 4.3-15, 4.4-1, 4.4-3, 4.4-5, 4.4-7, 4.4-9, 4.5-1, 4.5-2, 4.5-4, 4.5-5, 4.5-11, 4.6-8, 4.6-9, 4.6-32, 4.8-6, 4.9-2, 4.10-1, 4.20-1
Far-field	4.2-3
Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976	1-13, 1-16, 3.2-1, 3.6-1, 3.11-1, 3.11-2, 3.14-1, 4.2-1
Fen	2-25, 2-30, 2-31, 2-36, 2-37, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-45, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-52, 2-53, 2-83, 3.6-3, 3.6-7, 3.6-8, 3.6-13, 3.6-18, 3.7-3, 4.6-4, 4.6-5, 4.6-11, 4.6-12, 4.6-13, 4.6-15, 4.6-16, 4.6-17, 4.6-18, 4.6-19, 4.6-20, 4.6-22, 4.6-23, 4.6-25, 4.6-26, 4.6-27, 4.6-29, 4.6-30, 4.6-31, 4.6-32, 4.6-34, 4.7-7, 4.8-5, 4.8-17, 4.8-21, 4.20-2
Flannelmouth sucker	3.8-3, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 3.8-11, 4.8-6, 4.8-8, 4.8-10
Flat Tops Wilderness	3.2-7, 3.2-17, 3.2-18, 4.2-14, 4.2-33, 4.2-35, 4.2-36
Game Management Unit (GMU)	3.7-1, 3.7-7, 3.7-11, 3.7-15, 3.7-18, 3.7-21, 3.7-22, 3.7-25, 3.13-6, 3.13-9, 3.13-10, 3.17-10, 3.17-27, 4.1-4, 4.7-1, 4.7-35, 4.13-7, 4.13-10, 4.13-11

Garfield County	1-1, 1-20, 3.2-5, 3.2-12, 3.2-13, 3.2-18, 3.2-19, 3.2-20, 3.3-14, 3.5-14, 3.5-21, 3.6-1, 3.6-14, 3.10-1, 3.10-5, 3.10-6, 3.10-7, 3.11-5, 3.13-1, 3.16-4, 3.16-5, 3.16-9, 3.17-1, 3.17-2, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-5, 3.17-6, 3.17-8, 3.17-9, 3.17-10, 3.17-11, 3.17-12, 3.17-13, 3.17-14, 3.17-15, 3.17-16, 3.17-17, 3.17-18, 3.17-19, 3.17-21, 3.17-22, 3.17-24, 3.17-25, 3.17-26, 3.17-27, 3.17-28, 3.18-1, 3.18-2, 3.18-3, 4.1-5, 4.1-8, 4.1-10, 4.2-37, 4.2-56, 4.5-4, 4.10-5, 4.10-6, 4.10-7, 4.10-8, 4.10-12, 4.10-13, 4.10-15, 4.10-16, 4.10-17, 4.11-4, 4.11-6, 4.11-7, 4.15-1, 4.15-8, 4.15-13, 4.16-9, 4.16-10, 4.16-11, 4.16-13, 4.16-14, 4.17-1, 4.17-3, 4.17-5, 4.17-6, 4.17-8, 4.17-11, 4.17-13, 4.17-14, 4.17-15, 4.17-16, 4.17-18, 4.17-19, 4.17-21, 4.17-22, 4.17-23, 4.17-24, 4.17-26, 4.17-27, 4.17-28, 4.17-29, 4.17-32, 4.17-33, 4.18-1, 5-1, 5-3
Geothermal	3.2-22, 3.3-1, 3.3-19, 3.3-20, 3.3-23, 3.3-24
Glenwood Springs	1-15, 1-20, 2-64, 3.3-19, 3.5-14, 3.5-16, 3.10-1, 3.10-2, 3.10-5, 3.13-1, 3.13-6, 3.16-7, 3.16-9, 3.17-1, 3.17-2, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-8, 3.17-10, 3.17-22, 3.17-25, 3.17-26, 4.1-7, 4.5-17, 4.10-1, 4.10-9, 4.10-10, 4.10-11, 4.10-14, 4.16-10, 4.17-1, 4.17-5, 4.17-6, 5-1, 5-3, 5-6
Greater sage-grouse	3.7-2, 3.7-29, 3.7-36, 3.7-37, 4.7-1, 4.7-2, 4.7-9, 4.7-21, 4.7-35, 4.7-37, 4.8-1, 5-5
Greenback cutthroat trout	3.8-3, 3.8-6, 4.8-2
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	1-16, 3.2-21, 4.2-1, 4.2-6, 4.2-12, 4.2-55, 4.2-58, 4.2-59, 4.2-60
Groundwater	2-65, 2-73, 2-82, 3.5-13, 3.5-14, 3.5-16, 3.5-17, 3.5-19, 3.5-21, 3.5-22, 3.5-23, 3.6-4, 3.11-2, 3.16-5, 4.1-4, 4.5-1, 4.5-3, 4.5-4, 4.5-12, 4.5-13, 4.5-14, 4.5-15, 4.5-16, 4.5-17, 4.5-18, 4.5-19, 4.5-20, 4.5-21, 4.8-11, 4.8-17, 4.8-21, 4.16-2, 4.16-5, 4.16-7, 4.16-8, 4.16-10, 4.16-11, 4.16-12, 4.16-15, 4.19-2, 4.20-2, 5-7, 5-8
Hazardous air pollutant (HAP)	3.2-1, 3.2-3, 3.2-4, 3.2-13, 3.2-19, 3.16-4, 4.2-1, 4.2-9, 4.2-55
Horizontal drilling	1-9, 2-66, 2-74, 4.6-12, 4.6-16, 4.6-21, 4.6-27, 4.14-7, 4.17-3
Humpback chub	3.8-3, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 3.8-11, 3.8-12, 4.1-5, 4.8-7
Hydraulic fracturing	1-17, 1-18, 2-65, 2-73, 2-79, 3.2-12, 3.3-14, 3.16-2, 3.16-3, 3.16-4, 4.2-6, 4.2-7, 4.2-55, 4.3-1, 4.3-4, 4.3-5, 4.5-1, 4.5-12, 4.5-14, 4.5-15, 4.5-16, 4.5-21, 4.14-1, 4.14-4, 4.16-1, 4.16-2, 4.16-7, 4.16-8, 4.16-11, 4.16-12

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	3.2-21
Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)	1-19, 2-67, 3.16-7, 4.12-1
Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP)	1-1, 1-14, 2-69, 3.3-1, 3.4-1, 3.5-1, 3.5-17, 3.7-1, 3.7-4, 3.10-1, 3.11-1, 3.13-1, 3.13-2, 3.14-1, 3.15-1, 3.15-4, 3.15-5, 4.3-1, 4.5-3, 4.6-2, 4.6-3, 4.8-6, 4.15-16
Lease Notice	1-11, 2-16, 2-59
Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU)	3.7-2, 3.7-31, 3.7-32, 4.1-4, 4.7-1, 4.7-17, 4.7-35
Management Area	2-89, 3.7-2, 3.7-9, 3.7-31, 3.7-37, 3.11-1, 3.12-2, 3.13-1, 3.13-2, 3.13-3, 3.13-11, 3.17-10, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, 4.13-3, 4.13-4, 4.13-5, 4.13-7, 4.13-8, 4.13-10, 4.13-12, 4.1-4, 4.1-7, 4.1-8, 4.15-2, 4.15-5, 4.15-7, 4.15-8, 4.15-9, 4.15-10, 4.15-14, 4.15-15, 4.7-1, 4.7-35, 5-7
Management Indicator Species (MIS)	3.7-1, 3.7-3, 3.7-35, 3.7-36, 4.7-1, 4.7-4, 4.7-21, 4.7-30, 4.7-32, 4.7-35, 4.8-8
Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness	3.2-17, 3.7-21
Meeker	1-1, 1-9, 1-15, 3.6-1, 3.10-2, 3.12-2, 3.13-1, 3.13-6, 3.15-2, 3.16-6, 3.16-9, 3.17-1, 3.17-10, 4.2-56, 4.15-1, 4.17-1
Mesa County	1-1, 1-5, 1-9, 1-20, 2-6, 2-54, 2-73, 2-74, 2-91, 3.1-1, 3.2-5, 3.2-17, 3.2-18, 3.2-19, 3.2-20, 3.3-2, 3.3-6, 3.3-19, 3.5-14, 3.5-15, 3.5-16, 3.5-18, 3.6-1, 3.7-8, 3.7-12, 3.7-17, 3.7-21, 3.10-1, 3.10-5, 3.10-6, 3.11-2, 3.12-5, 3.13-1, 3.15-2, 3.15-4, 3.16-7, 3.17-1, 3.17-2, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-5, 3.17-6, 3.17-8, 3.17-9, 3.17-10, 3.17-11, 3.17-12, 3.17-13, 3.17-14, 3.17-15, 3.17-16, 3.17-17, 3.17-18, 3.17-19, 3.17-21, 3.17-22, 3.17-24, 3.17-25, 3.17-26, 3.17-27, 3.17-28, 3.18-1, 3.18-2, 3.18-3, 4.1-3, 4.1-5, 4.1-8, 4.1-10, 4.10-5, 4.10-6, 4.10-7, 4.10-9, 4.10-15, 4.11-1, 4.11-4, 4.11-6, 4.11-7, 4.15-1, 4.15-8, 4.15-13, 4.16-9, 4.17-1, 4.17-3, 4.17-5, 4.17-8, 4.17-13, 4.17-14, 4.17-15, 4.17-16, 4.17-18, 4.17-19, 4.17-21, 4.17-22, 4.17-23, 4.17-24, 4.17-26, 4.17-27, 4.17-28, 4.17-29, 4.17-32, 4.18-1, 5-1, 5-3, 5-6
Methane	2-68, 3.2-4, 3.2-12, 3.2-20, 3.2-21, 3.5-22, 3.16-1, 4.2-9, 4.2-10, 4.2-55, 4.2-57, 4.2-58, 4.2-59
Mexican spotted owl	3.7-30, 3.7-35, 4.7-21, 4.7-30, 4.7-34, 5-5
Migratory birds	3.7-1, 3.7-3, 4.7-1, 4.7-3, 4.7-35

Monitoring	2-66, 2-68, 2-70, 2-80, 3.2-3, 3.2-5, 3.2-13, 3.5-1, 3.5-21, 3.5-22, 3.10-5, 3.12-1, 3.16-4, 3.17-9, 3.17-11, 3.17-16, 4.2-2, 4.2-3, 4.2-36, 4.2-57, 4.3-6, 4.4-1, 4.5-13, 4.5-15, 4.5-18, 4.6-6, 4.7-6, 4.8-4, 4.9-2, 4.13-3, 4.16-8, 4.16-9, 4.16-10, 4.16-12, 4.19-2
Moose	2-84, 2-85, 2-84, 2-85, 3.7-8, 3.7-17, 3.7-18, 3.7-19, 3.13-6, 4.7-5, 4.7-6, 4.7-13, 4.7-14, 4.7-23, 4.7-26, 4.7-28, 4.7-31, 4.7-32, 4.7-34, 4.7-36
Mountain lion	3.7-22, 3.7-26
Mule deer	2-84, 2-85, 2-84, 3.7-8, 3.7-11, 3.7-26, 4.7-5, 4.7-6, 4.7-9, 4.7-24, 4.7-31, 4.7-32, 4.7-33, 4.7-34
National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	1-1, 2-16, 3.2-1, 3.2-2, 3.2-4, 3.2-5, 3.2-6, 3.2-13, 3.2-14, 4.2-31, 4.2-33, 4.2-36
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	1-1, 1-5, 1-7, 1-8, 1-12, 1-14, 1-16, 1-20, 2-1, 2-65, 2-66, 2-67, 2-70, 2-71, 2-80, 2-84, 3.2-7, 3.4-2, 3.9-1, 3.15-1, 3.17-1, 3.17-26, 3.18-1, 4.1-1, 4.1-2, 4.2-2, 4.2-3, 4.2-31, 4.2-58, 4.3-1, 4.4-1, 4.5-1, 4.5-12, 4.6-2, 4.6-6, 4.6-17, 4.6-27, 4.7-1, 4.7-2, 4.7-3, 4.7-6, 4.7-8, 4.7-17, 4.7-21, 4.7-23, 4.7-30, 4.7-33, 4.8-2, 4.8-7, 4.9-1, 4.10-2, 4.10-5, 4.11-1, 4.11-3, 4.11-4, 4.11-5, 4.11-6, 4.11-7, 4.12-1, 4.13-1, 4.13-3, 4.15-1, 4.15-12, 4.15-13, 4.15-16, 4.16-1, 4.16-7, 4.17-1, 4.19-1, 4.19-2, 4.20-1, 5-1, 5-3, 5-6, 5-8
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)	2-67, 3.9-1, 4.9-1, 4.9-2, 5-3, 5-4
National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	2-67, 3.9-1, 3.9-2, 3.9-3, 3.9-4, 3.9-5, 4.9-1, 4.9-3, 4.9-4, 4.9-5, 4.9-6, 4.9-7, 4.20-2
Naturita milkvetch	3.6-8, 3.6-17, 3.6-19
Near-field	4.2-1, 4.2-2, 4.2-54, 4.2-55, 4.2-56, 4.2-57
New Castle	3.13-1, 3.16-9, 3.17-1, 3.17-2, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-8, 3.17-22, 3.17-25, 4.17-1, 4.17-2, 4.17-5, 4.17-6, 5-3
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	3.2-1, 3.2-5, 4.2-4, 4.2-15, 4.2-16, 4.2-17, 4.2-18, 4.2-19, 4.2-20, 4.2-21, 4.2-32, 4.2-48, 4.2-49, 4.2-50, 4.2-51, 4.2-52, 4.2-53, 4.2-54
Nitrogen oxide (NO _x)	3.2-1, 3.2-4, 3.2-7, 3.2-20, 4.2-9, 4.2-11, 4.2-31

<p>No Surface Occupancy (NSO)</p>	<p>1-8, 1-11, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-11, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 2-39, 2-40, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-45, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-52, 2-53, 2-59, 2-65, 2-66, 2-67, 2-77, 2-80, 2-81, 2-82, 2-83, 2-84, 2-85, 2-84, 2-85, 2-84, 2-85, 2-86, 2-85, 2-86, 2-87, 2-88, 2-89, 2-90, 3.3-1, 4.1-1, 4.3-3, 4.3-4, 4.3-5, 4.3-6, 4.3-7, 4.3-8, 4.3-9, 4.3-10, 4.3-11, 4.3-12, 4.3-13, 4.3-14, 4.4-1, 4.4-2, 4.4-3, 4.4-4, 4.4-5, 4.4-6, 4.4-7, 4.4-8, 4.5-2, 4.5-3, 4.5-4, 4.5-5, 4.5-6, 4.5-7, 4.5-8, 4.5-9, 4.5-10, 4.5-13, 4.5-16, 4.5-17, 4.5-18, 4.5-19, 4.6-2, 4.6-3, 4.6-4, 4.6-5, 4.6-6, 4.6-7, 4.6-9, 4.6-10, 4.6-11, 4.6-12, 4.6-14, 4.6-15, 4.6-16, 4.6-17, 4.6-18, 4.6-19, 4.6-20, 4.6-21, 4.6-22, 4.6-24, 4.6-25, 4.6-26, 4.6-27, 4.6-28, 4.6-29, 4.6-30, 4.6-31, 4.6-32, 4.6-33, 4.6-34, 4.6-35, 4.6-36, 4.7-2, 4.7-3, 4.7-4, 4.7-5, 4.7-6, 4.7-7, 4.7-8, 4.7-9, 4.7-10, 4.7-11, 4.7-12, 4.7-13, 4.7-14, 4.7-15, 4.7-17, 4.7-19, 4.7-21, 4.7-22, 4.7-23, 4.7-24, 4.7-25, 4.7-26, 4.7-27, 4.7-28, 4.7-29, 4.7-30, 4.7-31, 4.7-32, 4.7-33, 4.7-34, 4.7-35, 4.7-36, 4.7-37, 4.8-3, 4.8-4, 4.8-5, 4.8-8, 4.8-9, 4.8-10, 4.8-11, 4.8-13, 4.8-16, 4.8-17, 4.8-20, 4.8-21, 4.9-2, 4.9-3, 4.9-4, 4.9-5, 4.9-6, 4.10-2, 4.10-11, 4.10-12, 4.11-2, 4.11-3, 4.11-4, 4.11-5, 4.11-6, 4.11-8, 4.12-2, 4.12-3, 4.12-4, 4.12-5, 4.12-6, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, 4.13-3, 4.13-4, 4.13-5, 4.13-6, 4.13-7, 4.13-8, 4.13-9, 4.13-10, 4.13-11, 4.13-12, 4.14-2, 4.14-4, 4.14-5, 4.14-6, 4.14-7, 4.14-8, 4.14-9, 4.14-11, 4.15-3, 4.15-4, 4.15-5, 4.15-6, 4.15-7, 4.15-8, 4.15-9, 4.15-10, 4.15-11, 4.15-12, 4.15-13, 4.15-14, 4.15-15, 4.15-16, 4.15-17, 4.15-18, 4.15-19, 4.15-20, 4.15-21, 4.15-22, 4.15-23, 4.15-24, 4.15-25, 4.15-26, 4.16-4, 4.16-5, 4.16-8, 4.16-15, 4.16-16, 4.16-17, 4.17-7, 4.17-8, 4.18-1</p>
<p>Noise</p>	<p>1-17, 1-18, 3.11-2, 3.16-4, 3.16-7, 3.16-8, 4.7-1, 4.7-7, 4.9-2, 4.9-7, 4.10-3, 4.10-9, 4.11-3, 4.11-4, 4.11-5, 4.11-6, 4.11-7, 4.12-3, 4.12-5, 4.13-1, 4.13-4, 4.13-12, 4.16-7, 4.16-14, 4.17-1, 4.17-2, 4.17-10, 4.18-1, 4.20-3, 5-7</p>
<p>Non-motorized</p>	<p>2-88, 2-89, 3.13-2, 3.13-5, 3.13-10, 3.13-11, 3.13-12, 4.13-3, 4.13-4, 4.13-5, 4.13-8, 4.13-12</p>
<p>Northern leopard frog</p>	<p>3.8-3, 3.8-4, 3.8-5, 3.8-6, 3.8-11, 3.8-12, 4.8-3, 4.8-10, 4.8-16</p>

Noxious weed	1-17, 3.6-1, 3.6-8, 3.6-11, 4.6-1, 4.6-2, 4.6-3, 4.6-4, 4.6-5, 4.6-8, 4.6-9, 4.6-10, 4.6-12, 4.6-15, 4.6-16, 4.6-17, 4.6-26, 4.6-27, 4.6-28, 4.6-32, 4.6-33, 4.6-34, 4.6-36, 4.7-36, 4.7-37, 4.14-1, 4.14-2, 4.14-3, 4.14-7, 4.14-8, 4.14-10, 4.19-2, 4.20-2
Oak Meadows	3.5-14, 3.5-16, 3.11-5, 4.5-5, 4.5-6, 4.5-7, 4.5-8, 4.5-10, 4.5-17, 4.5-18, 4.11-4
Old growth	2-18, 2-20, 2-21, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-32, 2-38, 2-39, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-45, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-53, 2-54, 2-83, 3.7-35, 4.6-5, 4.6-7, 4.6-18, 4.6-20, 4.6-22, 4.6-25, 4.6-29, 4.6-31, 4.15-5, 4.15-7, 4.15-17
Outstanding waters	3.5-16
Ozone (O ₃)	1-18, 3.2-1, 3.2-2, 3.2-4, 3.2-5, 3.2-6, 3.2-13, 3.2-14, 3.2-15, 4.2-4, 4.2-6, 4.2-13, 4.2-14, 4.2-15, 4.2-28, 4.2-29, 4.2-30, 4.2-31, 4.2-32, 4.2-33, 4.2-34, 4.2-36, 4.2-37, 4.2-38, 4.2-39, 4.2-40, 4.2-41, 4.2-42, 4.16-7
Parachute	3.2-6, 3.3-20, 3.3-23, 3.5-8, 3.5-14, 3.5-15, 3.5-16, 3.5-18, 3.10-2, 3.13-1, 3.16-9, 3.17-1, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-8, 3.17-22, 3.17-25, 3.17-28, 4.2-55, 4.3-7, 4.17-1, 4.17-5, 4.17-6, 5-3, 5-6
Paradox breadroot	3.6-8, 3.6-17
Particulate Matter (PM)	3.2-1, 3.2-2, 3.2-4, 4.2-9, 4.2-60, 5-2
Penland alpine fen mustard	3.6-14
Piceance Basin	3.2-20, 3.3-2, 3.3-5, 3.3-6, 3.3-13, 3.3-14, 3.3-19, 3.5-17, 3.5-18, 3.5-21, 4.2-9, 4.2-34, 4.2-48, 4.3-4, 4.3-15, 5-2
Pitkin County	1-1, 1-12, 1-15, 1-20, 3.2-5, 3.2-19, 3.2-20, 3.3-19, 3.3-24, 3.5-14, 3.5-21, 3.6-1, 3.6-14, 3.10-1, 3.10-5, 3.10-7, 3.11-5, 3.13-1, 3.17-1, 3.17-2, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-5, 3.17-6, 3.17-8, 3.17-9, 3.17-10, 3.17-11, 3.17-12, 3.17-13, 3.17-14, 3.17-15, 3.17-16, 3.17-17, 3.17-18, 3.17-19, 3.17-21, 3.17-22, 3.17-24, 3.17-25, 3.17-26, 3.17-27, 3.17-28, 3.18-1, 3.18-2, 3.18-3, 4.1-5, 4.1-8, 4.1-10, 4.10-5, 4.10-8, 4.10-10, 4.10-12, 4.10-13, 4.10-16, 4.11-1, 4.11-4, 4.11-6, 4.11-7, 4.15-1, 4.15-8, 4.15-13, 4.17-1, 4.17-3, 4.17-5, 4.17-8, 4.17-13, 4.17-14, 4.17-15, 4.17-16, 4.17-18, 4.17-19, 4.17-21, 4.17-22, 4.17-23, 4.17-24, 4.17-26, 4.17-27, 4.17-28, 4.17-29, 4.17-32, 4.18-1, 5-1, 5-3, 5-6
Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC)	2-80, 3.3-5, 3.3-6, 3.3-19, 3.3-20, 3.3-23, 3.3-24, 4.3-2, 4.3-5, 4.3-8, 4.3-9, 4.3-12, 4.3-13, 4.3-14

Produced water	1-17, 2-68, 2-73, 2-74, 3.5-14, 3.16-3, 3.16-5, 4.2-7, 4.3-1, 4.5-14, 4.5-15, 4.5-16, 4.5-20, 4.5-21, 4.16-1, 4.16-2, 4.16-3, 4.16-4, 4.16-5, 4.16-6, 4.16-7, 4.16-11, 4.16-12, 4.16-14, 4.20-2
Pronghorn	3.7-8, 3.7-18
Public water supply	3.5-14, 4.5-3, 4.5-18, 4.5-19, 4.16-5, 4.16-8
Raptor	2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-38, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-47, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-52, 2-53, 2-54, 3.7-4, 3.7-5, 4.7-5, 4.7-6, 4.7-21, 4.7-23, 4.7-24
Rare Plants	3.6-12, 3.6-19, 4.6-2, 4.6-3, 4.6-8
Razorback sucker	3.8-3, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 3.8-11, 3.8-12, 4.1-5, 4.8-7
Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFDS)	1-8, 1-9, 1-13, 1-16, 2-70, 2-71, 2-74, 2-75, 2-77, 2-80, 3.17-19, 4.1-1, 4.1-3, 4.1-8, 4.2-55, 4.3-2, 4.3-5, 4.3-7, 4.3-9, 4.3-11, 4.3-12, 4.3-14, 4.4-5, 4.4-7, 4.4-8, 4.5-21, 4.6-1, 4.6-2, 4.6-8, 4.6-10, 4.6-15, 4.6-16, 4.6-18, 4.6-26, 4.6-27, 4.6-32, 4.6-33, 4.6-34, 4.7-4, 4.8-2, 4.11-1, 4.11-2, 4.12-6, 4.12-7, 4.13-2, 4.13-3, 4.13-12, 4.14-7, 4.15-3, 4.15-6, 4.15-11, 4.15-12, 4.15-13, 4.15-14, 4.15-15, 4.15-16, 4.15-20, 4.15-21, 4.15-22, 4.15-24, 4.15-25, 4.15-26, 4.16-1, 4.16-3, 4.16-4, 4.16-5, 4.16-6, 4.17-7
Reasonably Foreseeable Future Action (RFFA)	1-16, 1-21, 4.1-2, 4.1-3, 4.1-7, 4.1-8, 4.1-9, 4.3-14, 4.3-15, 4.4-9, 4.4-10, 4.5-11, 4.5-12, 4.5-21, 4.6-35, 4.6-36, 4.7-36, 4.7-37, 4.8-22, 4.8-23, 4.9-7, 4.10-17, 4.11-8, 4.12-7, 4.13-13, 4.14-10, 4.14-11, 4.15-27, 4.16-6, 4.16-19, 4.17-32, 4.18-3
Record of Decision (ROD)	1-1, 1-14, 1-15, 2-1, 2-2, 2-11, 2-59, 2-63, 2-65, 2-68, 2-69, 4.3-13, 4.5-7, 4.5-9, 4.6-17, 4.7-21, 4.8-8, 4.8-11, 4.14-7, 4.14-9, 4.15-14, 4.16-17, 4.17-4, 4.17-20, 4.17-21, 4.17-25, 5-5
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)	2-89, 2-88, 3.13-2, 3.13-5, 3.13-7, 3.13-8, 3.13-10, 3.13-11, 3.13-12, 4.13-2, 4.13-3, 4.13-4, 4.13-5, 4.13-6, 4.13-7, 4.13-8, 4.13-9, 4.13-10, 4.13-11, 4.13-12
Regional Forester's Sensitive Species	3.6-13
Research Natural Area (RNA)	1-19, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-88, 3.12-1, 3.12-2, 3.12-5, 3.12-6, 3.16-7, 4.1-5, 4.12-2, 4.12-3, 4.12-4, 4.12-5, 4.12-6, 4.13-3, 4.15-5
Resource Management Plan (RMP)	1-1, 1-15, 2-69, 2-70, 3.3-20, 3.5-1, 3.7-4, 4.2-2, 4.6-2, 4.6-3, 4.16-8, 4.16-10, 4.16-11, 4.16-12, 4.16-13, 4.16-14

Rifle	1-20, 3.2-6, 3.2-7, 3.2-13, 3.3-14, 3.5-14, 3.5-15, 3.5-16, 3.6-14, 3.7-21, 3.10-1, 3.10-2, 3.13-1, 3.16-9, 3.17-1, 3.17-2, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-8, 3.17-22, 3.17-25, 4.1-9, 4.5-4, 4.5-5, 4.5-6, 4.5-7, 4.5-8, 4.5-10, 4.6-35, 4.7-36, 4.8-8, 4.11-8, 4.12-7, 4.13-13, 4.15-27, 4.16-11, 4.17-1, 4.17-2, 4.17-5, 4.17-6, 5-3, 5-6
Right-of-way (ROW)	2-65, 2-70, 2-71, 2-88, 3.11-1, 3.11-2, 4.1-3, 4.5-11, 4.6-35, 4.7-36, 4.10-1, 4.10-17, 4.11-1, 4.11-2, 4.11-8, 4.12-7, 4.13-13, 4.15-27, 4.16-19
Rio Blanco County	1-1, 1-15, 1-20, 3.2-5, 3.2-18, 3.2-19, 3.2-20, 3.5-14, 3.5-21, 3.6-1, 3.10-1, 3.10-7, 3.11-5, 3.13-1, 3.16-9, 3.17-1, 3.17-2, 3.17-3, 3.17-4, 3.17-5, 3.17-6, 3.17-8, 3.17-9, 3.17-10, 3.17-11, 3.17-12, 3.17-13, 3.17-14, 3.17-15, 3.17-16, 3.17-17, 3.17-18, 3.17-19, 3.17-21, 3.17-22, 3.17-24, 3.17-25, 3.17-26, 3.17-28, 3.18-1, 3.18-2, 3.18-3, 4.1-5, 4.1-10, 4.10-5, 4.10-9, 4.10-10, 4.10-17, 4.11-4, 4.11-6, 4.11-7, 4.15-1, 4.16-19, 4.17-1, 4.17-3, 4.17-5, 4.17-8, 4.17-13, 4.17-14, 4.17-15, 4.17-16, 4.17-18, 4.17-22, 4.17-23, 4.17-24, 4.17-26, 4.17-27, 4.17-28, 4.17-29, 4.17-32, 4.18-1, 5-1, 5-3
Riparian	1-17, 2-3, 2-30, 2-82, 2-83, 2-85, 3.5-14, 3.6-1, 3.6-2, 3.6-3, 3.6-4, 3.6-7, 3.6-8, 3.6-9, 3.6-10, 3.6-13, 3.6-18, 3.6-19, 3.7-2, 3.7-3, 3.7-5, 3.7-6, 3.7-7, 3.7-17, 3.7-22, 3.7-26, 3.7-29, 3.7-30, 3.7-35, 3.7-36, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 3.11-1, 4.2-60, 4.6-1, 4.6-2, 4.6-3, 4.6-4, 4.6-5, 4.6-6, 4.6-8, 4.6-9, 4.6-10, 4.6-11, 4.6-14, 4.6-15, 4.6-16, 4.6-17, 4.6-18, 4.6-19, 4.6-20, 4.6-24, 4.6-26, 4.6-27, 4.6-28, 4.6-29, 4.6-31, 4.6-32, 4.6-33, 4.7-3, 4.7-7, 4.7-8, 4.7-21, 4.7-31, 4.8-5, 4.8-6, 4.8-8, 4.8-9, 4.8-13, 4.8-16, 4.19-2, 4.20-2, 5-7
Roan Plateau Planning Area (RPPA)	3.2-19, 3.2-20, 4.1-7, 4.2-6, 4.2-12, 4.2-15, 4.2-30, 4.2-31, 4.2-32, 4.2-37, 4.2-57, 4.2-59, 4.17-32
Roundtail chub	3.8-3, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 3.8-11, 4.8-6, 4.8-8, 4.8-10
Royalties	1-19, 2-73, 3.17-22, 3.17-24, 4.3-13, 4.3-15, 4.17-4, 4.17-6
Scenic Byway	4.15-13, 3.12-1, 3.12-2, 4.12-5, 4.12-6

Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO)	2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-39, 2-40, 2-42, 2-43, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 2-50, 2-51, 2-54, 2-89, 3.15-1, 3.15-2, 3.15-4, 3.15-5, 3.15-11, 4.7-7, 4.15-2, 4.15-3, 4.15-4, 4.15-5, 4.15-6, 4.15-10, 4.15-11, 4.15-12, 4.15-13, 4.15-14, 4.15-15, 4.15-16, 4.15-18, 4.15-19, 4.15-20, 4.15-21, 4.15-22, 4.15-24, 4.15-25, 4.15-26
Scoping	1-15, 1-16, 1-19, 1-20, 2-1, 2-64, 2-65, 2-66, 2-67, 2-68, 3.17-26, 3.17-27, 4.1-1, 4.3-1, 4.4-1, 4.5-1, 4.5-12, 4.6-1, 4.7-1, 4.8-1, 4.9-1, 4.10-1, 4.11-1, 4.12-1, 4.13-1, 4.14-1, 4.14-2, 4.15-1, 4.15-14, 4.15-15, 4.15-24, 4.15-25, 4.15-26, 4.16-1, 4.16-7, 4.17-1, 4.18-1, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-5
Section 7 of the ESA	3.6-12, 4.6-9, 4.6-17, 4.6-28, 4.7-3, 4.7-17, 4.7-30, 4.8-2, 4.8-7
Section 106 of the NHPA	3.9-1, 4.9-2, 5-3, 5-4
Standard Lease Terms (SLT)	1-10, 1-11, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-16, 2-68, 2-74, 2-84, 4.3-4, 4.3-6, 4.3-7, 4.3-11, 4.3-12, 4.3-14, 4.6-16, 4.7-4, 4.7-6, 4.7-34, 4.12-3, 4.12-4, 4.13-5, 4.13-7, 4.13-9, 4.13-10, 4.15-12, 4.15-13, 4.15-14, 4.15-15, 4.15-25
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)	3.9-1, 5-4
Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂)	3.2-1, 3.2-2, 3.2-4, 3.2-7, 3.2-20, 4.2-4, 4.2-6, 4.2-9, 4.2-10, 4.2-11
Sunlight Mountain Resort	3.10-5, 3.11-5, 3.13-5
Surface Use Plan of Operations (SUPO)	1-8, 1-12, 1-14, 2-70, 2-71, 2-74, 3.4-2, 4.1-2
Surface water	2-65, 2-81, 4.1-4, 3.2-7, 3.5-1, 3.5-2, 3.5-7, 3.5-8, 3.5-9, 3.5-10, 3.5-13, 3.5-16, 3.5-21, 3.5-22, 4.5-1, 4.5-2, 4.5-3, 4.5-4, 4.5-5, 4.5-6, 4.5-7, 4.5-8, 4.5-9, 4.5-10, 4.5-11, 4.5-12, 4.5-13, 4.5-14, 4.5-21, 5-8, 4.6-8, 3.8-1, 4.8-1, 4.8-5, 4.8-6, 4.8-7, 4.8-8, 4.8-11, 4.8-17, 4.8-21, 4.8-22, 3.11-2, 3.15-2, 3.16-4, 3.16-5, 4.16-2, 4.16-5, 4.16-7, 4.16-8, 4.16-10, 4.16-11, 4.16-15, 4.16-18, 4.19-1, 4.19-3, 4.20-1
Thompson Divide	2-65, 3.5-15, 3.5-16, 3.11-5, 3.13-2, 3.15-2, 3.17-10, 3.17-11, 3.17-12, 3.17-17, 3.17-18, 3.17-26, 3.17-27, 4.6-1, 4.9-1, 4.10-1, 4.10-9, 4.10-10, 4.10-14, 4.11-1, 4.13-7, 4.13-11, 4.13-12, 4.15-1, 4.15-13, 4.15-22, 5-1

Timing Limitation (TL)	1-11, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-11, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 2-39, 2-40, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-45, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-53, 2-54, 2-67, 2-84, 2-86, 3.3-1, 4.5-2, 4.5-4, 4.6-2, 4.6-5, 4.6-10, 4.6-16, 4.6-17, 4.7-2, 4.7-4, 4.7-5, 4.7-6, 4.7-8, 4.7-9, 4.7-11, 4.7-12, 4.7-13, 4.7-22, 4.7-23, 4.7-24, 4.7-25, 4.7-26, 4.7-27, 4.7-28, 4.7-29, 4.7-31, 4.7-33, 4.7-34, 4.8-4, 4.8-5, 4.8-9, 4.8-11, 4.8-13, 4.8-14, 4.8-16, 4.8-20, 4.10-5, 4.10-11, 4.10-12, 4.11-3, 4.11-4, 4.11-5, 4.11-6, 4.12-2, 4.12-3, 4.12-4, 4.13-1, 4.13-2, 4.13-3, 4.13-5, 4.13-6, 4.13-7, 4.13-8, 4.13-9, 4.13-10, 4.13-11, 4.13-12, 4.14-7, 4.15-12, 4.15-14, 4.15-15, 4.16-8, 4.16-17, 4.17-8
Total dissolved solids (TDS)	3.5-17, 3.5-21, 3.5-22, 4.5-14, 4.16-8
Tourism	1-18, 3.17-6, 3.17-9, 3.17-10, 3.17-13, 3.17-15, 3.17-16, 3.17-27, 3.17-28, 4.9-1, 4.17-1, 4.17-2, 4.17-6, 4.17-8, 4.17-9, 4.17-11, 4.17-33, 4.18-1
Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)	1-20, 3.9-3, 3.9-4, 3.9-5, 4.9-1, 4.9-2, 4.9-3
Traffic	1-18, 1-19, 2-64, 2-87, 3.10-1, 3.10-2, 3.10-5, 3.10-6, 3.10-7, 3.16-7, 3.16-8, 3.17-27, 4.2-7, 4.2-42, 4.2-56, 4.2-57, 4.4-3, 4.6-8, 4.10-1, 4.10-2, 4.10-3, 4.10-4, 4.10-5, 4.10-6, 4.10-7, 4.10-8, 4.10-9, 4.10-10, 4.10-11, 4.10-12, 4.10-13, 4.10-14, 4.10-15, 4.10-16, 4.10-17, 4.11-4, 4.11-6, 4.11-7, 4.11-8, 4.12-5, 4.12-7, 4.13-4, 4.13-7, 4.13-12, 4.14-1, 4.14-2, 4.14-3, 4.14-8, 4.15-1, 4.16-13, 4.16-14, 4.16-17, 4.16-18, 4.16-19, 4.17-1, 4.17-2, 4.17-10, 4.17-20, 4.17-30, 4.17-32, 4.17-33, 4.19-1, 4.20-2, 4.20-3, 5-7
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	3.6-12, 3.6-14, , 3.7-1, 3.7-5, 3.7-6, 3.7-7, 3.7-29, 3.7-30, 3.7-31, 3.7-35, 3.7-36, , 3.8-1, 3.8-3, 3.8-4, 4.2-3, 4.6-9, 4.6-17, 4.6-27, 4.7-3, 4.7-17, 4.7-30, 4.8-2, 4.8-3, 4.8-4, 4.8-5, 4.8-7, 4.8-8, 4.8-11, 4.8-17, 4.8-21, 4.8-23, 5-5
Ute ladies'-tresses	2-83, 3.6-14, 4.6-12, 4.6-14, 4.6-15, 4.6-16, 4.6-17, 4.6-21, 4.6-26, 4.6-34
Visibility	1-19, 3.2-1, 3.2-3, 3.2-7, 3.2-11, 3.2-14, 3.2-17, 3.7-18, 3.15-1, 3.15-2, 3.15-3, 3.15-9, 4.2-4, 4.2-13, 4.2-14, 4.2-31, 4.2-32, 4.2-33, 4.2-34, 4.2-35, 4.2-36, 4.7-2, 4.8-1, 4.15-1, 4.15-2, 4.15-3, 4.15-5, 4.15-6, 4.15-8, 4.15-9, 4.15-10, 4.15-14, 4.15-15, 4.15-18, 4.15-19, 4.15-23, 4.15-24, 4.15-26

Volatile organic compounds (VOC)	1-18, 3.2-1, 3.2-4, 3.2-20, 4.2-4, 4.2-9, 4.2-10, 4.2-11, 4.2-31, 4.2-55, 4.2-57, 4.16-7, 4.16-9, 4.16-12
Waters of the U.S. (WUS)	3.6-8, 3.7-3
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	2-86, 3.7-30, 4.7-30, 4.7-34, 5-5
Wetlands	1-17, 2-25, 2-30, 2-31, 2-36, 2-37, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-45, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-52, 2-53, 2-83, 3.5-1, 3.5-14, 3.6-1, 3.6-4, 3.6-8, 3.6-9, 3.6-10, 3.6-13, 3.6-14, 3.7-6, 3.7-7, 3.7-29, 3.8-1, 3.8-3, 3.8-5, 3.11-1, 4.5-1, 4.5-2, 4.5-20, 4.6-1, 4.6-5, 4.6-6, 4.6-18, 4.7-7, 4.8-5, 4.8-6, 4.8-13, 4.8-16, 4.16-5, 4.19-2, 4.20-2, 5-7
Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR)	3.12-1, 3.12-2, 4.12-1, 5-7
Wilderness	1-19, 2-69, 3.2-2, 3.2-7, 3.2-17, 3.2-18, 3.12-2, 3.13-1, 3.15-1, 3.16-7, 3.17-26, 4.2-14, 4.2-15, 4.2-33, 4.2-34, 4.2-35, 4.2-36, 4.12-1, 4.12-2, 4.15-13, 4.17-6, 4.17-12, 4.17-31, 4.17-33, 5-1, 5-7
Winter Range	2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 2-39, 2-40, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-45, 2-46, 2-47, 2-49, 2-51, 2-52, 2-53, 2-54, 2-84, 2-85, 2-84, 2-85, 2-84, 3.7-1, 3.7-7, 3.7-8, 3.7-11, 3.7-12, 3.7-15, 3.7-21, 4.7-1, 4.7-2, 4.7-3, 4.7-5, 4.7-6, 4.7-8, 4.7-9, 4.7-10, 4.7-11, 4.7-12, 4.7-13, 4.7-14, 4.7-22, 4.7-23, 4.7-24, 4.7-25, 4.7-26, 4.7-27, 4.7-31, 4.7-32, 4.7-33, 4.7-34, 4.7-35, 4.13-5, 4.13-8

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