
Appendix K

Recreation and Visitor Services Management
Framework

**Recreation and Visitor Services Management
Framework
For the Grand Junction Field Office**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

ACEC	area of critical environmental concern
BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
ERMA	extensive recreation management area
GJFO	Grand Junction Field Office
IRMA	intensive recreation management area
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
OHV	off-highway vehicle
R&VS	Recreation & Visitor Services
RMP	resource management plan
RMZ	recreation management zone
ROS	recreation opportunity setting
ROW	right-of-way
RSC	recreation setting characteristics
SRMA	special recreation management area
SRP	special recreation permit
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

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INTRODUCTION

This appendix presents the SRMA and ERMA designations and supporting information for Alternative B (Proposed RMP).

KEY RECREATION PLANNING TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

Definition. The SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and desired recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness, especially as compared to other areas used for recreation.

Management Focus. The SRMAs are managed to protect and enhance a targeted set of activities, experiences, benefits, and desired recreation setting characteristics. The SRMAs may be subdivided into recreation management zones (RMZ) to further delineate specific recreation opportunities. Within SRMAs, R&VS management is recognized as the predominant land management focus, where specific recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are managed and protected on a long-term basis.

Requirements. The SRMAs/RMZs must have measurable outcome-focused objectives. Supporting management actions and allowable use decisions are required to: 1) sustain or enhance recreation objectives, 2) protect the desired recreation setting characteristics, and 3) constrain uses, including non-compatible recreation activities that are detrimental to meeting recreation or other critical resource objectives (e.g. cultural or threatened and endangered species).

Supporting Information (Rationale for SRMA Designation)

Documentation of the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.

SRMA/RMZ Outcome Objective

The outcome objective is a *clear, measurable, and agreed-upon guide for decision making and evaluation of management effectiveness*. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e. activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of R&VS management.

Recreation Outcomes

Recreation outcomes consist of experiences and benefits and are defined as:

Experiences:

Recreation experiences are immediate states-of-mind resulting from participation in recreation opportunities that result in benefits.

Benefits:

Recreation benefits accrue from having a satisfying recreation experience that leads to (a) an improved condition or (b) maintenance of a desired condition. These accrue from recreation participation, are both short- and long-term, and are realized on and off site. Benefits are identified in one of four categories and are described as:

- **Personal/Individual Benefits:** Recreation and leisure contributes to personal well-being and human development. It contributes to better physical and mental health for all individuals.
- **Social/Community Benefits:** Recreation contributes to the quality of life within communities by encouraging positive lifestyles choices, building social skills, reducing crime, and fostering a sense of community pride.
- **Economic Benefits:** Investments in recreation represent an investment in our economies through diversifying our economies, by attracting new businesses and by generating employment opportunities.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Participation in recreation and outdoor education programs can help protect the quality of the environment through improved understanding and stewardship of our natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)

Definition. The ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or R&VS program investments.

Management Focus. The ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA.

Management of ERMA is commensurate with the management of other resources and resource uses.

Requirements. The ERMA must have measurable objectives. Supporting management actions and allowable use decisions must facilitate the visitors' ability to participate in outdoor recreation activities and protect the associated qualities and conditions. Non-compatible uses, including some recreation activities, may be restricted or constrained to achieve interdisciplinary objectives.

ERMA Objective

ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions that become the focus for R&VS management.

Supporting Management Action and Allowable Use Decisions

Management actions and allowable use decisions are generally described as land use plan level decisions needed to achieve program objectives or constrain non-compatible land uses. Supporting management action and allowable use decisions are selected in terms of their ability to help achieve the recreation objectives (i.e., recreation opportunities), maintain or enhance the recreation settings, or guide recreation implementation.

Implementation-level Decisions Included in this RMP Revision.

Implementation decisions allow site-specific (on-the-ground) actions needed to achieve land use plan decisions (see Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1, p. 30-31). If implementation-level decisions are included in the land use planning document to achieve R&VS program objectives, they must be clearly distinguished as implementation decisions that are appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Best Management Practices to Guide Implementation-level Management

Recreation management areas with complex implementation issues may require a subsequent implementation-level recreation area management plan tiered to land use plan decisions. Subsequent site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis would be required to implement some types of actions. Other actions that involve education, information, interpretation, and monitoring may not require site-specific NEPA analysis. The subsequent best management practices for implementation-level planning guidance is presented to illustrate opportunities for active stakeholder collaboration and to provide a suite of possible implementation-level actions that could be adaptively performed to ensure management effectiveness in meeting recreation and visitor services goals and objectives.

Table I, Summary of Existing and Proposed RMA Designations by Alternative, shows the types of designations in each area under each alternative.

Table I
Summary of Existing and Proposed RMA Designations by Alternative

Area	Alternative A (Existing)	Alternative B (Proposed RMP)	Alternative C	Alternative D
34 and C Road	Undesignated	ERMA	Undesignated	ERMA
Bangs**	SRMA	SRMA	SRMA	SRMA
Barrel Springs	Undesignated	ERMA	Undesignated	ERMA
Castle Rock	Undesignated	Undesignated	Undesignated	SRMA
North Fruita Desert**	SRMA	SRMA	SRMA	SRMA
Gateway/Dolores River Canyon*	IRMA	SRMA/ERMA	Undesignated	ERMA
Grand Valley **	IRMA	SRMA	Undesignated	SRMA
Grand Valley Ranges**, ***	IRMA	ERMA	Undesignated	ERMA
Gunnison River Bluffs**	IRMA	ERMA	Undesignated	SRMA
North Desert	ERMA	ERMA	Undesignated	Undesignated
Palisade Rim**	IRMA	SRMA	Undesignated	SRMA
South Shale Ridge	Undesignated	Undesignated	Undesignated	ERMA
Timber Ridge	Undesignated	Undesignated	Undesignated	ERMA

* In Alternative A, the area is all or in part within the Gateway IRMA

** In Alternative A, the area is all or in part within the Grand Valley IRMA

*** In Alternative B, the area is managed as a zone of the Grand Valley ERMA

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS

Table 2
Recreation Setting Characteristics Matrix

PHYSICAL – Qualities of the Landscape

	Primitive	Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
Remoteness (approx. distance from routes)	More than ½ mile from any kind of a man-made trail	More than ½ mile from any kind of a man-made ATV or full-sized vehicle route	More than ½ mile from improved gravel roads	More than ½ mile from paved roads and railroad tracks.	More than ½ mile from municipal streets or roads within towns or cities.	Municipal street and roads within towns or cities.
Naturalness (modifications to the landscape)	Undisturbed natural landscape.	Natural landscape with any modifications in harmony with surroundings and not visually obvious or evident (e.g. stock ponds, trails).	Character of the natural landscape retained. A few modifications contrast with character of the landscape (e.g. fences, primitive roads).	Character of the natural landscape partially modified but none overpower natural landscape (e.g. roads, structures, utilities).	Character of the natural landscape considerably modified (agriculture, residential or industrial).	Urbanized developments dominate landscape.
Visitor Facilities	No structures. Foot/horse trails only.	Developed trails made mostly of native materials such as log bridges. Structures are rare and isolated.	Maintained and marked trails, simple trailhead developments and basic toilets.	Rustic facilities such as campsites, restrooms, trailheads, and interpretive displays.	Modern facilities such as campgrounds, group shelters, boat launches, and occasional exhibits.	Elaborate full-service facilities such as laundry, restaurants, and groceries.

SOCIAL – Qualities Associated with Use

	Primitive	Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
Contacts (avg. with any other group)	Fewer than 3 encounters/day at camp sites and fewer than 6 encounters/day on travel routes.	3-6 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., campsites) and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes.	7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas) and 15-29 encounters/ day en route	15-29 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., campgrounds) and 30 or more encounters/day in route.	People seem to be generally everywhere.	Busy place with other people constantly in view.
Group Size (average - other than you own)	Fewer than or equal to 3 people per group.	4-6 people per group.	7-12 people per group	13-25 people per group.	26-50 people per group.	Greater than 50 people per group.
Evidence of Use	No alteration of the natural terrain. Footprints only observed. Sounds of people rare.	Areas of alteration uncommon. Little surface vegetation wear observed. Sounds of people infrequent.	Small areas of alteration. Surface vegetation showing wear with some bare soils. Sounds of people occasionally heard.	Small areas of alteration prevalent. Surface vegetation gone with compacted soils observed. Sounds of people regularly heard.	A few large areas of alteration. Surface vegetation absent with hardened soils. Sounds of people frequently heard.	Large areas of alteration prevalent. Some erosion. Constantly hear people.

OPERATIONAL – Conditions Created by Management and Controls over Recreation Use

	Primitive	Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
Access (types of travel allowed)	All travel is restricted to foot and horse travel.	Mountain bikes and perhaps other mechanized use, but all is non-motorized.	Four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized, mechanized use.	Two-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also four wheel drives and non-motorized, mechanized use.	Ordinary highway auto and truck traffic is characteristic.	Wide variety of street vehicles and highway traffic is ever-present.
Visitor Services (and info)	None is available. Staff rarely present.	Basic maps, staff infrequently present (e.g. seasonally, high use periods) to provide on-site assistance	Area brochures and maps, staff occasionally (e.g. most weekends) present to provide on-site assistance.	Information materials describe recreation areas & activities, staff periodically present (e.g. weekdays & weekends).	Information described to the left, plus experience and benefit descriptions, staff regularly present (e.g. almost daily).	Information described to the left, plus regularly scheduled on-site outdoor demonstrations and clinics.
Management Controls	No visitor regulations or ethics signing on-site. No use restrictions.	Basic user regulations at key access points. Minimum use restrictions	Some regulatory and ethics signing. Moderate use restrictions. (e.g. camping, human waste).	Rules, regulations and ethics clearly posted. Use restrictions, limitations and/or closures.	Regulations strict and ethics prominent. Use may be limited by permit, reservation, etc.	Enforcement in addition to rules to reduce conflicts, hazards, and resource damage.

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BANGS SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR SRMA ALLOCATION

The Bangs SRMA has four distinct recreation management zones (RMZs). Overall, the Bangs SRMA provides opportunities for: mountain biking, hiking and trail running on world class singletrack trails; OHV use on a network of motorcycle, ATV, 4X4 and rock crawling routes; discovering and learning about the area's natural and cultural history; and exploring primitive undeveloped canyon country on foot or horseback. This SRMA includes the Tabeguache (Lunch Loops), Little Park, Bangs Canyon, and Ribbon Trailheads. The area has scenic views of the Colorado National Monument, Grand Valley, Grand Mesa, and Book Cliffs. The area is in close proximity to the population center of the Grand Valley, which makes it an important community resource for local recreation and quality of life, well as tourism. Portions of the SRMA are managed in partnership with the City of Grand Junction, with shared responsibility for access and facilities.

GOAL SRMA-WIDE

The Bangs SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce a diversity of quality recreational opportunities that will continue to add to area residents' quality of life by contributing to the local economy and enhancing stewardship and protection of the area's natural and cultural resources.

OBJECTIVE SRMA-WIDE

The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below. (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments would be administered as funding allows.

Action (Rec-SRMA-A4)

Manage the Tabeguache Trail from Little Park Road to Highway 141 as a high-clearance full-sized 4-wheel drive route to provide long-distance OHV recreation opportunities spanning portions of the Bangs SRMA, Dominguez-Escalante NCA, and Uncompahgre National Forest.

Bangs SRMA RMZ I – Lunch Loops Community Recreation Area

3,900 acres

Objective (REC-SRMA-O2)

Through the life of the plan, manage RMZ I targeting a local/regional market, providing non-motorized mixed-use trail opportunities, accommodating a range of skill levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced). Encourage community-based recreation that can be marketed as an urban interface recreation asset of the Grand Valley. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities and outcomes:

Activities: The targeted activities of the RMZ are mountain bicycling, trail running, dog walking, and hiking.

Outcomes and Experiences:

1. Visitors experience or seek to experience frequent access to outdoor physical activity, often in groups of friends and family, for fitness and stress reduction, to increase endurance, and to develop outdoor skills and abilities through recreation in this zone.
2. Visitors realize personal benefits of easy access to the outdoors, improved fitness and health maintenance (physical and mental), development of technical competence (e.g., mountain biking skills), and development of stronger social bonds with friends and family.
3. The local community benefits from improved quality of life with higher levels of public land stewardship, stronger community relationships and a healthier community.

The area economy is strengthened through recreation-related revenue and increased desirability of the community as a place to live.

Resource Values

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction Milk Vetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River), soils, paleontological resources, and cultural resources.

Resource Uses

Minimize impacts from other resource use to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: lands and realty.

Action (REC-SRMA-A5)

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support RMZ outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates RMZ outcomes are not being achieved, settings would be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of RMZ outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This is a non-motorized, urban interface zone that is bounded by county and city roads. The character of the landscape is largely natural in appearance, with some viewsheds that include roads, trails, houses and other man-made developments. Due to topography and area scenery, the natural landscape is mostly retained despite the density of trails and proximity to the City of Grand Junction. The recreation facilities at trailheads may include, but are not limited to, vault toilets, informational kiosks and shade shelters. Throughout the unit, a designated singletrack trail system with a spectrum of trails (varied level of difficulty) is marked and maintained to achieve defined trail management objectives that support overall RMZ objectives.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Visitors would generally directly encounter fewer than 15 other groups on designated trails. Groups would generally be small to medium-sized (1-8 people) with occasional encounters with larger groups. Sights, sounds, and tracks of other targeted users are frequent throughout the RMZ, but more prominent near trailheads. Use would generally be highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Non-motorized singletrack trails with easy access from several trailheads in close proximity to the Grand Valley. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite

staff and/or volunteers, local businesses, City of Grand Junction, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve RMZ objectives. Management presence prominent at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.)

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU7)

VRM Class: Manage the RMZ under VRM Class II objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU8)

Minerals: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
- Mineral material sales, with the exception of the community bentonite pit on Little Park Road.
- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU9)

ROW: Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

Action (REC-SRMA-A6)

Lands and Realty: Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU10)

Forestry and Vegetation: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest.
- Collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU11)

Camping restrictions: Close the RMZ to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to this intensively used area that lies in close proximity to private residences.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU12)

Firearm use restrictions: Prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns due to the high volume of use and

density of designated routes in this area. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU13)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with zone objectives.
- Prohibit Class IV SRPs.
- Only issue event permits that support and celebrate Grand Valley communities. Event permits should be coordinated with the local community and should result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
- Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the RMZ.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU14)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Close the RMZ to motorized travel, with the exception of trailhead access and administrative access to range improvements and other facilities.
- Limit mechanized travel to designated routes throughout the RMZ with the exception of small designated corridors where open travel is allowed (e.g., Free Lunch Trail play areas).
- Limit foot and horse travel to designated routes north of Little Park Road and Andy's Loop (core Lunch Loop trail system - see travel maps) due to the high volume of use and density of designated routes in this area.

Action (REC-SRMA-A7)

No similar action.

Action (REC-SRMA-A8)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Construct new system trails to accommodate activity-specific trails (e.g., limited to hiking).
- Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve RMZ objectives. Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.

- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

Action (REC-SRMA-A9)

Special Recreation Permits

All SRPs would be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

Bangs Canyon SRMA RMZ 2 – Magellan-Tabeguache OHV Trails

10,600 acres

RMZ Objective (REC-SRMA-O3)

Through the life of this plan, manage RMZ 2 targeting a local/regional market, and providing a broad range of motorized OHV trail opportunities, accommodating a range of skill levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced) for varying distances, including route connections that create long-distance OHV recreation opportunities spanning portions of the Bangs SRMA, Dominguez-Escalante NCA, and Uncompahgre National Forest. Encourage community-based recreation that can be marketed as an urban interface recreation asset to the Grand Valley. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: The targeted activities for the RMZ are motorized OHV trail riding (motorcycles, ATV/UTV, 4x4 full-size vehicles, rock crawling).

Outcomes and Experiences

1. Visitors experience or seek to experience easy access to adventure and exploration with family and friends in a natural landscape. Visitors also value the opportunity to test their equipment and driving/riding skills.
2. Visitors generally realize personal benefits of having easy access to outdoor recreation in a natural environment, development of technical competence (driving/riding skills), and development of stronger social bonds with friends and family.
3. The community benefits from improved quality of life with higher levels of public land stewardship, stronger community relationships and a healthier populous.
4. The area economy is strengthened through recreation-related revenue, increased desirability of the community as a place to live.

Resource Value

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction Milk Vetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), Canyon Tree Frog (*Hyla arenicolor*), Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*), desert bighorn sheep, deer and elk winter range, water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers), soils, riparian resources, paleontological resources, and cultural (historic and prehistoric) resources.

Resource Uses

Through the life of the plan, minimize impacts from other resource use to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: livestock grazing.

Action (REC-SRMA-A10)

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support RMZ outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates RMZ outcomes are not being achieved, settings would be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of RMZ outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics:

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This area is moderately remote in character with singletrack, ATV, and jeep trails that offer motorized recreation opportunities bound by state and county roads. The character of the landscape is largely natural in appearance, with some viewsheds that include roads, trails, houses and other man-made developments. Due to the topography, vegetative screening and area scenery, the natural-appearing landscape is retained despite the proximity to the City of Grand Junction. The recreation facilities at trailheads may include, but are not limited to, vault toilets, informational kiosks and other signs. Throughout the unit, a designated trail system with a range of trail opportunities (variety of use designations and varied levels of difficulty) is marked and maintained to achieve defined trail management objectives that support overall RMZ objectives.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Visitors would generally directly encounter fewer than six other groups on designated routes. Groups are generally small to medium-sized (3-6 people) with occasional encounters with larger groups. Sights, sounds, and tracks of other targeted users are relatively infrequent throughout the RMZ, but more prominent near trailheads. Other users are more likely to be heard than seen due to the focus on motorized recreation. Use would generally be highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): This RMZ is focused on motorized OHV use with trails and trailheads designed specifically for motorcycles, ATVs and full-size 4x4 vehicles. Access on the Tabeguache Trail through this zone, and continuing through RMZ 4, provides long-distance riding opportunities by linking the Tabeguache Trail through the Bangs SRMA, Dominguez-Escalante NCA and Uncompahgre National Forest. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local OHV businesses, City of Grand Junction, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve RMZ objectives. Management presence is prominent at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Rules, regulations, and land-use ethics are clearly posted at trailheads. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.)

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU15)

VRM Class: Manage the RMZ under VRM Class II objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU16)

Minerals: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
- Mineral material sales.
- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU17)

ROW: Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

Action (REC-SRMA-A11)

Lands and Realty: Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or

adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU18)

Forestry and Vegetation: Allow harvest of forest and woodland products if the RMZ is determined suitable for harvest. Close the RMZ to collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU19)

Camping restrictions

- Allow camping and campfires only in designated sites in the portion of the RMZ north of Rough Canyon. In this portion of the RMZ, require the use of firepans and portable toilet systems, and prohibit firewood collection, to minimize camping impacts.
- Allow undeveloped camping and campfires in the portion of the RMZ south of Rough Canyon. In this portion of the RMZ, allow collection of only dead and down wood for campfires.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU20)

Firearm use restrictions: Prohibit the discharge of firearms (including any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns) for recreational target shooting within the RMZ for the safety of other recreation users in this area of concentrated trail use. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU21)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with zone objectives.
- Prohibit Class IV Commercial and Competitive SRPs.
- Only issue event permits that support and celebrate Grand Valley communities. Event permits should be coordinated with the local community and should result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
- Allow non-motorized events that have been coordinated with, and endorsed by, local OHV organizations, and do not significantly interfere with the SRMA's targeted activities, experiences and outcomes.
- Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.

- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the RMZ.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU22)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes throughout the RMZ with the exception of small designated corridors where open travel is allowed (e.g., Tabeguache Rough Canyon slickrock play area.)
- Manage that part of the Tabeguache Trail that is south of the zone, to Highway 141 as a high clearance full-sized 4-wheel drive route. This action is outside of the Magellan-Tabeguache OHV Zone (RMZ 2) but provides an essential trail link through the adjacent Bangs Primitive Backcountry Zone (RMZ 4) for meeting the RMZ 2 objective for long-distance OHV opportunities.

Action (REC-SRMA-A12)

No similar action.

Action (REC-SRMA-A13)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Work with stakeholders/partners to design and construct new system trails to create additional motorized OHV recreation opportunities that help achieve RMZ objectives.
- Work with stakeholders to create new access points and trailheads if necessary to accommodate increased use, and/or achieve RMZ objectives.
- Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve RMZ objectives.
- Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.
- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

Action (REC-SRMA-A14)

Special Recreation Permits: All SRPs would be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

Action (REC-SRMA-A15)

No similar action.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU23)

Prohibit new trail development in the portion of the RMZ which overlaps the Rough Canyon ACEC unless impacts to ACEC relevance and importance criteria can be mitigated.

Bangs Canyon SRMA RMZ 3 – Mica Mine/Rough Canyon Outdoor Classroom

1,100 acres

Zone Objective (REC-SRMA-O4)

Through the life of this plan, manage RMZ 3 targeting a local/regional market, providing hiking and educational outdoor classroom learning opportunities consistent with ACEC management objectives to enhance the appreciation and protection of those values (geology, wildlife habitat, sensitive plants and cultural resources). Encourage community-based use of the area as an outdoor classroom. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: The targeted activities for the RMZ are hiking/walking and experiential learning.

Outcomes and Experiences

1. Visitors experience or seek to experience the enjoyment and appreciation of the area's wildlife, scenery, views and aesthetics while learning more about the area's history, ecology and geology.
2. Visitors realize personal benefits of a closer relationship with the natural world.
3. An increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes and cultural resources on a community-wide basis.

Resource Values

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction Milk Vetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), Significant plant communities: West Slope Pinyon Woodland (*Pinus edulis-Juniperus osteosperma/Coleogyne ramosissima* Woodland); Canyon Tree Frog (*Hyla arenicolor*), Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*), desert bighorn sheep, deer and elk winter range, water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers), soils, riparian resources, paleontological resources, and cultural (historic and prehistoric) resources.

Resource Uses

Minimize impacts from other resource use to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified

for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: mineral collecting, livestock grazing, lands and real estate.

Action (REC-SRMA-A16)

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support RMZ outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates RMZ outcomes are not being achieved, settings would be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of RMZ outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like group size limits, issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This is a non-motorized/non-mechanized zone with easy access from Grand Junction via Little Park Road. The character of the landscape is mostly natural in appearance with few modifications that detract from naturalness. Evidence of past mining activities and developments are present in portions of Rough Canyon and Ladder Canyon. Due to topography, vegetative screening and area scenery, the natural landscape is mostly retained. The recreation facilities at trailheads may include, but are not limited to, vault toilets, informational kiosks and other signs. Trails in the zone are designed and maintained to facilitate defined experiential learning objectives. Interpretive and educational displays can be expected at trailheads and along primary trails.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): On developed trails (Mica mine, Rough Canyon trails), visitors would likely encounter multiple groups per day with a fairly high potential of seeing large groups like school groups and scouts. Throughout the rest of the unit, encounters with other groups would be infrequent. On developed trails, the sounds of other people would be frequently heard. In the rest of the unit, depending on location in the zone and proximity to trailheads, the sounds of other people would be infrequent. Use would generally be highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Non-motorized/non-mechanized trails use provide easy access from the Bangs Trailhead which lies in close proximity to the Grand Valley. The large trailhead accommodates buses that transport school groups to the area. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local businesses, Mesa County School District 51, Colorado Mesa University, local clubs/organizations, and

enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve RMZ objectives. Management presence prominent at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Staff or volunteer trail hosts or guides may be on primary trails providing education/interpretation services. Rules, regulations, and land-use ethics are clearly posted at trailheads. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.)

Action (REC-SRMA-A17): ACECs

Manage the portion of the RMZ which overlaps the Rough Canyon ACEC consistently with the ACEC management objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU24)

VRM Class: Manage the RMZ under VRM Class II objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU25)

Minerals: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
- Mineral material sales
- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU26)

ROW: Designate as a ROW exclusion area with an exception to allow consideration of ROW applications for access to private inholdings within the RMZ.

Action (REC-SRMA-A18)

Lands and Realty: Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU27)

Forestry and Vegetation: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest.
- Collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU28)

Camping restrictions: Close the RMZ to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to sensitive biological and cultural resources.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU29)

Firearm use restrictions: For the safety of other recreation users and protection of sensitive resources, prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU30)*Rock Climbing*

- Allow technical rock climbing to continue where it does not create conflicts with targeted recreation uses and outcomes.
- With partners (climbing clubs, retail service providers, etc.), close climbing routes that are causing resource concerns; identify and improve primary access trails to and between climbing routes to protect biological and cultural resources.
- To reduce resource impacts on the top of routes, encourage placement of permanent rappel anchors.
- Develop education program with partners to teach climbing resource ethics (LNT for climbing.)
- To protect visual resources, require all permanent anchors to match the color of the rock surface (fixtures, hardware and webbing, etc.)

Management Action (REC-SRMA-AI9)

To protect the learning opportunities associated with the area's mica and quartz mining history, develop educational messages that encourage visitors to leave mica and quartz onsite. If monitoring shows significant loss of mica and quartz from the area, implement collection restrictions (e.g., prohibit collection of mica and quartz, requiring special permits for the collection of small quantities for classroom study).

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU31)

Special Recreation Permits: Issue Class I-II Commercial, Competitive and Organized group SRPs that are consistent with RMZ objectives. Event permits should be coordinated with the local community and should result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU32)*Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management*

- Close the RMZ to motorized and mechanized travel.
- Close the Mica Mine trail and Rough Canyon trail to equestrian use to protect sensitive biological and cultural resources. Equestrian use would be allowed elsewhere in the RMZ.

Action (REC-SRMA-A20)

No similar action.

Action (REC-SRMA-A21)*Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management*

- Work with stakeholders to design and construct any new system trails, access points or facilities identified as necessary for achievement of RMZ objectives.
- Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve RMZ objectives.
- Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.

Action (REC-SRMA-A22)

Special Recreation Permits: All SRPs would be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

Bangs Canyon SRMA RMZ 4 – Bangs Primitive Backcountry Zone

32,200 acres

Zone Objective (REC-SRMA-O5)

Through the life of this plan, manage RMZ 4 targeting local/regional visitors, providing primitive backcountry hiking, horseback riding hunting, and wildlife viewing opportunities in a largely undeveloped natural setting. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: The targeted activities for the RMZ are primitive cross-country hiking, horseback riding, hunting and wildlife viewing.

Outcomes and Experiences

1. Visitors experience or seek to experience quiet adventures to enjoy the area's wildlife, scenery, views and undeveloped natural landscapes while exploring the area by foot or horseback.
2. Visitors generally realize personal benefits of physical exercise, stress reduction, and a closer relationship with the natural world.

3. An increased awareness and stewardship of natural landscapes on a community-wide basis.

Resource Values

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/ mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), deer and elk winter range, water quality (non-point source erosion/ sedimentation into the Colorado River), soils, paleontological resources, and cultural (historic and prehistoric) resources.

Resource Uses

Minimize impacts from other resource use to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: livestock grazing.

Action (REC-SRMA-A23)

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support RMZ outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates RMZ outcomes are not being achieved, settings would be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of RMZ outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like group size limits, issuance of permits, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This is a remote backcountry zone bisected by the Tabeguache Trail which provides a through route for motorized and mechanized users to traverse the area between Bangs RMZ I and Highway 141. Apart from the Tabeguache Trail there are few signs of man-made developments in the interior of this zone. Developments of man are visible in the distance from parts of the zone, and are more prominent near the perimeter of the zone. There are no developed recreation facilities in the zone with the exception of the Tabeguache Trail.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Except along the Tabeguache Trail, visitors to this zone would expect contacts with other groups to be infrequent (0-3 per day) and group sizes would be small (1-6 people.) Evidence of other recreation activities would be minimal. Use would generally be highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Motorized and mechanized vehicle access is limited to the perimeter of the zone, and the Tabeguache Trail that bisects the zone. Foot and horse travel and camping utilizes primitive, undeveloped trails, or cross-country route-finding employing Leave No Trace travel and camping principles. Visitor services and management presence are minimal. There are no developed/maintained trails, with the exception of the Tabeguache Trail. Basic signs showing rules, regulations and land-use ethics may be posted at primary access points. BLM staff or volunteer field patrols in this zone are generally infrequent.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU33)

Allow motorized and mechanized vehicle use on the Tabeguache Trail through RMZ 4.

Action (REC-SRMA-A24)

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: Manage the portion of the RMZ which overlaps the Bangs Canyon LWC unit consistently with the LWC unit management objectives. This includes the management actions and allowable uses shown below for the RMZ in addition to the following:

Allowable Use

STIPULATION LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS NSO CO. No surface occupancy or use is allowed on identified lands being managed to protect inventoried wilderness characteristics, in accordance with the Resource Management Plan. Standard exceptions apply; see Appendix B.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU34)

VRM Class: Manage the RMZ under VRM Class II objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU35)

Minerals: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
- Mineral material sales.
- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU36)

Manage as a ROW exclusion area with an exception to allow consideration of ROW applications for access to private inholdings within the RMZ.

Action (REC-SRMA-A25)

Lands and Realty: Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU37)

Forestry and Vegetation: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest.
- Collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU38)

Camping restrictions: Allow overnight camping and campfires using Leave No Trace camping principles.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU39)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I and II Commercial and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with zone objectives.
- Prohibit Competitive SRPs except on the Tabeguache Trail.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU40)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Limited to designated routes for motorized and mechanized travel, with the exception of the Tabeguache Trail and the short spur route extending south from the Windmill Road to the windmill and water tanks.
- Limited to designated routes for motorized over-the-snow travel, with the exception of the Tabeguache Trail.

Action (REC-SRMA-A26)

Special Recreation Permits: All SRPs would be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

Action (REC-SRMA-A27)

If monitoring indicates that foot or horse travel in the zone is causing resource damage, consider limiting recreation use and/or limited trail development/maintenance to address the resource concern. Trail work,

including but not limited to, signage/markings, reroutes, construction, should only be considered after other adaptive management strategies (group size limits, permitting, area closures, etc.) have been implemented to resolve resource concerns.

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DOLORES RIVER CANYONS SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR SRMA ALLOCATION

The Dolores River Canyons SRMA encompasses scenic canyon country along the lower Dolores River west to the Utah Border, portions of West Creek, and lands adjacent to the Town of Gateway. It also includes a portion of the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway. This SRMA will be directly affected by the development of the Gateway Canyons Resort and their partnership with BLM.

GOAL SRMA-WIDE

Dolores River Canyons SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce a diversity of quality recreational opportunities that will continue to add to area residents' quality of life by contributing to the local economy and enhancing stewardship and protection of the area's natural and cultural resources.

OBJECTIVE SRMA-WIDE

The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below. (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments would be administered as funding allows.

Objective (REC-SRMA-07)

Through the life of this plan, manage the Dolores River Canyons SRMA targeting a regional, national and international market providing educational opportunities for visitors to experience the history, culture, geology and scenic diversity of this region. Encourage stewardship and environmental and cultural appreciation through education and experiential learning. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: The targeted activities for the RMZ are automobile/motorized scenic touring, mountain biking, day hiking, float boating (canoes, kayaks, rafts), and environmental learning.

Outcomes and Experiences

1. Visitors experience or seek to experience the area's wildlife, scenery, views, aesthetics and culture by learning about this area during self-exploration or guided tours.
2. Visitors generally realize personal benefits of gaining greater appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage through education and improved mental well-being.
3. The community benefits by having an enhanced appreciation of public lands and the associated economic benefits of a more robust tourism market.
4. Visitor experiences would likely result in enhanced resource stewardship of the area's natural, scenic and cultural resources.

Resource Values

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: rare plants, including Kachina daisy (*Erigeron kachinensis*), Eastwood's monkeyflower (*Mimulus eastwoodiae*), San Rafael milkvetch (*Astragalus rafaelsensis*), Fisher milkvetch (*Astragalus piscator*), Dolores River skeleton plant (*Lygodesmia doloresensis*), horseshoe milkvetch (*Astragalus equisolensis*), Grand Junction milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), Tufted fraseria (*Frasera paniculatum*), Osterhout's cryptantha (*Cryptantha osterhoutii*), and Gypsum catseye; Significant plant communities: Foothills Riparian Shrubland (*Forestiera pubescens shrubland*), Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forest (*Acer negundo – Populus angustifolia/ Celtis reticulate Forest*); (*Cryptantha gypsophila*); invasive non-native vegetation including Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*); bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*); deer and elk winter range; riparian resources, visual resources, paleontological resources, and cultural (historic and prehistoric) resources.

Resource Uses

Minimize impacts from other resource use to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: gold prospecting, lands and realty (ROW corridor), livestock grazing. In the portions of this RMZ that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for the ROW corridor.

Action (REC-SRMA-A30)

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support SRMA outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates SRMA outcomes are

not being achieved, settings would be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of SRMA outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like group size limits, issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA/RMZ objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This area is a corridor along Colorado State Highway 141, which is also a state scenic and historic byway (Unaweep-Tabeguache) and along county dirt roads paralleling the Dolores River. Despite its proximity to the highway, ranching development, and the small town of Gateway, this unit remains largely natural in appearance due to the area's topography and scenic integrity. Few facilities currently exist, but trailheads and other interpretive exhibits would likely develop over time.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): The majority of visitors use the scenic byway to explore this unit, with a smaller percentage of visitors floating the river or using the trails. Contacts with other groups are moderate to high (15-25) along the highway, and low (3-6) on the river and trails. Group sizes for all activities are variable. The evidence of use is low in regards to alteration of the natural landscapes, but sights and sounds of other users are common along the highway, and less prominent along the river, county roads, and trails. Use is highest during the spring, summer and fall months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Rural highway auto, truck and motorcycle traffic is characteristic in the majority of this unit. The highway affords easy access to the river and trails. Information and environmental education are prevalent along the highway corridor and at trailheads. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local businesses, Town of Gateway, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve RMZ objectives. BLM staff or volunteers may occasionally be onsite, but most visitor use is supported by services in Gateway, or is self-guided, relying on signage or web-based information. Regulatory and educational information and use ethics are clearly signed to educate visitors and reduce resource damage.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU45)

VRM Class: Manage a portion of the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives (13,600 acres) and a portion under VRM Class III objectives (2,400 acres).

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU46)

Minerals: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
- Mineral material sales (exception for area near Niche Road).
- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU47)

ROW: Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU48)

Consider increased bonding for projects within the Unawep Corridor and along the Dolores River to ensure that reclamation, visual, and other objectives are met.

Action (REC-SRMA-A31)

Lands and Realty: Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU49)

Camping restrictions: Limit camping and campfires to designated developed campgrounds and designated undeveloped campsites. Require the use of firepans and portable toilet systems at undeveloped campsites.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU50)

Special Recreation Permits

- Prohibit Class III and IV Commercial and Competitive SRPs. Allow an exception for historical, reoccurring events (e.g., Gateway Dynamite Shoot).
- Only issue vending permits in conjunction with event SRPs.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU51)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.

Action (REC-SRMA-A32)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Work with Colorado Department of Transportation and the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway to design and develop access from Highway 141 to interpretive sites and other recreation sites along the Dolores River.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU52)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I and II Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with SRMA objectives.
- Allow only SRPs that support management objectives of BLM and stakeholders (e.g., environmental and cultural education).

Action (REC-SRMA-A33)

Special Recreation Permits: All SRPs would be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

Action (REC-SRMA-A34)

Work with stakeholders to design and construct any new system trails, access points or facilities identified as necessary for achievement of RMZ objectives.

Action (REC-SRMA-A35)

Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve RMZ objectives. Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.

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GRAND VALLEY OHV SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR SRMA ALLOCATION

The Grand Valley OHV SRMA is located northeast of the Grand Junction Regional Airport and encompasses approximately 15 square miles of desert-like terrain bounded by 27 ¼ Road on the west, the 32 Road alignment on the east, and the Little Book Cliffs on the northeast. The barren hills of Mancos shale offer challenging rides for all types of vehicles and all rider skill levels. 27 ¼ Road and 29 Road provide relatively easy access from the Grand Valley, and offer opportunities for development of recreation support facilities such as parking/unloading areas, informational signage, restrooms, campsites, and event venues. Existing roads, property boundaries and prominent topographic features provide distinct area boundaries that could be signed and/or fenced to clearly define the areas open for cross-country OHV travel.

GOAL SRMA-WIDE

The Grand Valley OHV SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce opportunities for visitors to experience the freedom to participate in a variety of motorized OHV recreation activities which lead to a variety of beneficial recreation and economic outcomes for participants and Grand Valley communities.

OBJECTIVE SRMA-WIDE

The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below. (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments would be administered as funding allows.

Objective (REC-SRMA-O8)

Through the life of this plan, manage the SRMA to provide local and regional visitors the freedom to participate in unconfined motorized OHV recreation

activities in close proximity to the urban amenities of the Grand Valley. Manage the zone for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: The targeted activities for the SRMA are all forms of motorized OHV recreation, and undeveloped camping

Outcomes and Experiences

1. Visitors experience or seek to experience the freedom of cross-country riding and risk-taking adventure while testing their equipment and building their skills often in groups of friends and family.
2. Visitors generally realize personal benefits of a greater sense of adventure that tests their endurance and equipment, and an improved capacity to engage in motorized OHV recreation.
3. The Grand Valley community benefits from increased local tourism and tax revenue, and an enhanced sense of community ownership in the area's recreation resources.

Resource Values

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts in areas adjacent to the SRMA, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction suncup (*Camissonia eastwoodiae*), Grand Junction buckwheat (*Eriogonum contortum*), water quality (salinity, non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River), Mancos soils.

Resource Uses

Minimize impacts from other resource use to recreation to ensure those uses support SRMA recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this SRMA during the planning process: lands and realty (ROW corridor, land acquisitions, private property trespass) and livestock grazing. In the portions of this SRMA that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for the ROW corridor.

Action (REC-SRMA-A36)

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support SRMA outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates SRMA outcomes are not being achieved, settings would be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of SRMA outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like group size limits, issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): The area's proximity to the Grand Valley, Interstate 70 and the Grand Junction Regional Airport creates an urban interface setting at the primary access points, with more remote settings available in the interior of the area. The character of the natural landscape has been largely altered by nearby development and cross country travel that has been the dominant use of the area for many years. Developed recreation facilities currently do not exist, but would likely be prominent in the future along the perimeter of the SRMA to direct and focus use within the open area. The recreation facilities at primary access points may include, but are not limited to, parking/staging areas that accommodate OHV-hauling rigs, OHV loading/ unloading ramps, vault toilets, informational kiosks and shade shelters. Additional recreation facility developments within the area may include event/festival/ vending areas, and OHV race tracks (e.g., motocross track).

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): This SRMA is generally a busy place, with other people constantly in view, traveling or congregating in large groups at trailheads and throughout the unit. Large disturbed areas are present, with sights, sounds, and tracks of other targeted users prominent throughout the SRMA, but more prominent near staging areas. Use would generally be highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Access to the southern and western periphery of the area is on regularly-maintained paved or gravel roads. Access into the interior of the SRMA is unrestricted by vehicle size or type. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local OHV businesses, City of Grand Junction, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve SRMA objectives. Maps, signs and physical barriers (e.g., fences) delineate area boundaries. Management presence prominent at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Federal, state and local personnel are frequently present for information, education and law enforcement efforts. Portions of the area are designated for camping, festivals, equipment demonstrations, food vendors, and motorized events and competitions. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (staging/event/camping area facilities, field patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.)

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU53)

VRM Class: Manage the SRMA under VRM Class IV objectives with the exception of the portion of the SRMA along the face of the Little Book Cliffs managed under VRM Class II objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU54)

Minerals: Close the SRMA to the following:

- Mineral material sales.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU55)

ROW: Designate as a ROW avoidance area except for existing ROW corridor.

Action (REC-SRMA-A37)

Lands and Realty

- Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the SRMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with SRMA objectives.
- Adjust SRMA boundary to match future land tenure adjustments related to expansion of the Grand Junction Regional Airport.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU56)

Camping restrictions

- Allow dispersed undeveloped camping throughout the SRMA as long as it does not interfere with frequently used OHV routes.
- Camping emphasis areas may be designated to direct and focus camping activities in areas that reduce interference with OHV use, and/or provide desirable camping opportunities.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU57)

Firearm use restrictions: Prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU58)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I, II, III and IV Commercial, Competitive and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with SRMA objectives.

- Throughout the year, issue vending SRPs that achieve SRMA objectives and support local outdoor recreation businesses or organizations.
- In association with permitted competitive events, issue vending SRPs to vendors that support the authorized event.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the SRMA.
- Actively promote this area for motorized OHV events and activities.
- Allow non-motorized events that have been coordinated and endorsed by local OHV organizations, and do not significantly interfere with the SRMA's targeted activities, experiences and outcomes.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU59)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Allow unrestricted travel for all types of use within the SRMA, with the exception of small designated camping areas, special use areas (e.g., motocross track) and vending/event areas.

Action (REC-SRMA-A38)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: To provide navigational assistance to visitors, consider providing directional signing on some primary arterial routes that traverse the SRMA and access primary staging areas.

Action (REC-SRMA-A39)

Facility Development: No similar action.

Action (REC-SRMA-A40)

Special Recreation Permits: All SRPs would be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

Action (REC-SRMA-A41)

Clearly identify OHV open area boundaries using a variety of communication tools and/or barriers including, but not limited to, digital and/or print media, signs and/or fencing, and natural topographic features. Boundary identification strategies should generally employ the most practical, cost-effective, and least obtrusive materials and methods that are still effective for attaining desired management results. For example, periodic boundary identification signs may be sufficient to contain use along portions of an open OHV area boundary. If signing alone proves ineffective, fencing or other physical barriers can be installed.

Action (REC-SRMA-A42)

Continue to comply with the Federal Pollution Control Act regulations to minimize point sources of pollutants to navigable waters by obtaining (or requiring project proponents through conditions of approval to obtain) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits where necessary to reduce impacts from stormwater runoff.

NORTH FRUITA DESERT SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR SRMA ALLOCATION

The North Fruita Desert SRMA is located at the base of the Book Cliffs north of the City of Fruita and encompasses a singletrack trail network that has gained international attention as a mountain bike riding destination. The trail system, and associated camping opportunities, provide a variety of unique opportunities for visitors to experience the diverse terrain of the desert environment along the base of the Book Cliffs. The area's close proximity to the City of Fruita makes it an important community resource for local recreation as well as tourism.

GOAL SRMA-WIDE

The North Fruita Desert SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce a diversity of quality mountain bicycling opportunities that add visitors' quality of life while contributing to the local economy and fostering stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

OBJECTIVE SRMA-WIDE

The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below. (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments would be administered as funding allows.

Objective (REC-SRMA-O10)

Through the life of this plan, manage the SRMA to be a tourism-based recreation area, providing singletrack bicycling trail opportunities accommodating a range of skill levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced) that can be marketed by stakeholders and partners as a family-focused mountain biking destination with close proximity to camping. Manage the SRMA for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: The targeted activities for the SRMA are mountain bicycling and camping.

Outcomes and Experiences

1. Visitors experience or seek to experience the closeness of family and friends while developing their riding skills and abilities.
2. Visitors realize personal benefits of easy access to the outdoors, improved fitness and health maintenance (physical and mental), development of technical competence (i.e., mountain biking and camping skills), and development of stronger social bonds with friends and family.
3. The community benefits from improved quality of life with higher levels of public land stewardship, stronger community relationships and a healthier community.
4. The area economy is strengthened through recreation-related tourism revenue, increased desirability of the community as a place to live.

Resource Values

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: mule deer and elk winter range, water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River) and soils.

Resource Uses

Minimize impacts from other resource use to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this RMZ during the planning process: livestock grazing.

Action (REC-SRMA-A45)

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support SRMA outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates SRMA outcomes are not being achieved, settings would be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of SRMA outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): This is primarily a singletrack mountain biking trail network that is easily accessed from county roads, developed trailheads and campgrounds. More remote settings are available in the interior of the area. The character of the landscape is largely natural in appearance, with some viewsheds that include roads, trails, campground facilities, fences, livestock developments and other man-made structures. Due to topography and area scenery, the natural landscape is mostly retained despite the density of trails. The recreation facilities at trailheads and campgrounds may include, but are not limited to, parking lots, vault toilets, picnic tables, fire grates, informational kiosks and shade shelters. Throughout the unit, a designated singletrack trail system with a spectrum of trails (varied level of difficulty) is marked and maintained to achieve defined trail management objectives that support overall SRMA objectives.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Visitors would generally directly encounter fewer than 15 other groups on designated trails, and 25 or more other groups in developed campgrounds during peak seasons. Groups would generally be small to medium-sized (1-8 people) with occasional encounters with larger groups. Sights, sounds, and tracks of other targeted users are frequent throughout the area, but more prominent near trailheads and camping areas. Use would generally be highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Mountain bicycle singletrack trails provide easy access from trailheads off of county roads. A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local bicycle shops, City of Fruita, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve SRMA objectives. Portions of the area are designated for camping, festivals, mountain bike events and races. Maps, signs and physical barriers (e.g., fences) delineate area boundaries. Management presence prominent at trailheads and camping areas, and less prominent away from trailheads. Campground host onsite at campground during peak seasons. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead, campground and event facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.)

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU66)

VRM Class: Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU67)

Minerals: Close the SRMA to the following:

- Mineral material sales
- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU68)

ROW: Designate as a ROW exclusion area, with an exception for recreation projects requiring electric or water utilities, or for minimally intrusive access/utility ROWs to private inholdings within the SRMA.

Action (REC-SRMA-A46)

Lands and Realty: Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the SRMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with SRMA objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU69)

Forestry and Vegetation: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest.
- Collection of vegetative material under a wilding permit.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU70)

Camping restrictions: To reduce resource impacts and conflicting user interactions,

- Limit camping to designated campgrounds and campsites.
- Limit the number of people and/or vehicles at each campsite.
- Require the use of portable toilet systems and firepans at designated undeveloped sites.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU71)

Firearm use restrictions: For the safety of trail users and campers, prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU72)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I – IV Commercial, Competitive and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with SRMA objectives.

- In association with Competitive events, issue vending SRPs to vendors that support the authorized event.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the SRMA.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU73)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes throughout the SRMA.

Action (REC-SRMA-A47)

No similar action.

Action (REC-SRMA-A48)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Work with stakeholders to design and construct any new system trails, access points or facilities identified as necessary for achievement of SRMA objectives, including promotion of the area as a regional, national and international mountain biking tourism destination.

Action (REC-SRMA-A49)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Design and construct an event staging area and trail system to accommodate large-scale mountain bike races/events.

Action (REC-SRMA-A50)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Construct new system trails to accommodate activity-specific trails (e.g., mountain bike racing, directional travel trails, constructed technical trail features).

Action (REC-SRMA-A51)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Connect/reroute routes to make loop opportunities that help achieve SRMA objectives. Reroute/repair unsustainable and eroding routes.

Action (REC-SRMA-A52)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at

intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

Action (REC-SRMA-A53)

Construct additional developed camping opportunities to address camping demand.

Action (REC-SRMA-A54)

Special Recreation Permits: All SRPs would be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

PALISADE RIM SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR SRMA ALLOCATION

The Palisade Rim SRMA encompasses the rim and bench lands east of the Town of Palisade. Public lands and trails in the area are popular close-to-home recreation destinations for the community of Palisade, neighboring communities and seasonal tourism. The area offers outstanding views of the Grand Valley, the Colorado River, the Little Book Cliffs and the Grand Mesa. It also contains significant cultural and wildlife resources.

GOAL SRMA WIDE

The Palisade Rim SRMA, through recreation program management and stakeholder involvement, will produce quality recreation and learning opportunities that will continue to enhance area residents' quality of life, contribute to the local economy, and provide stewardship and protection of natural and cultural resources. The area's close proximity to the Town of Palisade makes it an important community resource for local recreation as well as tourism.

OBJECTIVE SRMA WIDE

The objective is that participants in visitor/community assessments report an average of 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below. (4.0 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all realized to 5 = totally realized). Visitor assessments would be administered as funding allows.

Objective (REC-SRMA-O12)

Through the life of this plan, manage the SRMA to be a community-based recreation area, providing intermediate to advanced non-motorized trail-based recreation with an emphasis on the area's scenery, cultural heritage educational opportunities and stewardship of cultural and natural resources. Manage the

SRMA for the following targeted recreation activities, experiences and outcomes:

Activities: The targeted activities for the RMZ are hiking, dog walking, trail running, mountain biking and horseback riding.

Outcomes and Experiences

1. Visitors experience or seek to experience outdoor physical activity for fitness and stress reduction, as well as experiencing and learning about the area's scenic vistas, wildlife and cultural resources, often in small groups of family members and/or friends.
2. Visitors realize personal benefits of having recreation, outstanding scenery, cultural appreciation opportunities and wildlife viewing opportunities close to home. Individuals also benefit from improved fitness and health maintenance (physical and mental), development of technical competence (e.g., mountain biking skills), and development of stronger social bonds with friends and family.
3. The community benefits from improved quality of life with higher levels of public land stewardship, increased awareness of the area's natural, historic and cultural resources, stronger community relationships and a healthier community.
4. The area economy is strengthened through recreation-related tourism revenue, increased desirability of the community as a place to live.

Resource Values

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: deer and elk winter range, Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River), soils, paleontological resources, and cultural resources.

Resource Uses

Minimize impacts from other resource use to recreation to ensure those uses support RMZ recreation objectives. The following resource uses were identified for management consideration in this SRMA during the planning process: lands and realty (access across BOR withdrawal parcel), land acquisition, private property trespass). In the portions of the SRMA that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve ROW corridor management objectives.

Action (REC-SRMA-A56)

Manage the desired recreation setting characteristics described below to support SRMA outcome objectives. If monitoring indicates SRMA outcomes are not being achieved, settings would be incrementally adapted to facilitate achievement of SRMA outcomes. For example, begin with visitor education,

then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc. Only implement adaptive management measures if: 1) they are consistent with SRMA objectives and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from internal BLM sources and/or external managing partners.

See Table 2 in Appendix K.

Desired Recreation Setting Characteristics

Physical (remoteness, naturalness, facilities): The character of the landscape is largely natural in appearance, with some viewsheds that include roads, trails, railroads, canals, houses, farms and other man-made developments. Due to topography and area scenery, the natural landscape is mostly retained despite the area's proximity to the Town of Palisade, Interstate 70 and the Grand Valley. The recreation facilities at trailheads (adjacent to the SRMA on CDOT property) may include, but are not limited to, vault toilets, informational/interpretive kiosks and shade shelters. Throughout the unit, a designated singletrack trail system is marked and maintained to achieve defined trail management objectives that support overall SRMA objectives.

Social (contacts with other groups, group size, evidence of use): Visitors would generally directly encounter fewer than seven other groups on designated trails. Groups would generally be small to medium-sized (1-8 people) with occasional encounters with larger groups. Sights and sounds of other targeted users are moderately frequent throughout the SRMA, but more frequent near the trailhead. Use would generally be highest during the spring and fall seasons, with lighter use during summer and winter months.

Operational (access, visitor services, management controls): Non-motorized singletrack trails and use are predominant with primary access from a single trail and trailhead on non-BLM land (CDOT and BOR withdrawal). Bicycles may access the SRMA starting from locations in the nearby Town of Palisade. Secondary access from adjacent BLM, Forest Service and municipal lands to the south and east (depending on potential future development of connector trails.) A variety of communication tools (e.g., information/education kiosks, brochures, maps, signs, web content) and service providers (i.e., onsite staff and/or volunteers, local businesses, Town of Palisade, local clubs/organizations, and enforcement patrols) provide information and services that help visitors achieve SRMA objectives. Management presence is moderate at trailheads, and less prominent away from trailheads. Visitor use fees may be charged to support infrastructure and services (trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, trail patrols, EMS, law enforcement, maps, information, etc.)

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU83)

VRM Class: Manage the SRMA under VRM Class II objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU84)

Minerals: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration
- Mineral material sales
- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU85)

ROW: Designate as a ROW avoidance area with the exception of the ROW corridor that crosses the SRMA. Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor. Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.

Action (REC-SRMA-A57)

Lands and Realty: Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the SRMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with SRMA objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU86)

Forestry and Vegetation: Close the RMZ to the following:

Timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU87)

Camping restrictions: Close the SRMA to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to this intensively used area that lies in close proximity to private residences.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU88)

Firearm use restrictions: Prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU89)

Special Recreation Permits

- Prohibit all Class III and IV SRPs.
- Only issue event permits that support and celebrate Grand Valley communities. Event permits should be coordinated with the local community and should result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
- Prohibit vending permits.

Allowable Use and Management Actions (REC-SRMA-AU90)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Close the SRMA to motorized travel.
- Limit mechanized travel to designated routes throughout the SRMA.
- With partners (e.g., user groups, local municipalities, retail shops, service providers) develop connective trails to adjoining BLM lands, and the Horse Mountain ERMA, that are consistent with RMA objectives.
- Limit new trail development to the minimum necessary to achieve SRMA objectives.

Action (REC-SRMA-A58)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Work with stakeholders to design and construct any new system trails, access points or facilities identified as necessary for achievement of SRMA objectives.
- Reroute, repair, or close and restore unsustainable and eroding routes.
- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

Allowable Use (REC-SRMA-AU91)

Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I and II Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with SRMA objectives.
- Require organized group SRPs for groups exceeding 12 participants

- All SRPs would be evaluated using Permit Evaluation Factors and Permit Classification System (see Appendix L).

BARREL SPRING EXTENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

Objective (REC-ERMA-O2)

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in long-distance ATV/UTV riding/touring activities, and big game hunting in the upper East Salt Creek and Barrel Spring Creek drainages, with access from 16 Road. The ERMA would provide a recreation setting with a relatively unchanged, natural-appearing landscape.

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: fluid mineral leasing, livestock grazing, lands and realty.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU3)

VRM Class: Manage the ERMA under VRM Class III objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU4)

ROW: Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU5)

Forestry and Vegetation: Allow timber harvest, fire wood cutting, and special forest product harvest if the ERMA is determined suitable for harvest.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU6)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I-II Commercial and Organized Event SRPs that meet ERMA objectives.
- Do not issue Competitive SRPs in the ERMA.

Allowable Uses (REC-ERMA-AU7)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Maintain public access for ATVs and UTVs from 16 Road to the upper East Salt Creek and Barrel Spring Creek drainages.
- Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.

Action (REC-ERMA-A2)

To achieve recreation outcomes under Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Establish specific Trail Management Objectives for primary recreation routes.
- Work with partners to repair/reroute/close and maintain travel routes to reduce resource impacts and achieve ERMA objectives.
- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names/numbers, and allowable uses. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

Objective (REC-ERMA-O3)

Through the life of the plan, manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: deer and elk winter range, fragile and slumping soils, riparian habitat, paleontological resources, rare plants - Piceance Bladderpod (*Lesquerella parviflora*), and the following Significant plant communities: Montane Riparian Woodland (*Populus balsamifera* Woodland), Emergent Wetlands (*Eleocharis rostellata* Herbaceous Vegetation), Foothills Riparian Shrubland (*Betula occidentalis* / *Maianthemum stellatum* Shrubland).

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU8)

Close to motorized and mechanized vehicles the portion of the RMA within designated big game winter range from December 1 to April 30 (TL - 20).

GATEWAY EXTENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

Objective (REC-ERMA-O5)

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in motorized exploration, scenic touring and heritage tourism along the Mesas and side canyons surrounding the Dolores River and the town of Gateway. Visitors to the ERMA would have the opportunity to explore and connect to other public lands managed by Grand Junction Field Office, Uncompahgre Field Office and Moab Field Office, as well as the Uncompahgre National Forest and Manti-La Sal National Forest. The ERMA would provide a recreation setting with a relatively unchanged, natural-appearing landscape.

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: scenic values; wilderness characteristics; geological features; plant species of concern - Gypsum Valley cateye (*Cryptantha gypsophila*), San Rafael milkvetch (*Astragalus rafaensis*), Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*), Grand Junction milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*); two Significant Plant Communities - Fremont's Cottonwood Riparian Forests (*Populus deltoides* ssp. *wislizeni* / *Rhus trilobata* Woodland), and Emergent Wetlands (*Eleocharis rostellata* Herbaceous Vegetation); deer and elk winter range; cliff-nesting raptors; cultural resources; and paleontological resources. The resources listed above are also identified for special management and protection in one or more of the following areas that the ERMA overlaps, or is immediately adjacent to: Palisade WSA, Sewemup WSA, Maverick LWC unit, UnawEEP Canyon LWC unit, Dolores River Riparian ACEC, Juanita Arch ACEC, The Palisade ACEC, Sinbad Valley ACEC, UnawEEP Seep ACEC, Blue Mesa wildlife emphasis area, Bull Hill wildlife emphasis area, Calamity Camp National Historic Register site, and Dolores River Riparian SRMA.

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: uranium exploration and mining, mineral material sales, livestock grazing.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU10)

VRM Class: Manage the ERMA under VRM Class II and III objectives (as described in the VRM section).

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU11)

ROW: Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

Action (REC-ERMA-A4)

Lands and Realty: Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the ERMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with ERMA objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU12)

Forestry and Vegetation: Allow timber harvest, fire wood cutting and special forest product harvest if the ERMA is determined suitable for harvest.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU13)

Special Recreation Permits: Issue only Class I, II, and III SRPs in the ERMA.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions (ERMA-AU14)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.

Action (REC-ERMA-A5)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Establish specific Trail Management Objectives for primary recreation routes.
- Work with stakeholders to identify opportunities to connect/reroute routes to create loop opportunities that help achieve ERMA objectives.
- Work with partners to repair/reroute/close and maintain travel routes to reduce resource impacts and achieve ERMA objectives.

- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names/numbers, and allowable uses. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AUI5)

Special Recreation Permits: Issue Class I-III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with ERMA objectives.

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GRAND VALLEY SHOOTING RANGES EXTENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

Objective (REC-ERMA-O6)

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in recreational target shooting at a developed shooting range in close proximity to Grand Junction. The ERMA would provide a recreation setting with a significantly altered natural landscape.

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (lead contamination, non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River).

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: livestock grazing, fluid mineral leasing.

Action (REC-ERMA-A6)

Physically delineate the boundaries of the RMA using signage, fencing and other appropriate markers/barriers.

Action (REC-ERMA-A7)

Develop run-on/run-off control plan to mitigate lead contamination to surface and ground water.

Action (REC-ERMA-A8)

Develop a regular lead recovery program to mitigate soil and water contamination.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU16)

VRM Class: Manage the ERMA under VRM Class IV objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU17)

ROW: Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

Action (REC-ERMA-A9)

Lands and Realty: Identify area for disposal to stakeholder(s) who would manage the area with similar objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU18)

Camping restrictions: Close the ERMA to overnight use and campfires from sunset to sunrise to reduce occurrences of vandalism to recreation facilities. Exceptions to this restriction may be granted in order to accommodate training exercises or other special events.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses (REC-ERMA-AU19)

Special Recreation Permits

- Do not issue Class IV SRPS in the ERMA.
- Allow vending SRPs only in conjunction with event SRPs.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions (REC-ERMA-AU20)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Allow travel within the RMZ only for the placement and retrieval of targets. Motorized and mechanized vehicles must remain on designated routes.

Action (REC-ERMA-A11)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Work with stakeholders to maintain adequate access to shooting range facilities, consistent with ERMA objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU21)

Special Recreation Permits: Issue Class I-III Commercial, Competitive and Organized Group SRPs that are compatible with ERMA objectives.

GUNNISON RIVER BLUFFS EXTENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

Objective (REC-ERMA-07)

Through the life of the plan, support local community partnerships to protect and promote trail-based hiking, dog walking, trail running, mountain bicycling, horseback riding and other non-motorized recreation activities between Orchard Mesa and Whitewater along the Gunnison River bluffs. The ERMA would provide an urban interface recreation setting with a moderately altered natural landscape.

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), cliff-nesting raptors, paleontological resources, and cultural resources.

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: livestock grazing, lands and realty.

Action (REC-ERMA-A12)

Lands and Realty: With partners (Mesa County, private landowners, Old Spanish Trail Association and City of Grand Junction), work to improve public access into and through the area. Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the ERMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with ERMA objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU22)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Close the ERMA to motorized travel. Limit all other travel (including foot and horse) to designated routes in order to accommodate targeted recreation activities in a concentrated urban interface area while protecting sensitive biological and cultural resources.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU23)

Firearm use restrictions: Prohibit recreational target shooting using any devices that propel a projectile, including but not limited to, firearms, bow and arrow, sling shots, paint ball guns and air guns. This does not apply to the lawful taking of game.

Objective (REC-ERMA-O8)

Through community partnerships, protect the scenic views of the Gunnison River and Pinyon Mesa, support trail connectivity between communities and public land resources, and provide opportunities to learn about the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

Action (REC-ERMA-A13)

Partnerships

- Work with partners (Mesa County, private landowners, Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) and City of Grand Junction) to connect/reroute routes to make loop and/or through-route trail opportunities as necessary; reroute or close and naturalize unsustainable and eroding routes.
- Work with partners (OSTA, Mesa County, City of Grand Junction) to create and/or support education/interpretation of Old Spanish Trail resources.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU24)

VRM Class

- Manage the ERMA under VRM Class III objectives.
- Landscapes in the viewshed to the south and west of the ERMA lie within the Bangs Canyon SRMA and are managed under VRM Class II objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU25)

Minerals: Close the RMZ to the following:

- Fluid mineral leasing and geophysical exploration.
- Mineral material sales.

- Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and/or development.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU26)

ROW: Designate as a ROW avoidance area.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU27)

Camping restrictions

- Close the ERMA to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to this intensively used area that lies in close proximity to private residences.
- Allow exceptions for overnight camping and campfires only when those activities support the ERMA objectives (e.g., historical reenactments.)

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU28)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with ERMA objectives (i.e., support partnership efforts).
- Prohibit Class IV SRPs.
- Only issue event permits that have been coordinated with the local community and that result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
- Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the ERMA.

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HORSE MOUNTAIN EXTENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

The Horse Mountain ERMA has three distinct recreation management zones (RMZs). Those zones include: the Horse Mountain Trails RMZ (RMZ 1) featuring opportunities to participate in mountain biking, hiking, trail running, motorcycle riding, ATV riding and 4x4 vehicle driving; the C Road OHV Open Area (RMZ 2) offering an open OHV play area; and the C Road Target Shooting Area (RMZ 3) offering recreational target shooting opportunities. Overall, the ERMA provides a diverse mix of recreation activity opportunities in the urban interface zone along the eastern edge of the Grand Valley. The specific management objectives and actions for each RMZ are described below.

Horse Mountain ERMA RMZ 1 – Horse Mountain Trails

4,700 acres

Objective (REC-ERMA-09)

Through the life of the plan, support local community partnerships to plan, develop and promote a trail system for a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail-based recreation activities. The trail system should provide easy access to the Horse Mountain area, and trail connectivity to/from the Town of Palisade, East Orchard Mesa, the Palisade Rim SRMA and other BLM-managed lands along the Grand Mesa Slopes. Targeted activities include, but are not limited to, hiking, dog walking, trail running, mountain bicycling, horseback riding, ATV riding and motorcycle riding. The RMZ would provide a recreation setting with a moderately to significantly altered natural landscape.

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River).

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. Consider the following resource uses: fluid mineral leasing and livestock grazing. In the portions of this RMZ that overlap the ROW corridor and Wind Energy Emphasis Area, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for those designations.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU29):

VRM Class: Manage the eastern portion of the RMZ under VRM Class III objectives, and the western portion under VRM Class IV objectives (See VRM section.)

Management Actions and Allowable Uses (REC-ERMA-AU30)

Lands and Realty

- Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor and the Wind Energy Emphasis area that overlap the RMZ. Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.
- With managing partners (Town of Palisade, Mesa County, City of Grand Junction, private landowners), work to improve public access into and through the area. Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.
- Work with adjacent landowners, including the City of Grand Junction to minimize recreation conflicts and/or trespass on private property.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU31)

Camping restrictions: Close the RMZ to overnight camping and campfires to reduce impacts to this intensively used area that lies in close proximity to private residences.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU32)

Close the portion of the RMZ west of Sink Creek to overnight use (sunset to sunrise) to reduce occurrences of vandalism and resource damage.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU33)

Firearm use restrictions: Close to recreational target shooting the portion of the RMZ west of Sink Creek for the safety of adjacent residents, and recreationists using the C Road OHV Open Area, the C Road Target Shooting Area, and the connector trails leading to Horse Mountain.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU34)

Special Recreation Permits

- Only issue event permits that have been coordinated with the local community and that result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
- Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the RMZ.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU35)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.

Action (REC-ERMA-A15)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: If monitoring indicates conflicting interactions between recreation users, promote positive interactions between visitors by implementing strategies that separate incompatible recreation uses in either time or space (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on system trails, etc.)

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU36)

Special Recreation Permits: Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with RMZ objectives (i.e., support partnership efforts).

Horse Mountain ERMA RMZ 2 – C Road OHV Open Area

180 acres

Objective (REC-ERMA-O10)

Through the life of the plan, this RMZ would provide visitors with opportunities to participate in unconfined day-use motorized OHV recreation activities in close proximity to the urban amenities of the Grand Valley. The RMZ would also provide an OHV practice/play area serving as a gateway to the designated route system on adjoining public lands to the east. The RMZ would provide a recreation setting with a significantly altered natural landscape due to intensive motorized OHV use, and nearby residential and agricultural development.

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River).

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: lands and realty (ROW corridor), fluid mineral leasing. In the portions of this RMZ that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for the ROW corridor.

Action (REC-ERMA-A16)

Physically delineate the boundaries of the RMZ using signage, fencing and other appropriate markers/barriers.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU37)

VRM Class: Manage under VRM Class IV objectives.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses (REC-ERMA-AU38)

Lands and Realty

- Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor that overlaps the RMZ. Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.
- Work with adjacent landowners to minimize recreation conflicts and/or trespass on private property.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU39)

Camping restrictions: Designate the RMZ as a day-use only area. Close the RMZ to overnight use and campfires from sunset to sunrise to reduce occurrences of vandalism, dumping, resource damage and disturbance of nearby residents.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU40)

Firearm use restrictions: Close the RMZ to recreational target shooting for the safety of adjacent residents, recreationists using the OHV area and recreationists using the connector trails leading to Horse Mountain.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU41)

Special Recreation Permits: Do not issue SRPs in this RMZ. Exception: Allow event staging in the RMZ for events outside of the RMZ.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses (REC-ERMA-AU42)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Allow unrestricted travel for all types of motorized OHV use within the RMZ.
- Ensure connectivity between the RMZ and the Horse Mountain Trails RMZ (RMZ 1).

Horse Mountain ERMA RMZ 3 – Target Shooting

240 acres

Objective (REC-ERMA-O11)

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in day-use recreational target shooting in close proximity to Grand Junction, Clifton and Palisade, while protecting the property and personal safety of private residences in the area. The RMZ would provide a recreation setting with a significantly altered natural landscape due to intensive recreation use in the area.

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), water quality (lead contamination, non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River).

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: fluid mineral leasing, livestock grazing. In the portions of this RMZ that overlap the ROW corridor, manage recreation to achieve management objectives for the ROW corridor.

Action (REC-ERMA-A17)

Physically delineate the boundaries of the RMZ using signage, fencing and other appropriate markers/barriers.

Action (REC-ERMA-A18)

Clearly identify BLM-managed lands adjacent to the RMZ that are closed to target shooting (900 acres) for the protection of the property and personal safety of nearby private residences in the area.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU43)

VRM Class: Manage the ERMA under VRM Class IV objectives.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses (REC-ERMA-AU44)

Lands and Realty

- Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor that overlaps the RMZ. Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.
- Work with adjacent landowners to minimize recreation conflicts and/or trespass on private property.
- Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within

or adjacent to the RMZ that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with RMZ objectives.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU45)

Camping restrictions: Designate the RMZ as a day-use only area. Close the RMZ to overnight use and campfires from sunset to sunrise to reduce occurrences of vandalism, dumping, resource damage and disturbance of nearby residents.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses (REC-ERMA-AU46)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial, Competitive and Organized Group SRPs that provide financial or in-kind support for ongoing maintenance of the RMZ facilities.
- Do not issue Class IV SRPs in the ERMA.
- Allow vending SRPs only in conjunction with event SRPs.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the RMZ.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions (REC-ERMA-AU47)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Allow travel within the RMZ only for the placement and retrieval of targets. Motorized and mechanized vehicles must remain on designated routes.

Action (REC-ERMA-A19)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management: Work with stakeholders to maintain adequate access to facilities, consistent with RMZ objectives.

NORTH DESERT EXTENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

Objective (REC-ERMA-O12)

Through the life of the plan, provide visitors with opportunities to participate in motorized OHV recreation (motorcycle, ATV, UTV, full-sized 4x4 vehicles) on a variety routes designated for different motorized uses (e.g., motorcycle, ATV/UTV, full-size vehicles) that link the desert terrain on the north side of the Grand Valley from Grand Junction and Fruita to Rabbit Valley and the Utah Rims trails and provide multiple long-distance motorized loop opportunities. The RMZ would provide a recreation setting with a moderately altered natural landscape.

Manage this area to minimize recreation impacts to other resources, with special consideration given to protection/mitigation of the following resources: Colorado Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Grand Junction buckwheat (*Eriogonum contortum*), Grand Junction suncup (*Camissonia eastwoodiae*), Dolores River skeletonplant (*Lygodesmia doloresensis*); Significant plant communities: Saline Bottomland Shrublands (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus* / *Suaeda moquinii* Shrubland), Western Slope Grasslands (*Achnatherum hymenoides* Shale Barren Herbaceous Vegetation), Cold Desert Shrublands (*Atriplex confertifolia* / *Achnatherum hymenoides* Shrubland), Gardner's Mat Saltbush Shrublands (*Atriplex gardneri* / *Leymus salinus* Dwarf-shrubland), Skunkbrush Riparian Shrubland (*Rhus trilobata* Shrubland); water quality (non-point source erosion/sedimentation into the Colorado River), Mancos Shale, saline soils, deer and elk winter range, pronghorn.

Manage recreation in this area to ensure a balance between protecting targeted recreation activities and settings with other resource uses. In this area, consider the following resource uses: coal leasing, mineral material sales, fluid mineral leasing and livestock grazing. In the portions of this RMZ that overlap the ROW

corridor and Solar Energy Emphasis Areas (Mitchell Road and 21 Road), manage recreation to achieve management objectives for those designations.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU48)

VRM Class: Manage the ERMA under VRM Class II, III and IV objectives (See VRM section.) The majority of the ERMA is VRM Class IV.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses (REC-ERMA-AU49)

Lands and Realty

- Designate as a ROW avoidance area with the exception of the ROW corridor that crosses the ERMA.
- Recognize and grant priority status to utility developments in the ROW corridor and Solar Energy Emphasis areas that overlap the RMZ (Mitchell Road and 21 Road). Utilize BMPs to minimize impacts to targeted recreation activities.
- With managing partners (City of Fruita, Mesa County, City of Grand Junction, private landowners), work to improve public access into and through the area. Pursue opportunities with landowners, either through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private properties or easements within or adjacent to the ERMA that enhance public access and recreation opportunities consistent with ERMA objectives.
- Work with adjacent landowners to minimize recreation conflicts and/or trespass on private property.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU50)

Camping restrictions

- Allow camping and campfires in the ERMA where it does not interfere with targeted OHV recreation opportunities, and is compatible with the management of other resources and resource uses.
- Close the 18 Road Open OHV area to overnight camping.
- Allow collection of only dead and down wood for campfires.

Action (REC-ERMA-A20)

Camping Management: If monitoring indicates unacceptable impacts from camping and campfires, implement progressive measures to mitigate those impacts. Mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to: requiring the use of firepans and portable toilet systems; prohibiting firewood collection; limiting portions of the ERMA to designated campsites only; closing portions of the ERMA to camping and campfires.)

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU51)

Firearm use restrictions: Close the 18 Road OHV Open area to recreational target shooting for the safety of OHV recreationists in this intensively used portion of the ERMA.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU52)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I – IV Competitive Special Recreation Permits that achieve ERMA objectives.
- Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the ERMA.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU53)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

- Limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes.

Action (REC-ERMA-A21)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Work with stakeholders/partners to plan, develop and maintain a route system that helps achieve ERMA objectives while mitigating impacts to the area's sensitive resources and resource uses (listed in the resource and resource use objectives below). This includes identifying appropriate existing routes, repairing or rerouting unsustainable routes, constructing connecting routes, and closing redundant routes.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU54)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Designate an Open OHV area no larger than 400 acres (similar in size to current 18 Road Open Area)

Action (REC-ERMA-A22)

- Ensure route connectivity between the ERMA and the Rabbit Valley area of Mclnnis Canyons National Conservation Area and the Utah Rims SRMA in Utah.

Action (REC-ERMA-A23)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Ensure route connectivity between the ERMA and the Grand Valley OHV SRMA. To provide a transition zone between the high-use urban interface area directly north of Grand Junction, allow higher route density along the ERMA's interface with the Grand Valley OHV SRMA at 27 ¼ Road, with route density generally decreasing as the trail system extends to the northwest toward 25 Road and 21 Road (travel management Zone L.)

Action (REC-ERMA-A24)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Identify a multi-use singletrack trail on BLM-managed lands that connects the City of Fruita to the North Fruita Desert SRMA. If monitoring indicates the need to separate uses to ensure visitor safety, construct a bicycle-only trail through the ERMA that directly connects from the City of Fruita to the North Fruita Desert SRMA.

Action (REC-ERMA-A25)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Identify a multi-use singletrack trail on BLM-managed lands that connects Highline State Park to the North Fruita Desert SRMA. If monitoring indicates the need to separate uses to ensure visitor safety, construct a bicycle-only trail through the ERMA that directly connects from Highline State Park to the North Fruita Desert SRMA.

Action (REC-ERMA-A26)

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

- Work with stakeholders to create new access points and trailheads if necessary to accommodate increased use, and/or achieve ERMA objectives.
- Mark trail system route intersections with signs showing trail names, allowable uses, and difficulty ratings. Travel management designations (allowable uses) only need to be displayed at intersections where the allowable uses change from one route to another.
- Promote positive interactions between recreation users by implementing strategies that separate conflicting uses. For example, begin with visitor education, then, if necessary, progress to more intensive measures like use and timing limitations (e.g., different uses on different trails on different days, designating directional travel on

system trails, etc.), issuance of permits, law enforcement patrols, etc.

Allowable Use (REC-ERMA-AU55)

Special Recreation Permits

- Issue Class I, II and III Commercial and Organized Group SRPs that achieve ERMA objectives.

Action (REC-ERMA-A27)

Special Recreation Permits

- Develop an event staging area in the ERMA that helps achieve ERMA objectives.

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