

KREMMLING
RECORD OF DECISION
& APPROVED
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2015

COLORADO – Kremmling Field Office



BLM MISSION

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/CO/GI-15/005

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office

Record of Decision and

Approved Resource Management Plan

2015

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United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer To:
1610 (CO-933)

JUN 19 2015

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to announce that after many years of hard work and collaboration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed the Kremmling Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Approved RMP will provide guidance for the management of approximately 377,900 surface acres of public lands and approximately 653,500 subsurface acres of federal mineral estate in Jackson, Grand and Summit counties in their entirety, and portions of Eagle, Larimer and Routt counties.

The enclosed Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved RMP have been prepared in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The approval of this ROD serves as the final decision for all land use planning and implementation decisions described in the enclosed Kremmling Approved RMP.

The Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was subject to a 30-day protest period that ended on April 19, 2014. Nineteen protest letters were received. The BLM Director reviewed and resolved all protests. Minor modifications and clarifications were made as a result of the protests and are discussed in Section 10 of the ROD. The 60 day Governor's consistency review period for the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which ensures consistency with State government plans or policies, concluded May 19, 2014. The Governor did not identify any inconsistencies with State government plans or policies.

The ROD and Approved RMP is available at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/kfo.html>. Limited printed copies and CD copies are available by request from the Kremmling Field Office, 2103 East Park Avenue, Kremmling, CO, 80459 or by calling (970) 724-3066.

The BLM greatly appreciates all those who contributed to the completion of the Kremmling RMP, particularly our cooperating agencies, which include federal, State and local governments; the BLM Northwest Resource Advisory Council (and subgroup members); and Native American Tribes. The extensive public interest and involvement in this planning process has ensured that the Approved RMP will sustain the health, diversity and productivity of BLM lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Sincerely,


Ruth Welch
State Director

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Appendix D: Best Management Practices and Standard Operating Procedures.

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Appendix I: Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan.

Appendix J: BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado.

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Appendix L: Description of Recreation Resources.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACEC ~	area of critical environmental concern,	MPB ~	Mountain Pine Beetle,
APE ~	area of potential effect,	NEPA ~	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969,
APD ~	application for permit to drill,	NHPA ~	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966,
ATV ~	all-terrain vehicle,	NHT ~	national historic trail,
AUM ~	animal unit month,	NRHP ~	National Register of Historic Places,
BA ~	biological assessment,	NSO ~	no surface occupancy,
BMP ~	best management practices,	OHV ~	off-highway vehicle,
CAA ~	Clean Air Act,	ORV ~	outstandingly remarkable value,
CFR ~	Code of Federal Regulations,	PFC ~	proper functioning condition,
CSU ~	controlled surface use,	PRMP ~	Proposed Resource Management Plan,
CWCS ~	Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy,	PSQ ~	probable sale quantity,
CWMA ~	coordinated weed management area,	PV ~	photovoltaic,
DOI ~	Department of the Interior,	RAC ~	resource advisory council,
EA ~	environmental assessment,	RMP ~	resource management plan,
EIS ~	environmental impact statement,	RMZ ~	riparian management zone,
EO ~	Executive order,	R&PP ~	Recreation and Public Purposes Amendment Act of 1988,
EPA ~	Environmental Protection Agency,	SHPO ~	state historic preservation office,
ERMA ~	extensive recreation management area,	SRMA ~	special recreation management area,
ESA ~	Endangered Species Act of 1973,	SRP ~	special recreation permit,
FLPMA ~	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976,	TCP ~	traditional cultural property,
FMP ~	fire management plan,	T&E ~	threatened and endangered,
FMU ~	fire management unit,	TL ~	timing limitation,
GHG ~	greenhouse gasses,	USDI ~	U.S. Department of the Interior,
GIS ~	geographic information system,	USDA ~	U.S. Department of Agriculture,
HMA ~	habitat management area,	USFWS ~	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
HMP ~	habitat management plan,	VOC ~	volatile organic compound,
IM ~	instructional memoranda,	VRM ~	visual resource management,
IMP ~	interim management policy,	WSR ~	wild and scenic river,
IPM ~	integrated pest management,	WUI ~	wildfire urban interface,
ISA ~	instant study area,	WWA ~	watchable wildlife area,
IWM ~	integrated weed management,		
KFO ~	Kremmling Filed Office (BLM),		

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RECORD OF DECISION

Kremmling Resource Management Plan

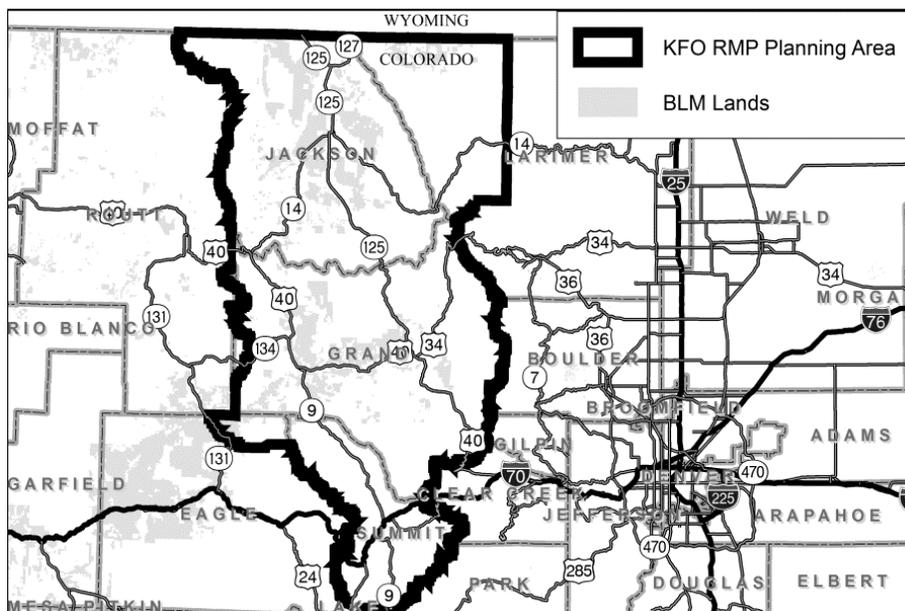
1.0 ROD: Introduction

This Record of Decision (ROD) documents the approval of the Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Approved RMP is prepared to provide broad-scale direction for the management of public lands and resources administered by the Kremmling Field Office (KFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

This ROD provides the background for the development of the Kremmling RMP, the BLM's rationale for selecting the management decisions that comprise the Approved RMP, as well as an explanation as to why other alternatives considered and evaluated in the Final EIS were not selected. The decision-making process for approving the RMP is also described in this record and includes the BLM's resolution of public protests of the proposed planning decisions contained in the Final EIS.

2.0 ROD: Planning Area

The planning area, the area encompassing the public lands administered by the Kremmling Field Office that are subject to the Approved RMP, includes approximately 377,900 surface acres and approximately 653,500 subsurface acres of mineral estate administered by the KFO in Eagle, Grand, Routt, Jackson, Larimer and Summit counties, Colorado. The planning area provides a regional context for management decisions and establishes a framework for collaborative planning with various governmental or tribal jurisdictions and the public.



3.0 ROD: Decision

The Kremmling RMP, described in detail and attached to this ROD, is hereby approved. The Approved RMP, with few minor revisions, carries forward the land use planning decisions presented as the Proposed RMP in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released to the public on March 21, 2014. The Approved RMP makes substantive revisions to management under the previous land use plan prepared in 1984, particularly with its decisions regarding the resources, programs, and opportunities summarized below.

The Approved RMP represents the BLM's best effort to provide the optimum combination of management decisions to meet the purpose and need for this land use plan in consideration of the planning issues and management concerns identified through the planning process. Management under this alternative seeks to provide an overall balance between the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and cultural values, while allowing resource use and development.

The Approved RMP presents desired outcomes, expressed in terms of goals and objectives for resource conditions and uses, and establishes the allowable uses, management actions, and special designations that will enable the BLM to achieve the desired outcomes. These management decisions are made in accordance with principles of multiple use and sustained yield, as mandated by the provisions of the FLPMA, which establishes public land policy and sets forth the requirement for the BLM to develop, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise or amend land use plans, such as the Approved RMP, for the management of public lands. The Approved RMP will guide the Kremmling Field Office in its implementation of all subsequent management actions and site-specific activities.

BLM regulations require that existing land use plans be revised when necessary to address current resource conditions, evolving demands on resources, and new and revised national-level policy (43 CFR 1610.5-6). Since the 1984 *Kremmling Resource Area Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement* and subsequent amendments were completed, new information, revised laws and policies, emerging issues, and changed circumstances and resource conditions generated the need for a revised land use plan. Resolving the planning issues, the conflicts and management problems largely defined through public input, was the KFO's primary objective in revising its land use plan.

While planning decisions to address management concerns regarding various other resources and resource uses are also contained in the Approved RMP, the resources, programs, and opportunities that had the greatest potential impact on the development of the proposed alternatives include recreation demand and uses, special designations, energy development, wildlife (habitat management) and sagebrush habitat and sagebrush-dependent species. The following information summarizes the approved management decisions regarding these resources and resource uses:

3.1 RECREATION

The Approved RMP establishes camping closures (about 7,600 acres) and restrictions to recreational target shooting (20,350 acres). The Approved RMP administratively designates four Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting (50,000 acres) and one Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) in order to specifically address local recreation issues but not managed for specific recreation outcomes (1,400 acres).

3.2 ROD: TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Decisions in the Approved RMP regarding transportation and access include the following OHV designations:

- Open: 200 acres (play areas in Wolford and North Sand Hills);
- Limited to Designated Routes: 369,300 acres; and,
- Closed: 8,400 acres (Wilderness Study Area).

This ROD also approved route designations across the planning area. Route designations through this effort will be evaluated for consistency with the Greater Sage Grouse amendment, when final, as part of the Greater Sage Grouse plan implementation strategy, and if needed, additional NEPA will occur, with public involvement, to address any inconsistencies.

3.3 ROD: MINERAL RESOURCES

As indicated above, the Kremmling Field Office administers approximately 653,500 acres of subsurface mineral estate, of which approximately 63,200 acres is closed non-discretionarily to mineral exploration and development. The Approved RMP establishes guidelines within the entire planning area to provide opportunities for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals using a balanced, multiple-use and sustained-yield management in order to meet local and national energy needs.

As part of the planning effort, the Kremmling Field Office analyzed approximately 390,600 acres of Federal mineral estate as the North Park Master Leasing Plan (MLP). In this MLP analysis area, 376,600 acres will be open to oil and gas leasing and development. Approximately 14,000 acres of Federal mineral estate in the North Park MLP analysis area will be closed to oil and gas leasing and geophysical exploration. The Approved RMP applies no surface occupancy (NSO), controlled surface use (CSU), and timing limitation (TL) leasing stipulations in the North Park MLP analysis area to protect resources.

3.4 ROD: SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

The Approved RMP designates the following areas as ACECs (9,668 acres):

- Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite ACEC: 198 acres;
- North Park Natural Area ACEC: 4,444 acres (including the 318 acres currently designated);
- Barger Gulch Heritage Area ACEC: 535 acres;
- Kremmling ACEC: 674 acres;
- Laramie River ACEC: 1,783 acres;
- Troublesome Creek ACEC: 998 acres
- Kinney Creek ACEC: 588 acres; and
- North Sand Hills ACEC: 486 acres.

The Approved RMP guides management of 3 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) (8,872 acres) under the Management of WSAs policies found in the FLPMA and in BLM Manual 6330.

The Approved RMP identifies two areas (Junction Butte Wetland and Hebron Waterfowl) totaling approximately 4,420 acres as Watchable Wildlife Areas.

3.5 ROD: WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

The Approved RMP identifies eight areas in Jackson County and six acres in Grand County as Wildlife Core Areas protecting areas of high habitat value for multiple species, including sage-grouse, elk, and mule deer. The Approved RMP protects wintering big game species by closing the Wolford Travel Management Area, the North Sand Hills SRMA and WSA and the Strawberry SRMA to motorized and mechanical travel from December 15 to April 15. Surface use is prohibited during certain times of the year in mapped crucial winter habitat in order to reduce behavioral disruption of big game during the winter season. The Approved RMP prohibits surface use during certain times of the year in mapped big game production areas in order to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period. The Approved RMP creates optimum winter range and summer/transition habitat conditions for big game, targeting a ratio of 60 percent foraging habitat to 40 percent escape/hiding/thermal/birthing cover.

3.6 ROD: SAGEBRUSH HABITAT AND SAGEBRUSH-DEPENDENT SPECIES

The Approved RMP allows no more than five percent of the surface area within Greater sage-grouse Core Areas (123,000 acres) to be disturbed at any one time. The Approved RMP prohibits surface occupancy or use within a 0.6 mile radius of Greater sage-grouse leks in order to maintain integrity of habitat surrounding leks that are used during the breeding period. The Approved RMP prohibits surface use from March 1 to July 15 in suitable nesting habitat within a 4-mile radius of active leks or mapped nesting habitat in order to prevent disruption of reproductive activity during the production period. The Approved RMP prohibits surface use from December 1 to March 15 in mapped important sage-grouse winter range preventing disruption of sage-grouse during the winter period. The Northwest Greater Sage-grouse RMP Amendment was initiated in December 2011 to analyze specific conservation measures across the range of the greater sage grouse, consistent with national BLM and Forest Service policies. It is expected that this effort will amend the Kremmling RMP for this resource.

4.0 ROD: Considerations in Selecting the Kremmling RMP

As indicated above, the Approved RMP seeks the best combination of management decisions to meet the purpose and need for a land use plan in consideration of the planning issues and management concerns identified through the planning process. It is prepared to ensure that the public lands in the planning area are managed in accordance with the FLPMA under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Section 103 (c) of the FLPMA defines “multiple use” as “management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people. . . .” The combination of planning decisions is driven by the diverse resources values on the public lands and how to best realize the broad spectrum of available opportunities. This combination of decisions also recognizes the limits of the ecosystems’ sustainability and is within the constraints of applicable laws and regulations.

The Approved RMP also addresses how best to resolve the planning issues, management concerns, and associated conflicts primarily through the allocation of uses, fully recognizing the tradeoffs resulting from the decisions. The BLM’s allocation of uses is specifically provided for under the FLPMA, which further defines multiple use as the “most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources . . .” and “the use of some land for less than all of the resources” The trade-offs resulting from the allocation of

resources were fully analyzed and disclosed in the Final EIS, providing for an informed decision that acknowledges their consequences on the human environment.

Management decisions in the Approved RMP are also consistent with section 102 (8) and (12) of the FLPMA, which directs the BLM to manage public lands “in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use . . . and in a manner which recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands” The Approved RMP identifies allocations and management actions, in addition to goals and objectives, providing for the protection, preservation, or use of each of these disciplines, respectively.

Management decisions in the Approved RMP are made compatible and consistent with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State, and Federal agencies and local Native American tribes to the extent consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of Federal law and regulations applicable to public lands. A 60-day consistency review period of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS was provided to Governor John Hickenlooper beginning March 21, 2014. No response from Governor Hickenlooper was received; therefore, the BLM assumed that the Governor’s Office found no inconsistencies between the Proposed RMP and State of Colorado plans, policies, or programs.

The Approved RMP was prepared in partnership with formal cooperating agencies, the Northwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Committee and the Recreation Subgroup RAC. The partners agreed that all issues and concerns raised by the cooperating agencies over the course of the planning process are adequately resolved in the Approved RMP.

As discussed in more detail below, the BLM appropriately completed consultation requirements with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office and the USFWS regarding potential impacts to cultural resources and federally listed species, respectively. The BLM will continue to work cooperatively and collaboratively with government agencies, as well as with interested groups and individuals and other members of the public, in implementing the land use plan. The BLM will also continue to provide for ongoing consultation with Native American tribal governments and strategies for protecting recognized traditional uses.

Extensive public involvement was provided and considered throughout the development of the Approved RMP and EIS in compliance with the NEPA as described below.

5.0 ROD: Alternatives Considered

In selecting the Approved RMP, the BLM gave careful consideration to a range of management options provided for in four alternatives evaluated in detail in the EIS. Each of the alternatives analyzed in the EIS is summarized below, and a rationale is provided for why they were not selected as the Approved RMP.

5.1 ROD: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE (ALTERNATIVE A)

The no action alternative, often referred to as the existing management situation, is required by the NEPA to serve as a baseline for comparison of the potential environmental effects that could result from each alternative (40 CFR 1502.14 (d)). It would have retained the current management under the 1984 Kremmling Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, subsequent plan amendments, as well as current BLM policy and guidance. Resource uses and values would have received emphasis at previous levels, and previous management strategies would have continued to be applied.

Since the need for the RMP revision includes updating the current resource management plan to address changed resource conditions, evolving demands on resources, and new and revised national-level policy, the no action alternative would not have met the purpose and need for the Approved RMP, nor would the planning issues and management concerns have been resolved.

5.2 ROD: ALTERNATIVE B

The “preferred alternative” per 40 CFR 1505.2(b)—would allocate resources among competing human interest, land uses, and the conservation of natural and cultural resource values. Goals and desired outcomes would focus on environmental, economic, and social outcomes achieved by strategically addressing demands across the landscape. Management direction generally would be broad, to accommodate a variety of values and uses.

Although this Alternative would have accommodated a variety of values and uses, comments on this Alternative in the Draft RMP led to several modifications and the development of the Proposed Alternative.

5.3 ROD: ALTERNATIVE C

Alternative C would emphasize protecting resource values and sustaining or restoring the ecological integrity of habitats for all priority plant, wildlife, and fish species. This would include a specific focus on the habitats necessary for conserving and recovering Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Threatened or Endangered plant and animal species under the Endangered Species Act. Goals and desired outcomes focus on environmental and social outcomes achieved by sustaining relatively unmodified physical landscapes and natural and cultural resource values for current and future generations. The appropriate mix of uses on BLM-managed public lands and mineral estate would be based upon minimizing site-specific types and levels of human disturbances to natural and cultural resources. Management direction generally would be ecologically based. Existing uses would be recognized, but they likely would be limited to ensure the protection of natural and cultural values, including intangible Native American landscape values encompassing plant communities, wildlife, viewsheds, air, and water. Development options for allowable uses such as mineral leasing, locatable mineral development, recreation, and livestock grazing would be contingent upon whether the KFO could meet the essential conditions of natural and heritage resources.

Alternative C would have been unnecessarily restrictive, and would have constrained some critical resource uses in the planning area. Greater limitations and restrictions associated with mineral resource development, visual resource management, and special designations would have further tightened uses on public lands to an excessive degree for meeting the goals and objectives in the Approved RMP.

5.4 ROD: ALTERNATIVE D

For this alternative, the appropriate mix of uses on BLM-managed public lands and mineral estate would be based upon making the most of resources that target social and economic outcomes, while protecting land health. Management direction would recognize and expand existing uses, and would accommodate new uses to the greatest extent possible. The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses (e.g., mineral leasing, locatable mineral development, recreation, communication sites, and livestock grazing) would emphasize maximizing resource production in an environmentally responsible manner while maintaining the basic protection needed to sustain resources.

Alternative D would not have adequately resolved the planning issues and management issues to the satisfaction of the BLM, its cooperating agencies, and other public entities. Important sensitive resource values inventoried on public lands in the planning area would not have been provided the management attention necessary for their continued well-being, preservation, or productivity. In addition this alternative would not have provided for “a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations” (FLPMA Sec. 103 (c)).

5.5 ROD: PROPOSED PLAN

The Proposed Plan is comprised of elements from the four Draft alternatives. This plan represents a modified management alternative from the Preferred Alternative presented in the Draft RMP. It was prepared after receiving comments from the public and cooperating agencies on the Draft RMP. The Proposed Plan provides a framework for the future management direction and appropriate use of the lands and resources administered by the Kremmling Field Office. It best meets the Purpose and Need for developing the RMP and responds to the planning issues.

6.0 ROD: Alternatives Considered But Dismissed From Detailed Analysis

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the NEPA requires Federal agencies to analyze all “reasonable” alternatives that substantially meet the purpose and need for the proposed action. Also, for alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed analysis in an EIS, CEQ regulations require a brief explanation as to why they were eliminated (40 CFR 1502.14).

6.1 ROD: IMPLEMENT EXCLUSIVE USE OR PROTECTION

Alternatives and general management options that proposed exclusive use or maximum development, production, or protection of one resource at the expense of other resources or resource uses were considered but eliminated from further analysis. The FLPMA mandates that the BLM manage the public lands for multiple use and sustained yield. This eliminates exclusive use or exclusive protection alternatives, such as closing all BLM-managed public lands to grazing or oil and gas leasing; or managing public lands only for fish, or wildlife, or wilderness values, to the exclusion of other resource considerations. In addition, resource conditions do not warrant the prohibition of any specific use throughout the Planning Area. Alternatives that would propose eliminating traditional uses, where resource conditions do not justify such measures, are not reasonable. Each alternative considered allows for some level of support, protection, or use of all resources in the Planning Area. In some instances, the alternatives analyzed in detail do include various considerations for eliminating or maximizing individual resource values or uses in specific areas where conflicts exist.

6.2 ROD: DESIGNATE THE ENTIRE PLANNING AREA AS EITHER OPEN OR CLOSED TO OHV USE

Alternatives proposed to designate the entire Planning Area as entirely open to OHV use throughout the year without regard to current travel restrictions, were considered but eliminated from further analysis. Alternatives that proposed to close the entire Planning Area to OHV use were also considered but eliminated from further analysis. The management of public lands necessitates the implementation of restrictions to address travel concerns, recreation demands, and the protection of resource values as described in the BLM Travel and Transportation Management Handbook H-8342-1 and Appendix C, Sections II-D and IV-C of the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook. The KFO concluded that the current level of open, closed, or limited OHV areas would be used as a baseline for comparing alternatives.

6.3 ROD: CONDUCT PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF AN APPROVED PLAN

Alternatives that would focus only on a few issues, or that would otherwise result only in the partial implementation of the final Approved Plan, were considered but eliminated from detailed study. BLM land use planning requirements including the preparation and implementation of an RMP, were established by sections 201 and 202 of the **Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976** (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1711-1712) and the regulations in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1600. These alternatives were therefore dismissed as infeasible or impracticable, or they were excluded due to legal insufficiency under BLM requirements.

6.4 ROD: PLACE A MORATORIUM ON LAND EXCHANGES

An alternative that would place a long-term or permanent moratorium on land exchanges was considered but eliminated from further analysis. The FLPMA at Sec. 206.[43 U.S.C.1716](a) provides for land exchanges where it is determined that the public interest would be served by the exchange. The BLM Land Exchange Handbook H-2200-1 (Chapter 1, Section G.1.a.) guides management towards using land exchanges as an efficient land management tool for consolidating land ownership, as long as individual exchanges are determined to be in the public interest and are done within regulatory constraints.

6.5 ROD: DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

An alternative that would designate additional Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) was considered but eliminated from further analysis because the BLM's authority to establish WSAs ended in 1993 (under Section 603 of the FLPMA). The BLM has the authority under the FLPMA to determine if there are wilderness characteristics outside of existing WSAs. In the Proposed RMP, Appendix H, Wilderness Characteristics Assessments, documents results of the BLM's inventory of these non-WSA public lands in relation to wilderness characteristics. The size of areas and values associated with naturalness and opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are considered along with all other resources and resource uses. The alternatives provide management options for managing public lands with wilderness characteristics, including allocations and actions that protect these values.

6.6 ROD: CLOSE THE ENTIRE PLANNING AREA TO LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Consideration was given to an alternative that proposed eliminating livestock grazing from all BLM-managed public lands in the Planning Area. Any alternative that proposes to make the entire Planning Area unavailable for a specific use, such as livestock grazing, would not meet the Purpose and Need for

the RMP. The NEPA requires that agencies study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives in order to recommended courses of action that involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. No issues or conflicts have been identified during the planning process that would require the complete elimination of grazing in the Planning Area for their resolution. All the action alternatives included reduced grazing to some degree. Alternative C would close six allotments totaling 8,800 acres and reduce overall AUMs, while prioritizing the forage demands of wildlife over livestock. The BLM can also exercise considerable discretion through its grazing regulations, to determine and adjust stocking levels, seasons of use, and grazing management activities, and to allocate forage uses. The analysis of an alternative that would entirely eliminate grazing, therefore, is not necessary.

The FLPMA, in Sections 302(a) and 102(7), requires that public lands be managed on a multiple-use and sustained-yield basis. Livestock grazing is a principal or major use of public lands. Multiple-use does not mean, or require, that all public lands be used for livestock grazing. Complete removal of livestock grazing from the entire Planning Area would be arbitrary and would not meet the principle of multiple use and sustained yield.

Potential conflicts related to livestock grazing may exist between resources and resource uses, and these conflicts were considered while developing the alternatives. The KFO has the discretion to adjust livestock use levels. Reduction, changes to, or elimination of, livestock grazing may be used on specific allotments where livestock grazing is resulting in, or contributing to, unacceptable conflicts with the protection or management, or both, of other resource values or uses. Livestock grazing has been a valid use in the Planning Area for many years, and there continues to be demand for livestock grazing on BLM-managed lands in the Planning Area. For these reasons, a No Grazing Alternative for the entire Planning Area has been eliminated from further consideration in this planning process.

6.7 ROD: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ALTERNATIVE

The BLM published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on December 9, 2011, initiating a range-wide planning process that would analyze the National Technical Team Report Alternative in detail. The BLM's Northwest Colorado District Office released the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on August 16, 2013, and is in the process of completing a Proposed Plan Amendment and Final EIS that will consider and analyze this alternative in detail, which will address BLM-administered public lands in the Kremmling Field Office Planning Area. The Greater Sage-Grouse NTT Report Alternative, therefore, has been considered but eliminated from detailed analysis for this planning process.

6.8 ROD: PHASED OIL AND GAS LEASING

Phased oil and gas leasing was not addressed in the Proposed RMP after considering past, current and predicted future leasing interest. The majority of federal mineral estate in the Planning Area is characterized as low or no potential for oil and gas development and most of the high potential areas have already been leased. In addition, leasing activity in the Planning Area has been relatively low and sporadic and most fluid mineral development in the Planning Area over the past five years has been concentrated in Jackson County on non-federal lands. An MLP was included in the Proposed RMP and includes several layers of resource and resource use protections that more adequately address the resource concerns than phased oil and gas leasing.

7.0 ROD: Planning Process

The BLM used a multi-step process to develop the Approved RMP in compliance with the NEPA and the FLPMA. While the FLPMA provides a charter for the BLM's management of public lands, the NEPA requires Federal agencies to prepare a detailed EIS to evaluate the environmental consequences of major Federal actions. Since approval of an RMP is considered by regulation to be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, an EIS was required as part of this planning process.

A Notice of Intent was published in the *Federal Register* on March 2, 2007, notifying the public of the BLM's intent to prepare an EIS for the RMP revision and initiating a 60-day public scoping period. Following scoping, the BLM developed an appropriate range of management options, the alternatives presented above, to address and resolve the planning issues identified by the public, local, State and tribal governments, and other Federal agencies. An analysis was then prepared that evaluated the environmental impacts of the alternatives, and released to the public as the Draft Kremmling RMP/EIS on September 1, 2011, for a 90-day public review and comment period. During the public review and comment period, the KFO received over 2,000 written comments. Each submission was carefully reviewed to identify substantive comments. In accordance with CEQ regulations, all substantive comments must be addressed in the Final EIS (40 CFR 1503.4). While certain criteria were used as a guide for the evaluation of comments submitted by the public, the KFO made every effort in its comment analysis to be inclusive so that the public would be provided the greatest opportunity to have their comments acknowledged and considered as part of the Final EIS. Exclusive of the form letters, there were 361 distinct written submittals. Out of these 361 submissions, over 1,400 distinct comments were identified for categorization and consideration. Responses to public comments can be found in Volume 3, Chapter 5 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and can be downloaded at <http://www.blm.gov/co/kfo>.

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS was then prepared, which provided specific responses to each substantive comment, many of which led to refinements to the Proposed RMP and the analysis of potential impacts.

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS was released on March 21, 2014, for a 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's Consistency Review, the results of which are discussed below.

8.0 ROD: Consultation and Coordination

8.1 ROD: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Throughout the development of the Approved RMP, formal and informal efforts were made by the KFO to involve Native American tribes, other Federal agencies, State and local governments, organizations and interest groups, and other members of the public to ensure that all governmental and public concerns were considered and incorporated into the planning process and that the most appropriate information had been gathered and used for the analyses in the EIS.

With the initiation of public scoping in March 2007, the KFO held a series of public scoping meetings to engage the public and solicit input on planning issues and alternatives. The meetings were held in Kremmling, Granby, and Walden, Colorado. BLM staff participated in numerous other meetings with local governments, interested groups, and other parties throughout the planning process to share

information and discuss the issues and concerns relevant to the planning process. For example, meetings were held with the Colorado Wilderness Alliance, Turquoise Trail Preservation Trust, San Pedro Neighborhood Association, Colorado Gold Miners Association, Colorado Trials Association, members of the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO), and other groups. Fraser Valley Partnership for Trails, Headwaters Trails Alliance, the Upper Colorado River Stakeholder Group and COHVCO participated in a Sub-RAC group as a member of the public.

At each milestone of the planning process, notices were mailed to an extensive list of nearly 1,000 interested parties and press releases were issued broadly to various media outlets. Also, to facilitate continuous communication with interested parties, the BLM established a webpage for the planning effort (http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/rmp/kfo-gsfo.html). After releasing the Draft RMP, additional open house meetings were held in Granby, Walden and Kremmling, Colorado for the purpose of providing the public an opportunity to interact with BLM Resource Staff regarding the Draft RMP/EIS.

8.2 ROD: COOPERATING AGENCIES

As indicated above, the KFO enjoyed the effective cooperation of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Town of Kremmling, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Grand, Jackson, Eagle, Larimer and Summit counties as formal cooperating agencies. Under the provisions of the NEPA, these government entities have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to potential impacts (40 CFR 1506.1). These cooperators provided valuable input during periodic meetings and through detailed correspondence that contributed substantially to the quality of the EIS and the selection of the Approved RMP.

8.3 ROD: NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Five tribes have interest in lands located within the Planning Area. These include the Northern Arapaho, Eastern Shoshone, Ute Mountain Ute, Southern Ute, and Northern Ute. As part of the scoping process, KFO staff contacted these tribes to initiate consultations in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and to extend an invitation to participate in the planning process. A scoping presentation was made at the Southern Ute Indian Tribal headquarters to discuss potential RMP issues and the planning schedule.

The KFO intends to continue consultation with Native American tribes on a government-to-government basis throughout implementation of the Approved RMP. The KFO will continue to seek opportunities to develop cooperative management partnerships with tribes where appropriate.

8.4 ROD: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION

The BLM made every effort to contact all potentially interested agencies or governments to ensure that they are aware of the BLM's RMP revision process. A list of all agencies contacted is provided in Section 1.11.3 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

In accordance with the Colorado Protocol Agreement and the BLM National Programmatic Agreement, the BLM notified the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the undertaking of the integrated planning and the NEPA process. In 2006, the BLM conferred with SHPO regarding the extent of the area of potential effect, data sources, and appropriate tribal consultation. The BLM solicited comments from the SHPO throughout the process, and, in accordance with the BLM National

Programmatic Agreement and Colorado Protocol, will continue to consult about undertakings to implement the Approved RMP.

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 require consultation with the USFWS prior to the initiation of any BLM project that has potential to affect any federally listed special status species or its habitat. Since approval of an RMP is considered a major Federal action, consultation with USFWS was initiated by the KFO with the submission of a biological assessment (BA) to USFWS in February of 2013 before the release of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The BLM submitted the BA, a stand-alone document containing an assessment of potential impacts to special status species to the USFWS at the time the Draft RMP/EIS was published and asked for concurrence on its findings. The species included in this BA include:

- four endangered fish species in the upper Colorado River system: Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), and bony tail (*Gila elegans*);
- five federally listed species downstream in the Plate River system: whooping crane (*Grus americana*), least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), and the *Platanthera praeclara* (western prairie fringed orchid).
- three plant species found within the KFO: *Phacelia formosula* (North Park phacelia), *Astragalus osterhoutii* (Osterhout milkvetch), and *Penstemon penlandii* (Penland beardtongue).
- Canada lynx,
- Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), and
- Greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*).

By memorandum dated June 25, 2013, USFWS provided their Final Biological Opinion and concurrence with the BLM's determination in the BA of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect." The BA and associated correspondence is a part of Volume 3 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

8.5 ROD: UPPER COLORADO RIVER WILD AND SCENIC STAKEHOLDER GROUP

In February 2011, the BLM and USFS received a proposal from the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic stakeholder group. This group's management plan provided a management alternative for Colorado River Segments 4, 5, 6, and 7. Colorado River Segments 4 and 5 are located within the KFO planning area and are addressed in this RMP effort. Colorado River Segments 6 and 7 are located within the CRVFO planning area and are addressed in the CRVFO RMP effort. The Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic stakeholder group represents a diverse range of interests, including local governments, East Slope and West Slope water user organizations, environmental and recreation organizations, and private landowners. The stakeholder group has worked together since 2008 to develop their management plan. The goal of their plan is to protect the ORVs identified in the BLM and USFS Eligibility Reports for Segments 4 through 7 of the Upper Colorado River, while simultaneously providing certainty and flexibility for the water users who rely upon diversions from the Upper Colorado River.

The stakeholder group asked the BLM to consider their plan as part of its RMP planning process. The intent was to use cooperative management strategies in multiple arenas, including flow management, water quality management, fisheries and recreation management, and responding to new water development projects. The stakeholder group developed their plan in consultation with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, CPW, and BOR. The BLM and USFS accepted this plan for impact analysis as part of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS. That impact analysis appeared under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Alternative B-2 in Chapter 4 of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS. The entire text of the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan was provided for public review and comment in Appendix Q of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS.

Between the Draft RMP/Draft EIS and Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the stakeholder group continued to develop more details for portions of the plan that were broadly stated in the original submission to the BLM and USFS. In addition, the stakeholder group began to implement studies that would further the group's understanding of the condition and trends of the ORVs, and that would examine potential relationships between flow rates, water quality, and the ORVs. The stakeholder group also responded to the BLM and USFS regarding concerns raised in public comments and by agency staff.

The Executive Summary of the Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Report was included in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS as Appendix C. The Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Report (May 2013) was published with this Proposed RMP/Final EIS as Appendix C. The Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Report contains a discussion of why the BLM and USFS decided to rely upon the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan (Appendix Q in the Proposed RMP), in concert with BLM land management authorities, to protect the free-flowing nature, ORVs, classification, and water quality of Colorado River Segments 4 and 5. The agency decision was based on BLM and USFS review of (1) whether the Upper Colorado River Stakeholder Group Management Plan would enable the agencies to meet their legal responsibilities under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, (2) public comments on the Upper Colorado River Stakeholder Group Management Plan, and (3) which management approach would be most likely to maintain and enhance the ORVs.

9.0 ROD: Proposed RMP Protest Resolution

Pursuant to the BLM's planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2, any person who participated in the planning process for the Kremmling RMP and has an interest that may be adversely affected by the planning decisions may protest proposed planning decisions within 30 days from the date the Notice of Availability of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS is published in the *Federal Register*. Seventeen letters of protest, summarized below, were received by the BLM's Washington Office, the office responsible for resolving the protests on behalf of the BLM Director. Of the 17 protesters, 12 were determined to have standing as participants in the planning process.

Concerns raised by protestors included impacts to valid and existing rights, the adequacy of proposed stipulations for oil and gas, the use of best available science for protection of sagebrush habitat and sagebrush dependent species, the adequacy of assumptions for economic analysis of recreation, the adequacy of the inventory for wilderness characteristics and travel decisions in the Strawberry SRMA.

The BLM Director’s decisions on the protests are summarized in the “Director’s Protest Resolution Report, Kremmling Resource Management Plan,” available on the BLM website at: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning_overview/protest_resolution/protestreports.html.

In summary, the Director concluded that the BLM Colorado State Director followed the applicable laws, regulations, and policies and considered all relevant resource information and public input in developing the Proposed RMP. Each protesting party was notified in writing of the Director’s findings and the disposition of their protests. The BLM Director resolved the protests without making significant changes to the Proposed RMP, though minor clarifications were made and have been explained in the following section.

10.0 ROD: Corrections and Modifications to the Proposed RMP

The following minor corrections and modifications have been included in the Approved RMP or made to the Proposed RMP/Final EIS to address errors and protest issues. Sections below reference the Proposed RMP/Final EIS unless otherwise noted.

10.1 ROD: KREMMLING ACEC

Throughout the documents, the Kremmling Potential Conservation Area (PCA) ACEC should have been referred to as simply the Kremmling ACEC.

10.2 ROD: TRANSPORTATION MAPS

In the transportation maps, Strawberry Zones 1 and 2 were reversed in their labeling. The corrected map is posted with the Proposed RMP at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/rmp/kfo-gsfo/KFO_PRMP_FEIS.html

10.3 ROD: TABLE 2.1

In Table 2-1: Comparative Summary of Alternatives, Strawberry SRMA should not have bullets for motorcycle riding and OHV riding in Alternative C and the Proposed Plan.

10.4 ROD: AIR QUALITY DECISIONS

In Table 2-2: Descriptions of the Proposed Resource Management Plan and the Alternatives from the Draft Resource Management Plan the following management actions have been modified to be consistent with the regulations and supporting analysis:

- Reduce VOC emissions from new glycol dehydrator units by achieving at least 95 percent control of total VOC emissions from the flash tank and reboiler vents.
- Reduce VOC emissions from new storage tanks by achieving at least 90 percent control of total VOC emissions.

These management actions have been modified and combined to read:

- Reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants associated with federal oil and gas wells by requiring that operators achieve the minimum control required on glycol dehydrators and storage vessel and tank vents to comply with CDPHE Regulation Number 7, 5 CCR 1001-9, COGCC Rule 805, and the New Source Performance Standards for Crude Oil

and Natural Gas Production at 40 CFR Part 63 subpart OOOO and NESHAPs for Oil and Natural Gas Production at 40 CFR Part 63 subparts HH and HHH.

The BLM has the flexibility at the implementation level to apply additional mitigation measures as warranted by the analysis. The analysis in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS does not warrant additional restrictions at this time.

The following management action as also been clarified as noted to specify when the requirement would apply:

- Require Operators, as a COA, to implement dust abatement measures, as needed, in order to prevent at least 50 percent fugitive dust from vehicular traffic, equipment operations, or wind events. The Authorized Officer may direct an operator to change the level, and type, of treatment (watering or application of various dust agents, surfactants, and road-surfacing material) if dust abatement measures are observed to be insufficient to prevent fugitive dust. In addition, require fugitive dust control plans *in conjunction with oil and gas Master Development Plans (MDPs)*.

10.5 ROD: APPENDICES B AND N

Wording, grammar, and table marking clarifications have been made to Appendices B and N and are included as part of the Approved RMP.

10.6 ROD: APPENDIX P

The appendix has been updated to include the most up to date version of the Colorado Air Resources Protection Protocol (CARRP).

10.7 ROD: APPENDICES GENERAL

Appendices have been updated from the Proposed RMP/Final EIS to reflect the final decisions and conclusion of the planning process. The modifications will assist the BLM in implementation of the goals, objectives and management decisions included in the Approved RMP.

10.8 ROD: CLARIFICATION OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SUITABILITY DECISIONS

In Chapter 2 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the BLM and USFS decided to rely upon on an alternative river management plan proposed by the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group for Colorado River Segments 4 and 5 (BLM). The stakeholder group sent a letter to BLM and USFS dated May 1, 2014, requesting clarification of the BLM and USFS suitability decisions. The BLM and USFS provide the following clarifications for these river segments:

1. Suitability determinations these segments have been deferred. The “deferred” status applies even though there may be locations in the text of the planning documents that erroneously referred to these segments as “suitable” after the decision is made to rely upon the stakeholder plan. The “deferred” status applies even though there may be locations in the planning documents that did not clearly identify Alternative B-2 as the Proposed Plan.
2. Even though a suitability determination has been deferred, the river segments will remain under “eligible” status.

3. The BLM and USFS will make a suitability determination for these stream segments only under the following conditions:
 - The BLM and USFS, after consulting with the stakeholder group, conclude that the stakeholder group plan is not sufficiently protecting free-flowing condition, outstanding remarkable values (ORVs) and water quality sufficient to maintain those values in the river segments to comply with USFS and BLM policy regarding eligible rivers; or
 - The stakeholder group plan is terminated by the members of the stakeholder group.
4. If BLM and USFS conclude that a suitability determination is required under the conditions above, the suitability determination will be made through a standard land use plan amendment process. The land use plan amendment process will allow members of the public and the stakeholder group to provide comment and feedback to the BLM and USFS on the merits of suitability, including comments expressing opposition to or support of a finding of suitability.

10.9 ROD: CLARIFICATION ON HOW THE BLM AND USFS INTEND TO INTERACT WITH THE STAKEHOLDER GROUP AND EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER WILD AND SCENIC STAKEHOLDER GROUP MANAGEMENT PLAN

The stakeholder group sent a letter to the BLM and USFS dated May 1, 2014, that strongly supported BLM's decision to adopt the stakeholder plan, but that also requested clarification of how the BLM and USFS intend to interact with the stakeholder group and evaluate the success of the stakeholder plan. The BLM and USFS set forth procedures for interacting with the stakeholder and evaluating the success of the stakeholder plan as part of the Wild Scenic Rivers Suitability Report. The following clarifications are made to the procedures outlined in the suitability report:

1. The Suitability Report contains a provision for “certification” of the stakeholders’ intent to make contributions to the Endowment Fund within six months of the report. [See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-55, 3-68, 3-120, 3-133, 8-20, and 8-32]. The BLM and USFS clarify that this provision would be satisfied by execution of a “Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan” (SG MOU) by a sufficient number of entities that all interest groups specified in the stakeholder plan would be represented.
2. The Suitability Report states that the Endowment Fund will be “used exclusively for projects and studies that protect and enhance the ORVs.” [See p. 3-51 and p. 3- 55]. The BLM and USFS clarify that the endowment fund will be used in a manner consistent with the limitations on use contained in Sections VIII.A.3 and VIII.A.4 of the stakeholder plan, which state that the endowment fund will be used for projects and associated efforts which will further the preservation, protection, or enhancement of the ORVs.
3. The Suitability Report refers to development of an ORV indicator for the botanical ORV in Colorado River Segment 6. [See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-54, 3-67, 3-119, 3-132, 8-19, and 8-31]. The BLM and USFS clarify that the stakeholder group annual monitoring report should address how the stakeholder group is proceeding to periodically assess and confirm that the management measures under the stakeholder plan, in coordination with the BLM and USFS other land management actions, are protective of the botanical and other ORVs.
4. The Suitability Report and Colorado River Valley Field Office Proposed RMP/Final EIS refers to the stakeholder group development of cooperative measures that

“comprehensively address the status and trends of the ORVs present within Glenwood Canyon” that “are supported and implemented by major water users within the Eagle River watershed, such as City of Aurora, Colorado Springs Utilities, and other participants in the Eagle River MOU.” [See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-55, 3-68, 3-120, 3-133, 8-20, 8-32; Colorado River Valley Field Office Proposed RMP/Final EIS, p. 4-705]. The BLM and USFS clarify that the long term measures and cooperative measures process should be implemented within the Eagle River watershed consistent with the requirements of the stakeholder group plan, and the status and trends in Segment 7 will be addressed in the stakeholder group annual report to the BLM and USFS.

5. The documents establish an interdisciplinary team to conduct an annual review to determine progress and concerns related to Plan effectiveness. The BLM and USFS clarify that the agencies envision this as an interactive process whereby the interdisciplinary team will work with the stakeholder group and would bring any preliminary concerns to the stakeholder group before finalizing their recommendations to BLM and USFS management.
6. The Suitability Report states that the stakeholder group plan contains provisions for elevating certain issues to BLM and USFS. [See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-51, 3-64, 3-116, 3-129, and 8-15]. The BLM and USFS clarify that the agencies will participate as non-voting members of the stakeholder group plan’s governance committee and will utilize that forum to resolve issues that are critical to the success of the stakeholder plan.
7. The Suitability Report describes the “resource guides” utilized by the stakeholder group as establishing ranges for factors such as flow rates, water temperature, and water quality that are generally thought to be supportive of maintenance of the ORVs (See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-50, 3-63, 3-115, 3-128, 8-15, and 8-27). The BLM and USFS clarify that their understanding of the Resource Guides is that the “resource guides” establish ranges for factors such as flow rates, water temperature, and water quality that serve as one source of information for management of the ORVs under the stakeholder plan.

11.0 ROD: Implementation Decisions & Administrative Actions

11.1 ROD: IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions (or activity-level decisions) are management actions tied to a specific location that implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions generally constitute the BLM’s final approval, allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed and require appropriate site-specific planning and NEPA analysis. Such decisions may be incorporated into implementation plans (activity or project plans) or may exist as stand-alone decisions.

Unlike land use plan decisions, implementation decisions are not subject to protest under the planning regulations. Instead, implementation decisions are subject to various administrative remedies, particularly appeals to the IBLA (under 43 CFR, 4.410). Where implementation decisions are made as part of the land use planning process, they are still subject to the appeals process or other administrative review, as prescribed by the specific resource program regulations after the BLM resolves the protests to land use plan decisions and decides to adopt the management plan. For example, the designation of a specific

travel route is an implementation level decision, rather than a land use plan decision; consequently, individual route designations are subject to a separate appeals process.

For the Kremmling RMP, route designations constitute the only implementation-level decisions that would be subject to appeal. These implementation level decisions can be found in Appendix A of this document and the RMP Transportation Map Book in Appendix A of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. They are also summarized in the Approved RMP in section 2.2.4 (Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management) and in section 2.2.9 (Transportation System Management). Route designations through this effort will be evaluated for consistency with the Greater Sage Grouse amendment, when final, as part of the Greater Sage Grouse plan implementation strategy, and if needed, additional NEPA will occur, with public involvement, to address any inconsistencies.

11.2 ROD: APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are not subject to protest under the planning regulations. However, any party adversely affected by an implementation decision may appeal such a decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals after the ROD is signed. The following procedures describe the appeal process for the implementation decisions, which will be available for appeal immediately upon public release of this ROD/Approved RMP.

Any party adversely affected by an implementation decision may appeal within 30 days of receipt of this decision in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Part 4.4. The appeal must include a statement of reasons or file a separate statement of reasons, which must be filed within 30 days of filing the appeal. The appeal must state if a stay of the decision is being requested in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21 and must be filed with the Kremmling Field Manager at the following address:

Bureau of Land Management
Field Manager, Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Ave
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, Colorado, 80459

A copy of the appeal, statement of reasons, and all other supporting documents shall be sent to the Regional Solicitor at the following address:

Regional Solicitor
Rocky Mountain Region
United States Department of the Interior
755 Parfet Street, Suite 151
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

If the statement of reasons is filed separately, it must be sent to the following address:

United States Department of the Interior Office of Hearings and Appeals
Interior Board of Land Appeals
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Request for Stay

Any party wishing to file a request for stay pending the outcome of an appeal of one or more implementation decisions must show sufficient justification based on the following standards under 43 CFR 4.21:

- The relative harm to the party if the stay is granted or denied
- The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits of the stay
- The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted
- Whether the public interest favors granting the stay

As previously noted, the request for stay must be filed with the BLM Field Manager at the address listed above.

11.3 ROD: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Although the BLM's intent and commitment to accomplish administrative actions is generally addressed in an EIS, such activities are not management decisions. Administrative actions are day-to-day activities conducted by the BLM, often required by FLPMA, but may not require NEPA analysis or a written decision by a responsible official. Examples of administrative actions include mapping, surveying, conducting inventory or monitoring, scientific research, other studies, partnering and collaborating with partners, developing educational materials, and working with local communities or interest groups.

12.0 ROD: Plan Evaluation and Maintenance

12.1 ROD: EVALUATION

In accordance with the BLM's *Land Use Planning Handbook* (H-1601-1), the Approved RMP will be evaluated periodically, typically every five years, to determine whether the land use plan decisions and the NEPA analysis are still valid and whether the plan is being implemented effectively. More specifically, the RMP will be evaluated to determine if (1) the decisions remain relevant to current issues, (2) the decisions are effective in achieving or making progress toward achieving the desired outcomes specified in the plan, (3) any decisions are in need of revision, (4) any decisions that needs to be dropped from further considerations, and (5) any areas requiring new decisions.

In making these determinations, the evaluation will consider whether mitigation measures are satisfactory, whether there are significant changes in the related plans of other entities, and whether there is significant new information. In addition to periodic evaluations, an RMP evaluation will be completed prior to any major amendments or revisions. Special evaluations may also be required to review unexpected management actions or significant changes in the related plans of Native American tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments, or to evaluate legislation or litigation that has the potential to trigger an amendment or revision to the RMP. Evaluations may identify resource needs and means for correcting deficiencies and addressing issues through plan maintenance, amendments, or revisions. They should also identify where new and emerging issues and other values have surfaced.

12.2 ROD: MAINTENANCE

Land use plan decisions and supporting components may be maintained to reflect minor changes in data, per the BLM regulation at 43 CFR 1610.5-4. Maintenance is limited to further refining, documenting, or clarifying a previously Approved RMP decision. Maintenance must not expand the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change the terms, conditions, and decisions of the Approved RMP.

Maintenance actions may include corrections to minor data or mapping errors in the RMP after the decisions have been made. Maintenance may also include adjustments to delineated features such as boundaries or polygons to reflect improved or changed data on resources. For example, adjusting the parameters of special status species habitat based on new inventory information or adjusting fire management polygons due to changes in fuel source or urban interface patterns would be reasonable maintenance actions. Maintenance may be especially necessary to update acreage figures presented throughout the RMP. Acreages are based on geographical information system (GIS) data, which is subject to constant refinement. Any potential discrepancies within the acreage figures or future refinements in the data may be corrected or updated in the RMP through plan maintenance.

13.0 ROD: Availability of the Kremmling RMP

Electronic copies of the Approved RMP are available by request at the Kremmling Field Office at 2103 E. Park Ave. in Kremmling, Colorado, or at the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield St., Lakewood, Colorado. The Approved RMP is also available online at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/kfo.html>.

14.0 ROD: Approval

Field Office Manager Recommendation

Having considered a full range of alternatives, associated impacts, and public and agency input, I recommend the adoption and implementation of the Kremmling Approved Resource Management Plan.

Recommended:



Stephanie Odell
Field Manager
Kremmling Field Office

JUN 19 2015

Date

District Manager Concurrence

I concur with the adoption and implementation of the Kremmling Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan.

Concurrence:



Joseph F. Meyer
District Manager
Northwest District Office

JUN 19 2015

Date

State Director Approval

In consideration of the foregoing, I approve the Kremmling Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan.

Approved:



Ruth L. Welch
Colorado State Director

JUN 19 2015

Date

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KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Need for Plan

The purpose of the Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP) is to ensure that the public lands in the Planning Area are managed according to the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, all other applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines; and with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. This will be accomplished by following the identified goals and desired outcomes and the allowable uses (land use allocations) and management actions necessary to achieve the desired outcomes for resources and resource uses. The Approved RMP considered new data; addresses land use issues and conflicts; and specifies where, and under what circumstances, specific activities would be allowed on BLM-managed public lands in the Planning Area. The Approved RMP generally does not describe how specific programs or projects would be implemented or prioritized; most decisions would be deferred to, and analyzed within, more detailed implementation-level planning.

This Kremmling Approved RMP revises the existing RMP for the Kremmling Field Office (KFO) [the Kremmling RMP (BLM 1984b)]. RMP revisions are necessary if monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, or changes in circumstances indicate that decisions for an entire RMP, or a major portion of an RMP, no longer serve as a useful guide for management. New issues and higher levels of controversy regarding issues that have arisen since the original plan was prepared in the 1980s have led to the need to revise the 1984 Kremmling RMP. This Approved RMP has been developed to provide updated management direction to guide natural and cultural resource management activities in the Decision Area.

1.2 Scope of Plan

The BLM prepares land use plans to ensure that the public lands are managed in accordance with the FLPMA under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Management decisions in the RMP apply only to the surface and subsurface estates administered by the BLM (described below) and recognize all valid existing rights.

As required by the FLPMA, the BLM must manage public lands “in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use . . . and in a manner which recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands . . .” (43 U.S.C. 1702).

Management decisions in the Kremmling RMP are made compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State, and Federal agencies and local Native American tribes to the extent consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of Federal law and regulations applicable to public lands. The BLM will work cooperatively and collaboratively with government agencies, interested groups and individuals, and other members of the public in implementing the land use plan, and will continue to provide for ongoing consultation with Native American tribal governments and strategies for protecting recognized traditional uses.

Types of Planning Decisions

The land use planning decisions contained in the Kremmling RMP fall into two categories: (1) desired outcomes, or goals and objectives, and (2) allowable uses, actions, and restrictions on uses anticipated to achieve desired outcomes.

1. Desired outcomes

Land use plans identify desired outcomes expressed in terms of specific goals and objectives. Goals and objectives are established to direct the BLM's actions towards most effectively meeting legal mandates, regulatory responsibilities, departmental and agency policy, and various guidances and to achieve important resource needs.

Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes and are usually not quantifiable.

Objectives identify specific desired outcomes for resources. They are usually quantifiable and measurable and may have established timeframes for achievement.

2. Allowable uses and management actions anticipated to achieve desired allocations

Allowable uses

Land use plans identify allowable uses (referred throughout the RMP as *allocations*) that are allowable, restricted, or prohibited on the public lands and mineral estate. These allocations identify land and/or subsurface mineral interests where uses are allowed, including any conditions or limitations that may be necessary to meet goals and objectives. Land use plans also identify lands where specific uses are excluded to protect resource values. Certain lands may be open or closed to specific uses based on legislative, regulatory, or policy requirements or criteria to protect sensitive resource values.

Management actions

Land use plans also identify the actions anticipated to achieve desired outcomes, including actions to maintain, restore, or improve land health. These actions include proactive measures as well as measures or criteria applied to guide day-to-day activities occurring on public lands.

Management actions may include the establishment of administrative designations such as areas of critical environmental concern, special recreation management areas, areas recommend for withdrawals, land tenure adjustments, and recommend or make findings of suitability for congressional designations.

Restrictions on uses

Restrictions on uses apply to resource uses including oil and gas leasing. Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations are constraints on surface occupancy and/or use, and they are either major (No Surface Occupancy – NSOs) or moderate (Controlled Surface Use – CSUs and/or Timing Limitations – TLs) and are explained in detail in Appendix B.

1.3 Planning Area

The planning area is the area encompassing the public lands administered by the Kremmling Field Office that are subject to the approved RMP and includes approximately 3.1 million acres of mixed ownership in north central Colorado. It includes lands within Jackson, Grand, and Summit counties in their entirety, and portions of Eagle, Larimer, and Routt counties. The planning area provides a regional context for management decisions and establishes a framework for collaborative planning with various governmental or tribal jurisdictions and the public.

The decisions contained in the RMP affect approximately 377,900 acres of public surface estate and approximately 653,500 acres of Federal subsurface minerals managed by the BLM. No RMP decisions change existing rights or authority of private land owners or other surface management agencies.

Figure 1-1 shows the location of the planning area and its location within Colorado.

Figure 1-1 Map - Location of the Planning Area

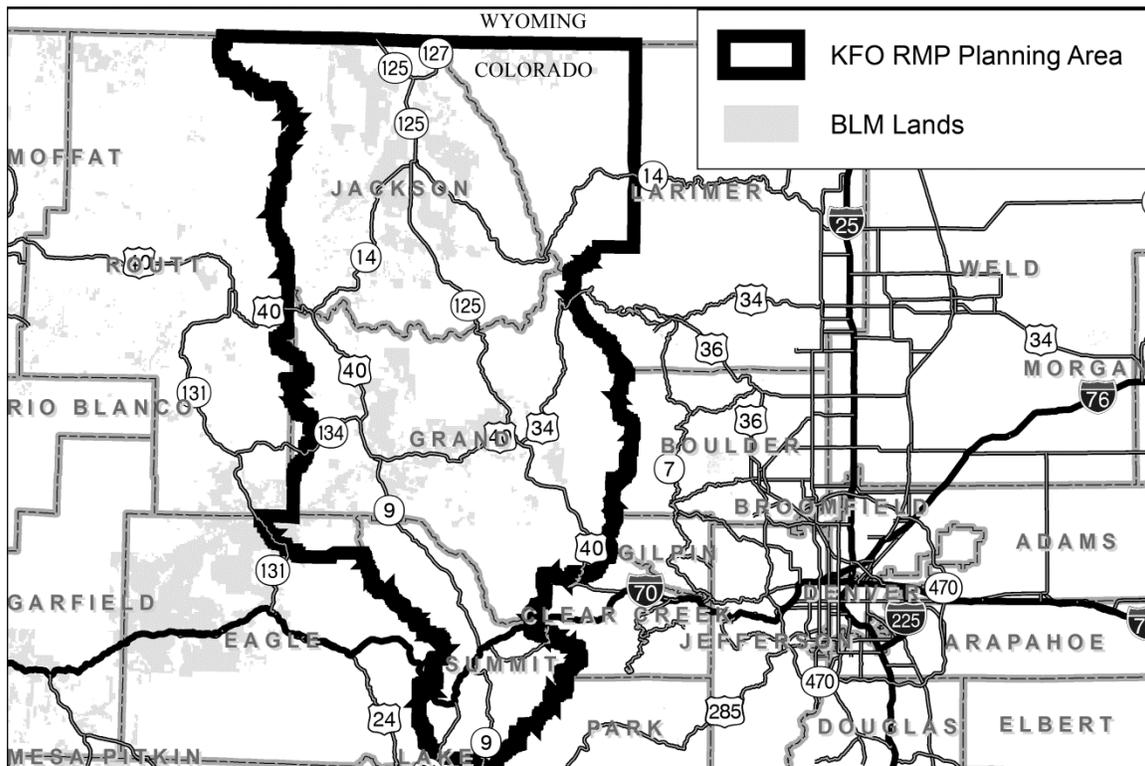


Table 1-1 provides the acreage of Federal, State, tribal, and private surface and federal minerals acres in the planning area.

The acreage figures presented throughout the RMP are based on geographical information system (GIS) data which is subject to constant refinement. Any potential discrepancies within the acreage figures or future refinements in the data may be corrected or updated in the RMP through plan maintenance, as provided for in the BLM regulation at 43 CFR 1610.5-4.

Table 1-1 Land and Mineral Ownership within the Planning Area

Surface Land Owner or Manager	Surface Acres*	Federal Mineral Acres*
BLM	377,900	377,900
Private	851,500	275,600
U.S. Forest Service	1,572,300	1,509,500
State/Colorado Parks and Wildlife	116,578	18,700
State Forest	73,600	44
National Park Service	97,500	96,000
National Wildlife Refuge	25,700	8,000
Total area (Kremmling planning area)	3,115,000	2,285,700

*Acreages are approximate

1.4 Corrections and Modifications to the Proposed RMP

The following minor corrections and modifications have been included in the Approved RMP or made to the Proposed RMP/Final EIS to address errors and protest issues. Sections below reference the Proposed RMP/Final EIS unless otherwise noted.

1.4.1 KREMMLING ACEC

Throughout the documents, the Kremmling Potential Conservation Area (PCA) ACEC should have been referred to as simply the Kremmling ACEC.

1.4.2 TRANSPORTATION MAPS

In the transportation maps, Strawberry Zones 1 and 2 were reversed in their labeling. The corrected map is posted with the Proposed RMP at

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/rmp/kfo-gsfo/KFO_PRMP_FEIS.html

1.4.3 TABLE 2.1

In Table 2-1: Comparative Summary of Alternatives, Strawberry SRMA should not have bullets for motorcycle riding and OHV riding in Alternative C and the Proposed Plan.

1.4.4 APPENDIX B

In Table B-1: Summary of Areas Closed to Oil and Gas Leasing, the Protected Resource title of “Oil and Gas” should have instead read “Lands and Realty.” That Lands and Realty section should have included a line for Municipal Boundaries which was analyzed under the Proposed Plan in the PRMP, Chapter 2 Table 2-2. Also in this table, under Recreation and Visitor Services, it should have read “Particular Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) as specifically described in Chapter 2 Table 2-2”. In

relation to this, in Table B-7, it would have been clearer to describe that the SRMAs listed, were also proposed for No Leasing under the Proposed Plan, as in Table 2-2.

In Table B-3: Summary of Controlled Surface Use Stipulations Applicable to Oil and Gas Leasing, there should have been a star under the PRMP column for the third mention of CO-CSU-3 under Fish and Wildlife, Common to All Fisheries.

In order to match Chapter 2, Table 2-2 there should have been a star under the PRMP Column within Appendix B, Table B-5: Summary of Lease Notices Applicable to Oil and Gas Leasing for all of the following:

- K-NSO-3 National Trail Corridors;
- K-NSO-4 Watchable Wildlife Areas;
- CO-LN-3 Special Status Species plants and animals;
- CO-NSO-21 Recreation and visitor resources (wildlife areas and refuges);
- CO-CSU-4 Intermittent and ephemeral streams;

Also in Table B-5, CO-LN-1, Migratory Bird nesting habitat should only have been mentioned once under Fish and Wildlife, Migratory Birds.

Table 12 in Appendix B should have been labeled Table B-12. Within its description of K-NSO-1 Core Wildlife Areas, should have included the list of Core Wildlife Areas as shown in Chapter 2, Table 2-2 page 2-104.

For all mentions of CO-NSO-1 Fragile Soils or Slopes Greater Than 40 Percent, the statement bulleted “2” should have finished with “greater than 0.32” instead of “less than 0.32” to match the analysis done.

1.4.5 APPENDIX N

In Appendix N, Hurd Peak and Strawberry Roads seasonal road closure should be December 15 – June 1. It is correct in Table 2-2, page 2-292.

Also in Appendix N, page N-33, under Special Recreation Permits, the document was published as: "Limit event permits to two events per year with a maximum of 200 participants (not including spectators) per event" and it should be "Limit Class III event permits to two events per year with a maximum of 200 participants (not including spectators) per event."

1.4.5 CLARIFICATION OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SUITABILITY DECISIONS

In Chapter 2 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the BLM and USFS decided to rely upon on an alternative river management plan proposed by the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group for Colorado River Segments 4 and 5 (BLM). The stakeholder group sent a letter to BLM and USFS dated May 1, 2014, requesting clarification of the BLM and USFS suitability decisions. The BLM and USFS provide the following clarifications for these river segments:

1. Suitability determinations these segments have been deferred. The “deferred” status applies even though there may be locations in the text of the planning documents that erroneously referred to these segments as “suitable” after the decision is made to rely upon the stakeholder plan. The

“deferred” status applies even though there may be locations in the planning documents that did not clearly identify Alternative B-2 as the Proposed Plan.

2. Even though a suitability determination has been deferred, the river segments will remain under “eligible” status.
3. The BLM and USFS will make a suitability determination for these stream segments only under the following conditions:
 - The BLM and USFS, after consulting with the stakeholder group, conclude that the stakeholder group plan is not sufficiently protecting free-flowing condition, outstanding remarkable values (ORVs) and water quality sufficient to maintain those values in the river segments to comply with USFS and BLM policy regarding eligible rivers; or
 - The stakeholder group plan is terminated by the members of the stakeholder group.
4. If BLM and USFS conclude that a suitability determination is required under the conditions above, the suitability determination will be made through a standard land use plan amendment process. The land use plan amendment process will allow members of the public and the stakeholder group to provide comment and feedback to the BLM and USFS on the merits of suitability, including comments expressing opposition to or support of a finding of suitability.

1.4.6 CLARIFICATION ON HOW THE BLM AND USFS INTEND TO INTERACT WITH THE STAKEHOLDER GROUP AND EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER WILD AND SCENIC STAKEHOLDER GROUP MANAGEMENT PLAN

The stakeholder group sent a letter to the BLM and USFS dated May 1, 2014, that strongly supported BLM’s decision to adopt the stakeholder plan, but that also requested clarification of how the BLM and USFS intend to interact with the stakeholder group and evaluate the success of the stakeholder plan. The BLM and USFS set forth procedures for interacting with the stakeholder and evaluating the success of the stakeholder plan as part of the Wild Scenic Rivers Suitability Report. The following clarifications are made to the procedures outlined in the suitability report:

1. The Suitability Report contains a provision for “certification” of the stakeholders’ intent to make contributions to the Endowment Fund within six months of the report. [See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-55, 3-68, 3-120, 3-133, 8-20, and 8-32]. The BLM and USFS clarify that this provision would be satisfied by execution of a “Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan” (SG MOU) by a sufficient number of entities that all interest groups specified in the stakeholder plan would be represented.
2. The Suitability Report states that the Endowment Fund will be “used exclusively for projects and studies that protect and enhance the ORVs.” [See p. 3-51 and p. 3- 55]. The BLM and USFS clarify that the endowment fund will be used in a manner consistent with the limitations on use contained in Sections VIII.A.3 and VIII.A.4 of the stakeholder plan, which state that the endowment fund will be used for projects and associated efforts which will further the preservation, protection, or enhancement of the ORVs.
3. The Suitability Report refers to development of an ORV indicator for the botanical ORV in Colorado River Segment 6. [See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-54, 3-67, 3-119, 3-132, 8-19, and 8-31]. The BLM and USFS clarify that the stakeholder group annual monitoring report should address how the stakeholder group is proceeding to periodically assess and confirm that the

management measures under the stakeholder plan, in coordination with the BLM and USFS other land management actions, are protective of the botanical and other ORVs.

4. The Suitability Report and Colorado River Valley Field Office Proposed RMP/Final EIS refers to the stakeholder group development of cooperative measures that “comprehensively address the status and trends of the ORVs present within Glenwood Canyon” that “are supported and implemented by major water users within the Eagle River watershed, such as City of Aurora, Colorado Springs Utilities, and other participants in the Eagle River MOU.” [See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-55, 3-68, 3-120, 3-133, 8-20, 8-32; Colorado River Valley Field Office Proposed RMP/Final EIS, p. 4-705]. The BLM and USFS clarify that the long term measures and cooperative measures process should be implemented within the Eagle River watershed consistent with the requirements of the stakeholder group plan, and the status and trends in Segment 7 will be addressed in the stakeholder group annual report to the BLM and USFS.
5. The documents establish an interdisciplinary team to conduct an annual review to determine progress and concerns related to Plan effectiveness. The BLM and USFS clarify that the agencies envision this as an interactive process whereby the interdisciplinary team will work with the stakeholder group and would bring any preliminary concerns to the stakeholder group before finalizing their recommendations to BLM and USFS management.
6. The Suitability Report states that the stakeholder group plan contains provisions for elevating certain issues to BLM and USFS. [See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-51, 3-64, 3-116, 3-129, and 8-15]. The BLM and USFS clarify that the agencies will participate as non-voting members of the stakeholder group plan’s governance committee and will utilize that forum to resolve issues that are critical to the success of the stakeholder plan.
7. The Suitability Report describes the “resource guides” utilized by the stakeholder group as establishing ranges for factors such as flow rates, water temperature, and water quality that are generally thought to be supportive of maintenance of the ORVs (See Final Suitability Report pp. 3-50, 3-63, 3-115, 3-128, 8-15, and 8-27). The BLM and USFS clarify that their understanding of the Resource Guides is that the “resource guides” establish ranges for factors such as flow rates, water temperature, and water quality that serve as one source of information for management of the ORVs under the stakeholder plan.

Chapter 2 Plan Decisions

2.1 Resources

2.1.1 Air and Atmospheric Values

General Management Guidance

- The Comprehensive Air Resource Protection Protocol (CARPP) clarifies management goals, objectives, and actions. The CARPP outlines specific requirements for proponents of projects that have the potential to generate air emissions and adversely impact air resources in the Kremmling Field Office Planning Area. Under the Approved RMP, the BLM will protect air resources from significant adverse impacts in accordance with the methodology and provisions outlined in the CARPP. See Appendix E.

Goal

- Manage BLM-authorized activities to protect air quality and air quality related values by complying with applicable Federal, State, and local air quality laws rules, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines. Within the scope of their authority, the BLM will implement actions designed to minimize emissions that may cause or contribute to negative impacts to air quality or air quality-related values (AQRVs), and to protect Class I Airsheds affected by actions in the Planning Area.

Objective

- Limit air quality degradation in the planning area by ensuring that public land use activities are in compliance with the FLPMA.

Allocations and Management Actions

- The BLM will implement environmental protection measures as Conditions of Approval (COA) above and beyond current regulatory compliance requirements for any plan or project, where such conditions are validated or deemed necessary through an appropriate analysis of the applicable extenuating circumstances.
- Mitigate air quality violations or issues on BLM managed public lands identified through monitoring sources.
- All new and existing drill-rig engines would be required to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tier 2 Non-road Diesel Engine Emission Standards or cleaner emission standards.
- Require Operators, as a COA, to implement dust abatement measures, as needed, in order to prevent at least 50 percent fugitive dust from vehicular traffic, equipment operations, or wind events. The Authorized Officer may direct an operator to change the level, and type, of treatment (watering or application of various dust agents, surfactants, and road-surfacing material) if dust abatement measures are observed to be insufficient to prevent fugitive dust. In addition, require fugitive dust control plans in conjunction with oil and gas Master Development Plans (MDPs).
- Operators may not install stationary source engines that are exempt from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) Regulations

No. 3 (permitting) that do not comply with the applicable standards referenced or found in CDPHE AQCC Regulations No. 6 (NSPS IIII or JJJJ) or Regulation No. 7.

- Require flaring of natural gas during well completions that do not use green completion technology. Emergency situations or where the need for direct venting can be documented on a legal or technical basis shall be considered exempt from the flaring requirement.
- Reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants associated with federal oil and gas wells by requiring that operators achieve the minimum control required on glycol dehydrators and storage vessel and tank vents to comply with CDPHE Regulation Number 7, 5 CCR 1001-9, COGCC Rule 805, and the New Source Performance Standards for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production at 40 CFR Part 63 subpart OOOO and NESHAPs for Oil and Natural Gas Production at 40 CFR Part 63 subparts HH and HHH.
- Cooperate with the CDPHE in identifying monitoring needs, as well as monitoring installation and operation.
- Lease Notice, CO-56: Due to potential air quality concerns, supplementary air quality analysis may be required for any proposed development of this lease. This may include preparing a comprehensive emissions inventory, performing air quality modeling, and initiating interagency consultation with affected land managers and air quality regulators to determine potential mitigation options for any predicted significant impacts from the proposed development. Potential mitigation may include limiting the time, place, and pace of any proposed development, as well as providing for the best air quality control technology and/or management practices necessary to achieve area-wide air resource protection objectives. Mitigation measures would be analyzed through the appropriate level of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis to determine effectiveness, and will be required or implemented as a permit condition of approval (COA). At a minimum, all projects and permitted uses implemented under this lease will comply with all applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards and ensure Air Quality Related Values are protected in nearby Class I or Sensitive Class II areas that are afforded additional air quality protection under the Clean Air Act (CAA).

2.1.2 Soils

Goal

- Ensure that upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, landform, and geologic processes. [Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, minimizes surface run-off (Public Land Health Standard 1, See Appendix J), and minimizes soil erosion.]

Objectives

- Ensure that surface disturbances do not cause accelerated erosion (such as rills, soil pedestals, and actively eroding gullies) on a watershed scale (e.g., 6th hydrologic unit code scale).
- Ensure that on a landscape scale (as defined by Public Land Health Standard 1, See Appendix J), canopy cover and ground cover are appropriate for the soil type, based upon guidelines (such as National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reference sheets, soil surveys).

Allocations and Management Actions

- Require professional geotechnical engineering and reclamation plans meeting the following conditions in areas having soils with severe or very severe erosion hazard based upon the USDA, NRCS soil survey or onsite inspection:
 - restore site productivity;
 - adequately control surface runoff;
 - protect offsite areas from accelerated erosion (such as rilling, gullyng, piping, and mass wasting);
 - conduct no surface disturbing activities during periods when soil is saturated; and
 - prohibit construction when soils are frozen.
- Conduct site-specific monitoring (such as vegetation transect analysis) in areas identified as not meeting Public Land Health Standard 1, See Appendix J. Where failure is due to unauthorized or undesirable levels of authorized land uses, take corrective actions (such as rehabilitation, management changes, and reclamation).

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION: CO-NSO-1: Fragile Soils or Slopes Greater Than 40 Percent – Prohibit surface occupancy or use in all areas of fragile soils, and on steep slopes, in order to protect soil productivity, and rare or sensitive biota; minimize risk to water bodies, fisheries, and aquatic species habitats, and protect human health and safety (from landslides, mass wasting, etc.).
- STIPULATION CO-CSU-1: Soils (Slopes Between 25 and 40 Percent – Apply CSU restrictions in order to improve reclamation potential; maintain soil stability and productivity of sensitive areas; and minimize contribution of salinity, selenium, and sediments likely to affect downstream water quality, fisheries, and other downstream aquatic habitats.

2.1.3 Water

Goal

- Protect watershed function in the capture, retention, and release of water in quantity, quality, and timing in order to meet aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem needs.

Objectives

- Ensure that streams on BLM-managed public lands are in geomorphic balance (that stream-channel size, sinuosity, and substrate are appropriate for its landscape position and geology) with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed (no accelerated erosion, deposition, or head-cutting).
- Ensure that the water quality of all surface water and groundwater located on, or influenced by, BLM-managed public lands contributes to achieving the water quality standards (numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements) established by State of Colorado requirements, under State law, as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).
- Provide sufficient water quantity on BLM-managed public lands for multiple use and sustained-yield management and functioning, healthy riparian, wetland, aquatic, and upland systems.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Improve dysfunctional streams caused by unnatural factors. Modify management practices (such as grazing systems, recreational uses, and/or stream restoration techniques (such as native plantings, fencing, energy dissipation structures, bank protection culverts), as appropriate, in order to address causal factors.
- File for water rights and water use permits in order to protect all water uses on BLM-managed public lands, as allowed by State water law. Uses for which the BLM will apply for water rights include, but are not limited to, livestock, wildlife watering, wildlife habitat, recreation, and fire suppression. In addition, the BLM will make recommendations to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for protection of enlargement of in-stream flows on appropriate stream segments that cross BLM-managed public lands.
- Use tools (such as land and water acquisitions, realty actions, and Cooperative Agreements) in order to achieve water management objectives. These include improving streamflows, maintaining minimum pools in reservoirs, and providing public access to water bodies.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION: CO-NSO-2: Major River Corridors – Prohibit surface occupancy or use within stream channels, stream banks, and the area 2,500 horizontal feet either side of the ordinary high-water mark (bank full stage) of the following rivers or streams in order to protect rivers and adjacent aquatic habitat: Colorado River, Piney Creek, Blue River, Fraser River, and North Platte River.
- STIPULATION: CO-NSO-3: Municipal Watersheds and Public Water Supplies: Prohibit surface occupancy or use on lands within 1,000 horizontal feet of either side of a classified surface water supply stream (as measured from the average high-water mark of a water body) for a distance of five (5) miles upstream of a public water supply intake with the classification “*Water Supply*” by the State of Colorado used as a public (municipal) water supply, for the purpose of protecting public water supplies, water quality, aquatic habitat, and human health, and for protecting a watershed that serves a “public water system.”
- STIPULATION: CO-NSO-4: Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, Fisheries, and Riparian Areas – Prohibit surface occupancy or use within a minimum buffer distance of 325 horizontal feet for all perennial waters, in order to maintain the proper functioning condition (PFC), including the vegetative, hydrologic, and geomorphic functionality of the perennial water body; protect water quality, fish habitat, aquatic habitat; and provide a clean reliable source of water for downstream users. Buffers are expected to indirectly benefit migratory birds, wildlife habitat, amphibians, and other species. For perennial streams, the buffer will be measured from the ordinary high-water mark (bankfull stage). For wetland features, the buffer will be measured from the edge of the mapped extent. For unmapped wetlands, the vegetative boundary (from which the buffer originates) will be determined in the field. Where the riparian zone extends beyond 325 feet, the NSO will be extended to include the entire riparian zone.
- STIPULATION: CO-NSO-5: Intermittent and Ephemeral Streams – Prohibit surface occupancy or use within 50 horizontal feet (as measured from the top of the stream bank) for all intermittent or ephemeral streams in order to maintain and protect water quality, stream stability, aquatic health, seasonal use, downstream fisheries, and sediment processes downstream.

- STIPULATION: CO-CSU-2: Oil and Gas operations located greater than 1,000 horizontal feet but less than 2,640 horizontal feet of a classified surface water supply stream (as measured from the average high-water mark of a water body) for a distance of five (5) miles upstream of a public water supply intake with the classification “*Water Supply*” by the State of Colorado will require the following protective measures , for the purpose of protecting public water supplies, water quality, aquatic habitat, and human health, and for protecting a watershed that serves a “public water system.”. The buffer may be extended beyond 2,640 horizontal feet if site-specific conditions warrant it:
 - Pitless drilling systems;
 - Flowback and stimulation fluids contained within tanks that are placed on a well pad or in an area with down-gradient berming;
 - Follow Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (CGOCC) rules for fracking operations and disclosure;
 - Berms or other containment devices shall be constructed in compliance with rule 603e (12) around crude oil, condensate and produced water storage tanks;
 - Notification of potentially impacted Public Water Systems 15 miles downstream;
 - The use of evaporation ponds for means of disposing of produced water shall not be permitted on BLM-managed public lands or split estate within the municipal watershed;
 - Collection of baseline water quality data (surface and/or groundwater) consisting of a pre-drilling sample collected from the nearest down-gradient water source, up to one half mile from the well pad, where sufficient water exists to collect a sample per EPA or USGS collection methods. Additional sampling must be conducted during drilling operations and immediately following well completion. Each sample should analyze at a minimum pH, alkalinity, specific conductance, major cations, major anions, total dissolved solids petroleum based organic hydrocarbons; and metals (arsenic, barium, calcium, iron, magnesium, manganese, lead, and selenium)]. For municipal watersheds a coordinated water resources monitoring plan must be developed with the BLM and municipality.
 - Each office will determine the sampling site, intensity, and need for groundwater sampling, depending on site-specific geology and risk. Results must be submitted to the BLM within 3 months of data collection per Section 317b of the COGCC regulations.
- STIPULATION: CO-CSU-3: Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, Fisheries, and Riparian Areas – Apply surface use restrictions from 325 horizontal feet to 500 horizontal feet from perennial water bodies in order to maintain the PFC, including the vegetative, hydrologic, and geomorphic functionality of the perennial water body, in order to protect water quality, fish habitat, aquatic habitat; and to provide a clean, reliable source of water for downstream users.
- STIPULATION: CO-CSU-4: Intermittent and Ephemeral Streams – Minimize locating roads, stream crossings, and facilities within 100 horizontal feet from the edge of the NSO buffer in order to minimize the risk of sedimentation, spills, and other contaminants from reaching intermittent and/or ephemeral streams in order to protect water quality, stream function, and aquatic habitat.

2.1.4 Vegetation – General

Goals

- Maintain healthy, productive plant communities of native and other desirable species at viable population levels commensurate with the potential for the species and the habitats. Ensure that plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes (Public Land Health Standard 3, See Appendix J).
- Ensure that riparian systems associated with both running water and standing water function properly, and have the ability to recover from major disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Ensure that riparian vegetation captures sediment and provides forage, habitat, and biodiversity; that water quality is improved or maintained; and that stable soils store and release water slowly (Public Land Health Standard 2, See Appendix J).

2.1.4.1 Vegetation – Forest and Woodlands

Objectives

- Manage forest and woodlands in order to maintain or enhance ecological resiliency by improving the vigor of trees within stands, and by creating a more diverse age and size class structure across the landscape.
- Identify areas for current or potential old-growth conditions based upon structure and composition across the landscape. [Old-growth forest stands are composed of trees that are, generally, in the late successional stages of development. The desired attributes of old-growth stands are older, large trees for the species and site; signs of decadence (broken or deformed tops or boles and some root decay); multiple layers of canopy; standing-and-down dead trees; a variation in tree age, size, spacing, and gaps or patchiness in the canopy and understory.]

Allocations and Management Actions

- Achieve diversity of age and size class, and improve vigor, by using treatments (mechanical, chemical, biological, and fire). Apply silvicultural systems to stands appropriate to cover type (species silvicultural requirements, current stand conditions/structure), and capable of accomplishing management objectives. (Silvicultural systems are either even- or uneven-aged).
- Monitor general forest conditions through forest stand inventories, and monitor for insects and disease. Conduct periodic regeneration surveys in order to monitor for adequacy of regeneration of harvested areas. Focus on monitoring lodgepole pine affected by mountain pine beetle (MPB), and assessing areas affected by aspen decline. Inventory forest stands in order to identify and map areas with current or potential old-growth characteristics during periodic forest inventories.
- Maintain or contribute toward the restoration or development of old-growth structure and composition (primarily of spruce/fir, pinyon, juniper, and Douglas-fir stands) in areas where forest treatments utilizing the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) are proposed. Retain stands with old-growth characteristics such as, but not limited to, large trees, standing-and-down dead trees, and multiple canopy layers.

2.1.4.2 Vegetation – Rangeland

Objectives

- Manage sagebrush steppe, where needed, to transition from homogenous stands of old sagebrush in order to create a more diverse age-class structure across the landscape, and to improve diversity and cover of understory species.
- Manage mountain shrub communities in order to composition and structure, and, to increase serviceberry, bitterbrush, and mountain mahogany.
- Manage native grasslands in order to maintain ecological functions.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Achieve diversity of age class in sagebrush communities by using treatments (mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments; and prescribed fire and wildland fire managed for multiple objectives).
- Reduce encroachment of pinyon, juniper, and other woody species in sagebrush steppe.
- Use vegetation manipulation (mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments), fencing, seeding, prescribed fire and unplanned natural fire managed for resource benefits, and use restrictions in order to accomplish mountain shrub and native grassland management objectives.
- Use restoration techniques, including, but not limited to, revegetation, fertilization, and/or soil amendments (such as those identified in KFO interim or long-term restoration plans or BMPs) in order to rehabilitate disturbed or degraded rangeland plant communities.

2.1.4.3 Vegetation – Riparian

Objective

- Attain riparian area Proper Functioning Condition (PFC).

Allocations and Management Actions

- Manage for riparian and wetland values using management actions for improvement or protection. These actions include, but are not limited to, implementing grazing management actions (such as adjusting livestock numbers, distribution, season of use, duration of use), plantings, recreation restrictions, structures (such as fencing), and upland water developments.
- Continue to monitor in order to meet Public Land Health Standard 2 (See Appendix J), and collect data on riparian areas/wetlands.

Restrictions on Use

- **STIPULATION: CO-NSO-4: Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, Fisheries, and Riparian Areas –** Prohibit surface occupancy or use within a minimum buffer distance of 325 horizontal feet for all perennial waters, in order to maintain the proper functioning condition (PFC), including the vegetative, hydrologic, and geomorphic functionality of the perennial water body; protect water quality, fish habitat, aquatic habitat; and provide a clean reliable source of water for downstream users. Buffers are expected to indirectly benefit migratory birds, wildlife habitat, amphibians, and other species. For perennial streams, the buffer will be measured from the ordinary high-water mark (bankfull stage). For wetland features, the buffer will be measured from the edge of the mapped extent. For unmapped wetlands, the vegetative boundary (from which the buffer

originates) will be determined in the field. Where the riparian zone extends beyond 325 feet, the NSO will be extended to include the entire riparian zone.

- **STIPULATION: CO-CSU-3: Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, Fisheries, and Riparian Areas –** Apply surface use restrictions from 325 horizontal feet to 500 horizontal feet from perennial water bodies in order to maintain the PFC, including the vegetative, hydrologic, and geomorphic functionality of the perennial water body, in order to protect water quality, fish habitat, aquatic habitat; and to provide a clean, reliable source of water for downstream users.

2.1.4.4 Vegetation – Weeds

Objective

- Prevent the establishment of, treat existing, and reduce/slow the spread of, noxious and invasive weeds across landscape and ownership boundaries.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Promote weed awareness and preventative behavior through public contact, volunteer programs, and educational materials (such as weed identification brochures and through the Tread Lightly Program).
- Focus on areas of new infestations and, where possible, extirpate existing populations within priority treatment areas, which include the following:
 - disturbed areas (oil and gas and other mine development, burned areas, new road construction);
 - ACECs;
 - Special Status Species habitat;
 - riparian areas/wetlands; springs/seeps;
 - developed recreation sites, campgrounds, and campsites;
 - roads and trails;
 - Wildland Urban Interface (WUI); and
 - big game winter ranges.
- Use appropriate integrated vegetation treatments (chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; prescribed fire; and natural fire managed for resource benefits) for the control of noxious/invasive weeds. (Use of herbicides will be consistent with local, State, and Federal laws, rules, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines.)
- Treat monocultures of cheatgrass and other exotic communities through prescribed grazing and chemical, biological, and mechanical treatment methods where eradication is possible. Establish desired vegetation by seeding.
- Hold project proponents (including livestock operators, Right Of Way (ROW) holders, and other permittees deemed necessary by the Authorized Officer) responsible for monitoring and controlling noxious weeds that result from any new facilities and/or improvements or other surface disturbances authorized on BLM-managed public lands (such as roads, communication sites, pipelines, stock ponds, fences, etc.).
- Inventory/identify infested acres, beginning with the priority treatment areas. Focus on A-listed species, then B-listed species, and, finally, C-category listed species.

2.1.5 Fish and Wildlife

Goal

- Maintain healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species at viable population levels commensurate with the species' and habitats' potential. Ensure that plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes (Public Land Health Standard 3, See Appendix J).

2.1.5.1 Fisheries and Other Aquatic Wildlife

Objectives

- In addition to providing for a wide variety of aquatic species, maintain and improve the portion on BLM-managed public lands of the priority habitat requirements for the following highly valued species (priority as recognized for at least one factor, such as density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, or age):
 - coldwater sport fishes, including rainbow, brown, brook, and non-native cutthroat trout species [any species of cutthroat trout other than Colorado River or greenback cutthroat, which are addressed in the Special Status Species section (such as Yellowstone and Snake River Cutthroat trout)]; and
 - Colorado River Basin native fishes, excluding Special Status Species, and including mountain whitefish, mountain sucker, speckled dace, mottled sculpin, and Paiute sculpin.

2.1.5.1.1 Common to All Fisheries

Allocations and Management Actions

- Designate and protect the following as priority habitats: perennial water sources (streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, springs, seeps, wetlands, wet meadows, bogs, and fens) and riparian areas.
- Identify limiting habitat factors based upon site characteristics and habitat capabilities using channel type and geology classifications (such as Rosgen). Upon identification of limiting factors, prioritize and fix those that can be fixed using proven river, stream, lake, and riparian methodologies (such as in-channel habitat structures designed to create pools, riparian plantings, tamarisk removal), or by changing management of other program activities (such as changing livestock grazing season use) in order to achieve objectives.
- Identify in-channel features (such as culverts and water diversion structures) that block aquatic organism movement and/or impair stream connectivity; replace, modify, or remove these impediments as they are identified, and as opportunities allow.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION: CO-NSO-4: Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, Fisheries, and Riparian Areas – Prohibit surface occupancy or use within a minimum buffer distance of 325 horizontal feet for all perennial waters, in order to maintain the proper functioning condition (PFC), including the vegetative, hydrologic, and geomorphic functionality of the perennial water body; protect water quality, fish habitat, aquatic habitat; and provide a clean reliable source of water for downstream users. Buffers are expected to indirectly benefit migratory birds, wildlife habitat, amphibians, and other species. For perennial streams, the buffer will be measured from the ordinary high-

water mark (bankfull stage). For wetland features, the buffer will be measured from the edge of the mapped extent. For unmapped wetlands, the vegetative boundary (from which the buffer originates) will be determined in the field. Where the riparian zone extends beyond 325 feet, the NSO will be extended to include the entire riparian zone.

- STIPULATION: CO-CSU-3: Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, Fisheries, and Riparian Areas – Apply surface use restrictions from 325 horizontal feet to 500 horizontal feet from perennial water bodies in order to maintain the PFC, including the vegetative, hydrologic, and geomorphic functionality of the perennial water body, in order to protect water quality, fish habitat, aquatic habitat; and to provide a clean, reliable source of water for downstream users.

2.1.5.1.2 Coldwater Sport and Native Fish (Such as Brown, Brook and Rainbow Trout; Non-Native Cutthroat Trout, Mountain Whitefish, Mottled and Paiute Sculpin)

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION: CO-TL-1: Native Fish and Important Sport Fish – Prohibit in-channel work in all occupied cutthroat trout (Colorado River, greenback, and Rio Grande) streams during spring spawning periods of April 1 to August 1, and fall spawning periods from October 1 to November 30, in order to protect redds (egg masses) in the gravel and emerging fry of native fish populations (Colorado River, greenback, and Rio Grande cutthroat trout, flannelmouth and bluehead sucker, and roundtail chub), and important sport fish populations (rainbow, brown, and brook trout).

2.1.5.2 Wildlife

Objectives

- In addition to providing habitat for a wide variety of species, maintain and improve the share on BLM-managed public lands of the priority habitat requirements of the following highly valued species (priority as recognized for at least one factor, such as density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, or age):
 - severe winter range, winter concentration areas, production areas, big game migration corridors (such as mule deer, elk, moose, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep);
 - habitat for Greater sage-grouse;
 - habitat for Birds of Conservation Concern;
 - nesting and fledgling habitat for raptors; and
 - riparian and wetlands habitat at PFC for all species.
- Habitat standards and desired wildlife population levels are determined by species-specific plans/strategies) [such as Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Data Analysis Unit management objectives, BLM Strategic Plans, CPW Strategic Plans, or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) strategies)], commensurate with Public Land Health Standards (See Appendix J).

Allocations and Management Actions

- Allow introduction, translocation, transplantation, restocking, augmentation, and re-establishment of native and naturalized fish and wildlife species, in cooperation with the CPW or with the USFWS, or with both, subject to the guidance provided by Manual 1745 (Introduction,

Transplant, Augmentation and Reestablishment of Fish, Wildlife and Plants), and by existing or future Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the CPW.

- LEASE NOTICE K-LN-1: High Value Wildlife Habitat – The lease may in part, or in total, contain high-value wildlife habitat. (These areas include, but are not limited to, habitat for Special Status Species, big game severe winter range, big game migration corridor, and priority moose habitat.) The Operator may be required to implement specific measures through a COA in order to reduce impacts resulting from oil and gas or geothermal operations on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Special design and construction measures designed to mitigate impacts may include, but are not limited to, relocation of roads, well pads, pipelines, and other facilities, and fencing operations. The Lessee/Operator may be required to submit a plan for avoidance or mitigation of impacts to the identified species to the Authorized Officer.

2.1.5.2.1 Wild Turkey

Restriction on Use

- STIPULATION CO-TL-6: Wild Turkey Winter Habitat – Prohibit surface use during the following time period in order to prevent disruption of wild turkey during the winter: Mapped turkey winter habitat: December 1 to April 1.

2.1.5.2.2 Big Game Species

Objectives

- Minimize big game stress and disturbance from surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities on winter ranges, winter concentration areas, severe winter ranges, migration corridors, and birthing areas.
- Protect State Wildlife Areas from unnecessary surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities.
- Create optimum winter range and summer/transition habitat conditions for big game, targeting a ratio of 60 percent foraging habitat to 40 percent escape/hiding/thermal/birthing cover.
- Increase the diversity and abundance of grasses and forbs in the understory of transition and winter range habitats for the critical period of late fall through early spring.
- Reduce habitat fragmentation and restore habitat connectivity on big game winter ranges, winter concentration areas, severe winter ranges, and movement corridors.
- Help achieve CPW big game population objectives.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Designate the following areas as Core Wildlife Areas. Core Wildlife Areas are areas of high habitat value for multiple species, including sage-grouse, elk, and mule deer (101,800 acres):
 - Eight areas in Jackson County:
 - Cowdrey: 1,700 acres;
 - California Gulch: 8,400 acres;
 - Walden Reservoir: 6,800 acres;
 - Spring Creek: 3,300 acres;
 - Sentinel Mountain: 1,600 acres;
 - Dunes: 1,200 acres;

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- Case Flats/Peterson: 8,400 acres; and
 - Independence Mountain: 12,800 acres.
- Six areas in Grand County:
 - Cedar Ridge: 4,000 acres;
 - Junction Butte: 8,900 acres;
 - Wolford Mountain: 24,300 acres;
 - Radium Basin: 6,500 acres;
 - Parshall Divide: 8,100 acres; and
 - Sulphur Gulch: 5,900 acres.
- Protect wintering big game species by closing the following areas to motorized and mechanized travel from December 15 to April 15:
 - Wolford Travel Management Area;
 - North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and Wilderness Study Area (WSA); and
 - Strawberry SRMA.
 - Restrict snowmobiles to designated routes.
 - The Authorized Officer may adjust the start and end date of a seasonal closure depending upon ground conditions, resource concerns, or public health and safety. The CPW will be consulted for seasonal closure adjustments regarding wildlife protection. Severity of the winter will be determined on the basis of snow depth, snow crusting, daily mean temperatures, and whether animals are concentrated on the winter range during the winter months.
- Upon a request from the CPW, and with concurrence by the Authorized Officer, close areas to human activity and to dogs on an area-specific basis during severe weather conditions, as defined by a combination of factors including snow depth, snow crusting, daily mean temperatures (long periods of cold temperatures), and concentrations of animals.
- Implement habitat improvement projects in the mountain shrub community (such as chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; prescribed fire and natural fire managed for resource benefits; and seeding) in order to increase the amount of available, palatable, and nutritious forage by setting back succession and creating a diverse age structure of plants.
- Stimulate sprouting and regrowth in decadent aspen patches using treatments such as prescribed fire and natural fire managed for resource benefits and mechanical methods.
- Perform habitat treatments (such as chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; prescribed fire and natural fire managed for resource benefits) in order to reduce the canopy cover in mature uniform-aged brush and mature pinyon, juniper, and other forest stands.
- Where a diverse understory is lacking, seed desirable species or fertilize in transition and winter range habitats.
- Where appropriate, reduce competition with livestock grazing for forage (for example, by changing season of use, adjusting Animal Unit Months (AUMs), or by changing type of livestock).
- Protect big game migration corridors by retaining parcels within migration corridors.
- Reduce the density of roads and trails in priority big game habitats by:
 - closing and revegetating duplicate roads or trails;

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- closing and revegetating routes on BLM-managed public lands where routes enter from private land, where there is no public access, and where administrative access is not needed; and
- limiting construction of new routes.
- Avoid developing permanent structures that are restrictive to wildlife migration and movement.
- Identify and maintain designated travel routes in order to provide access for hunting opportunities into targeted big game units.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-TL-2: Big Game Production Areas – Prohibit surface use during the following time period(s) in mapped big game production areas in order to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young rearing period. *[NOTE: This stipulation would not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.]*:
 - Antelope: April 15 to June 30;
 - Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep: April 15 to June 30;
 - Mule deer/Whitetailed deer: April 15 to June 30;
 - Elk: April 15 to June 30; and
 - Moose: April 15 to June 30.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-3: Big Game Crucial Winter Range (Severe Winter Range and Winter Concentration Areas) – Prohibit surface use during the following time period(s) in mapped crucial winter habitat in order to reduce behavioral disruption of big game during the winter season on crucial winter habitat as mapped by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. *[NOTE: This stipulation would not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.]*:
 - Antelope: December 1 to April 30;
 - Rocky Mountain /Desert Bighorn Sheep: November 1 to April 30;
 - Mule deer/White-tailed deer: December 1 to April 30;
 - Elk: December 1 to April 30; and
 - Moose: December 1 to April 30.
- STIPULATION K-NSO-1: Core Wildlife Areas – Prohibit surface occupancy or use on Core Wildlife Areas (approximately 101,700 acres of the Federal mineral estate) in order to help reduce fragmentation of those areas. (Core Wildlife Areas are areas of high habitat value for multiple species, including sage-grouse, elk, and mule deer.) This stipulation will apply to the following:
 - Eight areas in Jackson County: California Gulch, Walden Reservoir, Spring Creek, Case Flats/Peterson, Cowdrey, Dunes, Independence, and Sentinel (all areas); and
 - Six areas in Grand County: Wolford Mountain, Cedar Ridge, Junction Butte, Radium Basin, Parshall Divide, and Sulphur Gulch.
- Close all State-owned Wildlife Areas to oil and gas leasing where the BLM manages the subsurface minerals.

2.1.5.2.3 Migratory Birds

Objective

- Provide healthy and productive habitat for migratory bird species.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Provide healthy and productive habitat as determined by habitat and population standards from sources such as Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) Region Plans, State Partners-in-Flight Plans, and State Wildlife Action Plans for migratory birds; and avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds by incorporating the following measures:
 - manage plant communities for a variety of seral stages, structural diversities, and (habitat) patch-sizes capable of supporting diverse and viable migratory bird populations;
 - restore, enhance, and maintain riparian and upland habitats;
 - conduct habitat improvement projects; and
 - apply COAs to all activities that alter vegetation, and to the broad use of pesticides in migratory bird habitat during the nesting season. The COAs would apply to activities between May 15 and July 15. The COA would consider the scale, type, and duration of the project; species potentially present; weather conditions; elevation and habitat types present; and type of motorized equipment to be used. An exception may be granted if nesting surveys indicate no nesting BCC species within 10 meters of the area to be disturbed.
- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-1: Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat – Avoid or minimize disruption of migratory bird nesting activity by siting or prioritizing vegetation clearing, facility construction, and concentrated operational activities (such as drilling, completion, utility installation) in order to avoid the involvement of higher value migratory bird habitats, especially during the core migratory bird nesting season (May 15 to July 15).

2.1.5.2.4 Cavity-Nesting Species

Objective

- Provide healthy and productive habitat for cavity-nesting species.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Broadly manage all forest types in order to provide an average snag retention density of three snags per acre.

2.1.5.2.5 Raptors

Objective

- Provide healthy and productive habitat for raptors.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2012 (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2012) and Avian Protection Plan (AAP) Guidelines (APLIC and USFWS 2005).

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-6: Raptor-Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl, and all owls and raptors, with the exception of American Kestrel – Prohibit surface occupancy or use within a 0.25 mile radius of active and inactive nest sites of osprey, red-tailed hawk, Swainson’s hawk, Cooper’s hawk, Sharp-shinned hawk, Northern Harrier, Burrowing owl, Great Horned owl, and all owls (with the exception of Mexican spotted owl) in order to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-5: Raptor-Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl, and all owls and raptors, with the exception of American Kestrel Nest Sites – Prohibit surface use within a 0.25 mile radius of active nests during the following time period(s), or until fledgling and dispersal of young, in order to protect reproductive activity at nest sites:
 - Osprey: April 1 to August 31;
 - Red-tailed Hawk: February 15 to August 15;
 - Swainson’s Hawk: April 1 to August 15;
 - Cooper’s Hawk: April 1 to August 15;
 - Sharp-shinned Hawk: April 1 to August 15;
 - Northern Harrier: April 1 to August 15;
 - Burrowing Owl: March 15 to August 15;
 - Great horned Owl: February 1 to August 15; and
 - Other owls and raptors: March 1 to August 15.

2.1.5.2.6 Waterfowl and Shorebirds

Objective

- Provide healthy and productive habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-TL-4: Shorebirds, Waterbirds and Waterfowl Nesting Habitat – No surface use is allowed during the following time period, in order to prevent disruption of nesting activity.
 - March 1 to July 31 in areas designated for waterfowl, shorebird, and waterbird production by Field Offices. *[NOTE: this stipulation would not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.]*

2.1.6 Special Status Species

2.1.6.1 Fish and Other Aquatic Wildlife

Goal

- Prevent the need for listing of Proposed, Candidate, and Sensitive Species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); protect Special Status Species; and improve their habitats to a point where their special status recognition is no longer warranted (Public Land Health Standard 4, See Appendix J). Take necessary actions in order to help to delist the 5 federally listed fish species found within the Planning Area by following pertinent Recovery Plans and implementing actions and protections that assist in their recovery.

Objective

- Protect occupied and suitable habitat for Federal Proposed, Candidate, and Threatened or Endangered Species, and protect occupied habitat for BLM Sensitive Species necessary for:
 - maintenance and recovery of Proposed, Candidate, and Threatened or Endangered Species; and
 - support of BLM Sensitive Species and significant plant communities, consistent with BLM policy on Special Status Species Management (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. December 12, 2008., BLM 2008o).

2.1.6.1.1 Common to All Special Status Fishes

Allocations and Management Actions

- Identify limiting habitat factors based upon site characteristics and habitat capabilities using channel type and geology classifications (such as Rosgen). Upon identification of limiting factors, prioritize and fix those that can be fixed using proven river, stream, lake, and riparian methodologies (such as in-channel habitat structures designed to create pools, riparian plantings), or by changing management of other program activities (such as by changing livestock grazing season use) in order to achieve objective.
- Protect BLM fish-bearing streams or stream segments by actively seeking minimum in-stream flow protection and, for lakes, minimum pool depths, where opportunities arise.
- Assist, as appropriate, with the introduction, translocation, transplantation, restocking, augmentation, and re-establishment of Special Status fishes, in cooperation with the CPW or with the USFWS, or with both, subject to the guidance provided by BLM Manual 1745 (Introduction, Transplant, Augmentation and Reestablishment of Fish, Wildlife and Plants), and by existing or future Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the CPW.
- Designate the Kinney Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in order to protect the Colorado River cutthroat trout, a Special Status Species.

2.1.6.1.2 Native Trout (Colorado River Cutthroat and Greenback Cutthroat Trout)

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION: CO-NSO-4: Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, Fisheries, and Riparian Areas – Prohibit surface occupancy or use within a minimum buffer distance of 325 horizontal feet for all perennial waters, in order to maintain the PFC, including the vegetative, hydrologic, and geomorphic functionality of the perennial water body; protect water quality, fish habitat, aquatic habitat; and provide a clean reliable source of water for downstream users. Buffers are expected to indirectly benefit migratory birds, wildlife habitat, amphibians, and other species. For perennial streams, the buffer will be measured from the ordinary high-water mark (bankfull stage). For wetland features, the buffer will be measured from the edge of the mapped extent. For unmapped wetlands, the vegetative boundary (from which the buffer originates) will be determined in the field. Where the riparian zone extends beyond 325 feet, the NSO will be extended to include the entire riparian zone.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-1: Native Fish and Important Sport Fish – Prohibit in-channel work in all occupied cutthroat trout (Colorado River, greenback, and Rio Grande) streams during spring spawning periods of April 1 to August 1, and fall spawning periods from October 1 to November

30, in order to protect redds (egg masses) in the gravel and emerging fry of native fish populations (Colorado River, greenback, and Rio Grande cutthroat trout, flannelmouth and bluehead sucker, and roundtail chub), and important sport fish populations (rainbow, brown, and brook trout).

2.1.6.1.3 BLM Sensitive Amphibians (Great Basin Spadefoot, Boreal Toad, Northern Leopard Frog, and Wood Frog)

Objective

- Protect sensitive amphibian species and their habitats.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-CSU-7: BLM Sensitive Amphibians – Apply site-specific relocation restrictions within an 0.5 mile (800 meter) buffer around all known or identified breeding sites of boreal toad, northern leopard frog, Great Basin spadefoot toad, northern cricket frog, plains leopard frog, and canyon tree frog, in order to protect breeding habitats and breeding activities; and to maintain the functionality of important breeding habitats, and allow for breeding activities to occur uninterrupted.

2.1.6.2 Plants and Terrestrial Wildlife

Goal

- Prevent the need for listing of Proposed, Candidate, and Sensitive Species under the ESA; protect Special Status Species, and improve their habitats to a point where their special status recognition is no longer warranted (Public Land Health Standard 4, See Appendix J).

Objective

- Promote the maintenance and recovery of federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species (including sage-grouse) by protecting occupied and adjacent suitable habitat. Protect occupied habitat for all BLM Sensitive Species.

2.1.6.2.1 Common to All Special Status Plants and Terrestrial Wildlife

Allocations and Management Actions

- Designate ACECs in order to protect the following Special Status plant species:
 - Kremmling (Osterhout milkvetch);
 - Laramie River (North Park phacelia);
 - North Park Natural Area (North Park phacelia);
 - Troublesome (Osterhout milkvetch and Penland beardtongue); and
 - North Sandhills (boat-shaped bugseed).
- In occupied Special Status Species habitat, prioritize treatments in order to protect against invasion and establishment of noxious weeds or other aggressive exotic plants. Close or relocate selected travel routes in order to protect Special Status Species and significant plant communities. Pursue land tenure adjustments in order to facilitate the conservation or recovery of Special Status Species.

- Restore potential Special Status Species habitat to suitable habitat by applying treatments to historically occupied degraded habitats.
- Allow introduction, translocation, transplantation, restocking, augmentation, and re-establishment of native and naturalized fish and wildlife species, in cooperation with the CPW or with the USFWS, or with both, subject to the guidance provided by Manual 1745 (Introduction, Transplant, Augmentation and Reestablishment of Fish, Wildlife and Plants), and by existing or future MOUs with the CPW.
- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-2: Endangered Species Act – The lease area may now, or hereafter, contain plants, animals, or other habitats determined to be federally Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed for listing. The BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objectives in order to avoid BLM-approved activity that would adversely affect listed species or their habitat. The BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a Proposed or Listed Threatened or Endangered Species, or result in the destruction of adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. The BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the ESA as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.
- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-3: Special Status Species Plants and Wildlife – In areas of known or suspected habitat of Special Status Species (federal Listed, Proposed Candidate, and BLM-Sensitive Species), or significant plant communities, a biological inventory may be required prior to approval of operations. The inventory will be used in environmental analysis (in accordance with the NEPA), and mitigating measures designed to reduce the impacts of surface disturbance on the affected species or their habitats may be required. Special design and construction measures designed to mitigate impacts, may include, but are not limited to, relocation of roads, well pads, pipelines, and other facilities; and fencing operations. The Lessee/Operator may be required to submit to the BLM's Authorized Officer a plan for avoidance of mitigation of impacts on the identified species.

2.1.6.2.2 Plants

Allocations and Management Actions

- Prohibit collection of rare plants or plant parts, except as permitted by the Authorized Officer for scientific research.
- Require projects that remove topsoil areas of suitable habitat for Endangered or Threatened Species to set aside and replace the topsoil when groundwork is completed; to preserve the seedbank and associated mycorrhizal species; and to discourage invasive plant species.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-CSU-5: BLM Sensitive Plant Species – For plant species listed as Sensitive by the BLM, special design, construction, and implementation measures within a 328-foot (100-meter) buffer from the edge of occupied habitat may be required. In addition, relocation of operations by more than 656 feet (200 meters) may be required in order to protect BLM Sensitive plant species from direct and indirect impacts, including loss of habitat.

- STIPULATION CO-CSU-6: Significant Plant Communities and Relict Vegetation – For those plant communities that meet the BLM’s criteria for significant plant communities, special design, construction, and implementation measures, including relocation of operations by more than 656 feet (200 meters), may be required in order to conserve significant plant communities and relic communities (old growth forests and woodlands) that are not otherwise protected. (Habitat areas include occupied habitat and habitat necessary for the maintenance or viability of the species or communities.)
- STIPULATION CO-NSO-7: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate Plants – Prohibit surface occupancy or use within a 656-foot (200-meter) buffer from the edge of occupied habitat for the following Special Status plant species: federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species, in order to protect these plant species, and designated critical habitat, from direct and indirect impacts, including loss of habitat. In addition, prohibit surface occupancy within areas of designated as critical habitat.
- STIPULATION CO-NSO-25: ACECs, Research Natural Areas (RNAs), and Outstanding Natural Areas (ONAs) – Prohibit surface occupancy or use in ACECs, RNAs, and ONAs in order to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards.

2.1.6.2.3 American White Pelican

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-TL-4: Shorebirds, Waterbirds and Waterfowl Nesting Habitat – No surface use is allowed during the following time period, in order to prevent disruption of nesting activity.
 - March 1 to July 31 in areas designated for waterfowl, shorebird, and waterbird production by Field Offices. *[NOTE: this stipulation would not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.]*

2.1.6.2.4 Least Tern, Piping Plover, Mountain Plover

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-15: Least Tern, Snowy Plover, and Piping Plover Nesting Habitat – Prohibit surface occupancy or use on the lands described below in order to protect the integrity of nesting habitat:
 - production areas, as mapped by the BLM or the CPW.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-15: Mountain Plover Nesting Habitat – Prohibit surface use during the following time period in order to prevent disruption of reproductive activity during the production period:
 - April 10 to July 31, in suitable nesting habitat, as mapped by the BLM or by the CPW. *[NOTE: this stipulation would not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.]*

2.1.6.2.5 Bald and Golden Eagles

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-11: Raptors – Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle – No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below in order to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat:
 - Bald Eagle: within 0.25 mile radius of active and inactive nest sites, or within 100 meters of abandoned nests (unoccupied for 5 consecutive years, but with or all or part of the nest remaining); and
 - Golden Eagle: within 0.25 mile radius of active and inactive nest sites. *[NOTE: The Golden Eagle is not currently a Special Status Species, but is afforded special considerations under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.]*
- STIPULATION CO-NSO-12: Bald Eagle Winter Roosts – No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:
 - Bald Eagle Roosts: This area encompasses bald eagle winter roosts. Surface occupancy or use is not allowed within 0.25 miles of designated features, in order to maintain the integrity of active winter roost sites and surrounding habitat.
- STIPULATION CO-CSU-11: Bald Eagle Habitat – Cottonwood Communities – Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints, in order to maintain long-term availability of suitable bald eagle habitat,:
 - The Authorized Officer may require the proponent/applicant to submit a Plan or Development that will demonstrate that:
 - involvement of cottonwood stands or cottonwood regeneration areas have been avoided to the extent practicable;
 - special reclamation measures or design features are incorporated that will accelerate recovery and/or reestablishment of affected cottonwood communities;
 - the pre-development potential of affected floodplains to develop or support riverine cottonwood communities has not been diminished; and
 - the current/future utility of such cottonwood substrate for bald eagle use will not be impaired.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-11: Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Nest Sites – No surface use is allowed within the area described below during the following time period, or until fledgling and dispersal of young, in order to protect reproductive activity at nest sites,:
 - Bald Eagle: Nov. 15 to July 31, a 0.5-mile radius around active nests.
 - Golden Eagle: Dec. 15 to July 15, a 0.5-mile radius around active nests.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-12: Bald Eagle Winter Roost Sites: No surface use is allowed within the area described below during the following time period, in order to prevent disruption of wintering bald eagles at communal roosts,:
 - Nov 15 to March 15, within 0.5 miles of an active winter roost

2.1.6.2.6 Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, and Northern Goshawk

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-13: Raptors – Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, and Northern Goshawk – No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below, in order to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat,:
 - Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, and Northern Goshawk: within 0.5 miles of active and inactive nest sites.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-13: Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, and Northern Goshawk Nest Sites - No surface use is allowed within the area described below during the following time period(s), or until fledgling and dispersal of young, in order to protect reproductive activity at nest sites :
 - Ferruginous Hawk: Feb. 1 to Aug. 15, within 0.5 miles of active nest sites.
 - Peregrine and Prairie Falcon: March 15 to July 31, within 0.5 miles of active nest sites.
 - Northern Goshawk: March 1 to August 31, within 0.5 miles of active nest sites.
 - *[NOTE: this stipulation would not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.]*

2.1.6.2.7 Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Biome

Objective

- Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome in order to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush-dependent species.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Apply conservation measures and guidance from the Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan, local work group plans (Middle Park and North Park, North Eagle, South Routt), Connelly Guidelines (Connelly, 2000), the BLM National Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (BLM National Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy., BLM 2004a), Pyke (Pyke, 2011) and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Stiver, 2006), when appropriate.
- Allow no more than five percent of the surface area within Greater Sage-grouse core areas (123,000 acres) to be disturbed at any one time. Within these core areas:
 - Require development and approval of a Master Development Plan.
 - Encourage clustered development.
 - Avoid ROWs. Where ROWs cannot be avoided, encourage them in areas where disturbances already occur.
 - Prohibit a net increase of acreage in roads.
 - Close and rehabilitate roads that are fragmenting the sagebrush ecosystem.
- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-4: Important Sage-Grouse Habitat – The lease may in part, or in total, contain important Greater or Gunnison sage-grouse habitats, as identified by the BLM, either currently or prospectively. The operator may be required to implement specific measures through a COA in order to reduce impacts of oil and gas or geothermal operations on the Greater or Gunnison sage-grouse populations and habitat quality. Sage-grouse habitat conservation measures may include timing restrictions, distances or percentages of allowable surface-

disturbing activities, noise-suppression actions, and desired density levels or other development constraints consistent with State or Range-wide sage-grouse Conservation Planning for Colorado (including subsequent updates), current peer reviewed sage-grouse research, or as developed in conjunction with the CPW, in order to meet local population objectives. Such measures shall be developed during the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) on-site and environmental review process, or during the environmental review process for Sundry Notices and associated (ROWs, and will be consistent with lease rights granted.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-9: Sage-grouse Lek Habitat – No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below, in order to maintain the integrity of habitat surrounding leks that are used during the breeding period:
 - Greater sage-grouse: within a 0.6-mile radius of leks
 - Gunnison sage-grouse: within a 0.6-mile radius of leks
- STIPULATION CO-CSU-8: Mapped Seasonal Habitats (non-lek breeding, late brood rearing, and winter habitat) or Suitable Sagebrush Habitat Within a 4-mile Radius of a Lek – Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints, to maintain the integrity of important occupied sage-grouse habitat in order to maintain sustainable local populations:
 - The Authorized Officer may require the proponent/applicant to submit a Plan of Development that will demonstrate:
 - avoidance of direct or indirect loss of important Gunnison sage-grouse (GUSG) habitat necessary for maintenance of the local population or reduce to acceptable levels the direct or indirect loss of important Greater sage-grouse (GRSG) habitat necessary for sustainable populations;
 - special reclamation measures or design features are incorporated that will accelerate recovery and/or reestablishment of affected sage-grouse habitat;
 - the current/future utility of such habitat for sage-grouse use will not be impaired
 - Additional conservation measures may be imposed, as necessary, in order to maintain high quality sage-grouse habitat; reduce fragmentation or loss of habitat within, or between, population areas; reduce cumulative impacts within population areas; and reduce disturbance to sage-grouse use in the area. Conservation measures may be identified in State or local conservation plans, or through appropriate science or research for the species.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-7: Sage Grouse Nesting Habitat – No surface use is allowed during the following time periods, in order to prevent disruption of reproductive activity during the production period. (This stipulation is intended to apply to construction, drilling, fracking, and completion activities; however, it may also apply to operation, maintenance, and production activities that may disrupt reproductive activities of sage-grouse.):
 - Greater sage-grouse: March 1 to July 15, suitable nesting habitat within a 4-mile radius of active leks or mapped nesting habitat.
 - Gunnison sage-grouse: March 1 to June 30, suitable nesting habitat within a 4-mile radius of active leks or mapped nesting habitat.

- STIPULATION CO-TL-8: Sage-Grouse Winter Habitat – No surface use is allowed during the following time periods in mapped important sage-grouse winter range, as defined by the BLM and by the CPW during the planning process, in order to prevent disruption of sage-grouse during the winter period:
 - Greater sage-grouse: Dec. 1 to March 15
 - Gunnison sage-grouse: Dec. 1 to March 15

2.1.6.2.8 Columbian Sharp-Tailed Grouse

Allocations and Management Actions

- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-3: Special Status Species Plants and Wildlife – In areas of known or suspected habitat of Special Status Species (federal Listed, Proposed Candidate, and BLM-Sensitive Species), or significant plant communities, a biological inventory may be required prior to approval of operations. The inventory will be used in environmental analysis (in accordance with the NEPA), and mitigating measures designed to reduce the impacts of surface disturbance on the affected species or their habitats may be required. Special design and construction measures designed to mitigate impacts, may include, but are not limited to, relocation of roads, well pads, pipelines, and other facilities; and fencing operations. The Lessee/Operator may be required to submit to the BLM’s Authorized Officer a plan for avoidance of mitigation of impacts on the identified species.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CU-NSO-10: Columbian Sharp-tailed and Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse – No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below, in order to maintain the integrity of habitat surrounding leks that are used during the breeding period:
 - Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse: within a 0.4-mile radius of leks
 - Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse: within a 0.4-mile radius of leks
- STIPULATION CO-TL-9: Columbian Sharp-tailed and Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse – No surface use is allowed during the following time period(s), in order to prevent disruption of reproductive activity during the production period:
 - Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse: March 1 to June 30, suitable nesting habitat within a 1.25-mile radius of active leks or nesting habitat
 - Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse: March 15 to July 30, suitable nesting habitat within a 1.25-mile radius of active leks or nesting habitat
- STIPULATION CO-TL-10: Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Winter Habitat: No surface use is allowed during the following time period(s), in mapped important Columbian Sharp-tailed grouse winter range, as defined by the BLM and the CPW during the planning process, in order to prevent disruption of Columbian Sharp-tailed grouse during the winter period:
 - Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse: Dec. 1 to March 15

2.1.6.2.9 Greater Sandhill Crane

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-TL-16: Sandhill Crane Nesting, Roosting, Staging, and Migration Habitat – No surface occupancy is allowed during the following time period, in order to prevent disruption of bird behavior during key seasonal habitat use periods:
 - March 1 to October 16, in areas designated by the Authorized Officer for sandhill crane production or migration habitat use

2.1.6.2.10 Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo

Allocations and Management Actions

- If suitable habitat for the Federal Candidate yellow-billed cuckoo is identified, conservation measures specified by the USFWS will be applied.

2.1.6.2.11 Mexican Spotted Owl

Allocations and Management Actions

- If suitable habitat for the Mexican spotted owl is identified, conservation measures specified by the USFWS will be applied.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-14: Raptor-Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PAC) – No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands identified as PACs for Mexican spotted owls, in order to maintain the integrity of the breeding and brood rearing complex.
- STIPULATION CO-CSU-12: Mexican Spotted Owl Suitable Breeding Habitat – Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints, to maintain the availability of suitable breeding and brood rearing habitat, as defined in the MSO Recovery Plan in order to promote recovery:
 - The Authorized Officer may require the proponent/applicant to submit a Plan of Development that will demonstrate that:
 - Impacts to Mexican spotted owl habitat have been avoided to the extent practicable. Constituent elements for Mexican spotted owl breeding habitat include:
 - high basal area of large diameter trees;
 - moderate to high canopy closure;
 - wide range of tree sizes suggestive of uneven-age stands;
 - multi-layered canopy with large overstory trees of various species;
 - high snag basal area;
 - high volumes of fallen trees and other woody debris;
 - high plant species richness; and/or
 - adequate levels of residual plant cover to maintain fruits, seeds, and regeneration in order to provide for the needs of Mexican spotted owl prey species.
 - For canyon habitat, the primary constituent elements include the following attributes:

- cooler and often more humid conditions than the surrounding area;
 - clumps or stringers of trees and/or canyon wall containing crevices, ledges, or caves;
 - high percent of ground litter and woody debris; and/or
 - riparian or woody vegetation (although not at all sites);
 - special reclamation measures or design features are incorporated that will accelerate recovery and/or the reestablishment of affected Mexican spotted owl habitat; and
 - the current/future utility of such habitat for Mexican spotted owl use will not be impaired.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-14: Mexican Spotted Owl Suitable Breeding Habitat – No surface use is allowed during the following time period in suitable Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) breeding habitat, to maintain the utility of suitable breeding and brood rearing habitat, as defined in the MSO Recovery Plan in order to promote recovery. - March 1 to August 31

2.1.6.2.12 Burrowing Owl

Allocations and Management Actions

- Locate and map occupied burrowing owl habitat on BLM-managed public lands in Jackson County.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-6: Raptor-Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl, and all owls and raptors, with the exception of American Kestrel – Prohibit surface occupancy or use within a 0.25 mile radius of active and inactive nest sites of osprey, red-tailed hawk, Swainson’s hawk, Cooper’s hawk, Sharp-shinned hawk, Northern Harrier, Burrowing owl, Great Horned owl, and all owls (with the exception of Mexican spotted owl) in order to maintain the integrity of nest sites and surrounding habitat.
- STIPULATION CO-TL-5: Raptor-Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl, and all owls and raptors, with the exception of American Kestrel Nest Sites – Prohibit surface use within a 0.25 mile radius of active nests from March 15 to August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young, in order to protect reproductive activity at nest sites.

2.1.6.2.13 Bats

Allocations and Management Actions

- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-3: Special Status Species Plants and Wildlife – In areas of known or suspected habitat of Special Status Species (federal Listed, Proposed Candidate, and BLM-Sensitive Species), or significant plant communities, a biological inventory may be required prior to approval of operations. The inventory will be used in environmental analysis (in accordance with the NEPA), and mitigating measures designed to reduce the impacts of surface disturbance on the affected species or their habitats may be required. Special design and construction measures designed to mitigate impacts, may include, but are not limited to, relocation of roads, well pads, pipelines, and other facilities; and fencing operations. The Lessee/Operator may be

required to submit to the BLM’s Authorized Officer a plan for avoidance of mitigation of impacts on the identified species.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-8: Bat Maternity Roosts and Hibernacula – No surface occupancy is allowed within a 0.25- mile radius of known maternity roosts or hibernacula of BLM Sensitive bat species in order to protect known sensitive bat species’ maternity roosts and hibernacula.

2.1.6.2.14 White-Tailed Prairie Dog

Allocations and Management Actions

- Allow for the use of biological or chemical control, or both, of plague vectors at prairie dog colonies.
- Maintain at least 90 percent of the occupied prairie dog habitat acreage as undisturbed on BLM-managed public lands within the Management Focus Area.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-CSU-9: Black-tailed, White-tailed and Gunnison Prairie Dog Town Complexes – Development of lease parcels that include current or historically occupied prairie dog towns, as mapped by the CPW or the BLM, will require one or more of the following conservation measures prior to, and during, lease development, in order to maintain the integrity and extent of prairie dog complexes:
 - development of a Surface Use Plan of Operations with the BLM that integrates and coordinates long-term lease development with measures necessary in order to minimize adverse impacts to prairie dog populations or their habitat.
 - abide by special daily and seasonal activity restrictions on construction, drilling, product transport, and service activities during the reproductive period (from March 1 to June 15).
 - incorporate special modifications to facility siting, design, construction, and operation in order to minimize involvement of prairie dog burrow systems.
 - provide in-kind compensation for habitat loss and/or displacement (such as special on-site prairie dog habitat enhancement), when appropriate.

2.1.6.2.15 Canada Lynx

Allocations and Management Actions

- Implement applicable conservation and restoration measures identified in the Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (Ruediger, 2000). [Occupied lynx habitat is identified in the Lands and Realty section as a ROW Avoidance Area (including renewable energy sites, such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass development).]
- Use timber management, where applicable, in conjunction with, or in place of, fire as a disturbance process to create and maintain snowshoe hare habitat in lynx habitats occurring in Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) in order to achieve desired conditions in accordance with the Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (Ruediger, 2000).
- Update LAU maps and lynx habitat with new information or specific habitat surveys within LAUs that are associated with BLM-managed public lands within the Planning Area. Do not change LAU boundaries unless such modification is supported by providing rationale. (Where

applicable, this would be coordinated between the KFO, and the BLM Colorado State Office, the USFWS, and the USFS.)

- Protect key linkage areas both within, and between, LAUs or suitable lynx habitat, or both, from activities that would create barriers to movement.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-CSU-10: Established Lynx Linkage Corridors and Lynx Habitat within LAUs – Development of lease parcels within established Lynx Linkage Corridors and mapped LAUs will require appropriate application of the following conservation measures prior to, and during, lease development, as determined through Section 7 Consultation with the USFWS, in order to maintain integrity and use of lynx habitat per the Lynx Conservation Assessment Strategy (LCAS) guidelines:
 - Restrict newly constructed road use to activities associated directly with development and construction activities.
 - Reduce the influence of snow compaction and removal activities as travel corridors for competitive predators. Use of over-the-snow vehicles will be prohibited for use in LAU lynx habitat (such as on-site reconnaissance, resource surveys).
 - Surface use or disrupting activities will not be allowed in LAU denning habitat during the denning period, from March 15 to July 15.
 - Development or production facilities will be sited in order to avoid primary lynx habitat. Oil and gas development activities on BLM-managed public lands will not be allowed to contribute disproportionately to management thresholds applied to lynx habitat (no more than 30 percent of mapped habitat within a LAU in unsuitable condition, and less than 15 percent of habitat within a 10-year period; also, maintenance of greater than 10 percent of habitat suitable for denning within an LAU).

2.1.6.2.16 Gray Wolf

Allocations and Management Actions

- If applicable, coordinate with the CPW and the USFWS for wolf management.

Restrictions on Use

- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-2: Endangered Species Act – The lease area may now, or hereafter, contain plants, animals, or other habitats determined to be federally Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed for listing. The BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objectives in order to avoid BLM-approved activity that would adversely affect listed species or their habitat. The BLM may require modifications to (or disapprove) proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a Proposed or Listed Threatened or Endangered Species, or result in the destruction of adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. The BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the ESA as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

2.1.7 Cultural

Goals

- Identify, preserve and protect significant cultural resources in order to ensure appropriate uses by present and future generations (for research, education, and preservation of cultural heritage), including sites of cultural and religious value to Native American tribes in the Peterson Ridge, Owl Ridge, and Dempsey Dome area.
- Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses, by ensuring that all authorizations for land and resource uses comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines.

Objectives

- Preserve the nature and value of cultural resources.
- Preserve the existing character of the historic and associated physical landscapes.
- Promote professional cultural resource research, public awareness, and education.
- Protect the Windy Gap Archaeological Sites.
- Protect, preserve and mitigate significant cultural sites within, and near, the North Sand Hills SRMA.
- Uphold Native American trust responsibilities, and accommodate traditional uses.

Allocations and Management Actions

- The BLM has allocated cultural resources currently recorded, or projected to occur on the basis of existing data synthesis, to the uses described below. These allocations are contained in the Class I Cultural Resource Overview of the BLM’s Kremmling Field Office, which contains privileged information not for distribution (Reed, 2008b).

Use Allocation:	Desired Outcome:
a. Scientific use	Preserved until research potential is realized
b. Conservation for future use	Preserved until conditions for use are met
c. Traditional use	Long term preservation
d. Public use	Long-term preservation, onsite interpretation
e. Experimental use	Protected until used
f. Discharge from management	No use after recordation; not preserved

Sites will be added or removed from each allocation in response to changing conditions or as additional data and information is obtained.

- Inventory, evaluate, mitigate, and protect cultural resources, giving priority to those that are associated with Proposed Actions where surfaces will be disturbed.
- Review all Proposed Actions and coordinate with proponents early in the implementation planning process in order to define potential effect; conduct a literature review; and complete inventories, mitigation, and other related actions in consultation with Native American Tribes, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other parties, as appropriate.
- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-5: Cultural Resources – The lessee is hereby notified that Class III Cultural Resource Inventory may be required prior to surface disturbing activities. Mitigation measures may be required in order to reduce the impacts of surface disturbances on the affected

cultural resources. These mitigating measures may include, but are not limited to, relocation of roads, well pads, and other facilities; evaluative testing; data recovery; and/or fencing. Mitigation measures may be required upon the discovery of any cultural resource. All cultural resource work must be performed by a BLM-permitted Archaeologist. The BLM may charge Federal licensees and permittees project costs of preservation activities conducted under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as a condition to the issuance of such license or permit [NHPA, as amended Section 110(g)].

- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-6: Buried Cultural Resources – The lessee is hereby notified that deep, subsurface survey may be required for subsurface-disturbing operations in areas that have a high potential for deeply buried cultural resources. All cultural resource work must be performed by a BLM-permitted Archaeologist. The BLM may charge Federal licensees and permittees project costs of preservation activities conducted under the NHPA as a condition to the issuance of such license or permit [NHPA, as amended Section 110(g)].
- Identify measures, such as the following in order to proactively manage, protect, and use cultural resources, including traditional cultural properties:
 - develop heritage tourism sites;
 - interpret sites;
 - identify priority areas in need of Class III Cultural Resource Inventories;
 - conduct Class III Cultural Resource Inventories in order to comply with Section 110 of the NHPA;
 - direct proactive inventory toward testing sensitivity predictions described in the Class I overview model (Reed, 2008b);
 - organize and conduct ongoing educational programs for the public, school groups, project proponents, permittees, contractors, and others, about cultural resource ethics; encourage their help in reporting incidents of vandalism; and
 - identify priority at-risk sites for stabilization and rehabilitation.
- Allow scientific research, traditional use by Native Americans and public interpretation and education.
- Continue to manage the Windy Gap Archaeological Sites under a Cultural Resource Management and Protection Plan and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.
- Protect cultural sites within, and near, the North Sand Hills, in accordance with Best Management Plans (BMPs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). (See Appendix D).
- Develop a protocol, in consultation with Native American Tribes, to streamline, focus, and facilitate consultations, information exchange, participation, and incorporation of tribal interests into research interpretation and resource management actions.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-16: Cultural Resources – The lessee is prohibited from surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within a 100-meter-wide protection boundary around known historic properties, traditional cultural properties, listed National Register sites/districts, outstanding cultural resources to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), interpreted and/or public use sites, and experimental use sites (BLM Manual 8110.42 A-E), in order to protect cultural resource sites that may be damaged from inadvertent,

unauthorized, or authorized uses (BLM Manual 8110, Identifying and Evaluating Cultural Resources, Release No. 8-73., BLM 2004c).

2.1.8 Paleontology

Goal

- Preserve and protect significant paleontological resources (generally, vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils).

Objective

- Ensure that paleontological resources are available for appropriate scientific and educational uses.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Provide opportunities for education about, and interpretation of, paleontological resources. Target areas include, but are not limited to, the dinosaur track-way at Rancho del Rio, the Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Locality, and other sites deemed suitable for public use by virtue of their educational value, durability, and sustainability.
- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-7: Paleontological (Fossil) Resources – The lessee is hereby notified that prior to any surface-disturbing activities, an inventory of paleontological resources (fossils) may be required. Mitigation measures may be required upon the discovery of any vertebrate fossil or other scientifically-important paleontological resource. Mitigation of scientifically-important paleontological resources may include avoidance, monitoring, collection, excavation, or sampling. Mitigation of discovered scientifically-important paleontological resources might require the relocation of the disturbance over 100 meters. This, and any subsequent mitigation work, shall be conducted by a BLM-permitted Paleontologist. The lessee shall bear all costs for inventory and mitigation (WO IM-2009-011).

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-25: ACECs, RNAs, and ONAs – Prohibit surface occupancy or use in ACECs, RNAs, and ONAs in order to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards.
- STIPULATION CO-NSO-17: Paleontology Resources – The lessee is prohibited from surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within 100 meters around all known scientifically important paleontological resources.

2.1.9 Visual Resources

Goal

- Protect the open spaces, the natural aesthetics, and the scenic vistas that are considered a social, economic, and environmental benefit.

Objective

- Maintain visual quality and integrity in accordance with Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Designate VRM Classes as follows:
 - VRM I: 9,400 acres;
 - VRM II: 98,400 acres;
 - VRM III: 228,700 acres; and
 - VRM IV: 41,400 acres.
- Manage visual resources on BLM-managed public lands in accordance with the objectives for each class.
- Recognize and make changes in VRM Management Classes that compliment adjacent local, State and Federal entities' land use plans and objectives in order to maintain scenic values.
- Allow necessary road maintenance regardless of VRM Management Classes.
- Within VRM Class II Areas, concentrate all new disturbances within existing ROWs or within 656 feet (200 meters) of existing disturbances in order to maintain overall scenic quality in utility corridors and in high-sensitivity transportation corridors identified and analyzed in the VRM Update (Otak, 2007). (This recognizes existing disturbances, while not foregoing projections for high-sensitivity transportation corridors.)
- Co-locate communication towers, facilities, and associated structures with existing communication sites in order to minimize overall visual impacts.
- Manage all Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) under VRM Class I objectives in order to support the BLM's WSA 6330 policy guidelines to retain a natural landscape (BLM Manual 6330, Management of Wilderness Study Areas (Public), BLM 2012f). If a WSA is designated as Wilderness, the area would continue to be managed as VRM Class I. Exceptions:
 - case-by-case exceptions for valid existing rights and grandfathered uses; and
 - if the WSA is released by Congress
- Manage the following areas found to contain wilderness characteristics under VRM Class II objectives, unless otherwise managed as VRM Class I:
 - Troublesome Addition (Northern Portion): 544 acres
 - If Congress releases the Troublesome WSA from wilderness consideration, update the Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (FLPMA Section 201).
- Manage the following SRMAs under the following VRM Management Class Objectives in order to support setting prescriptions:
 - VRM Class I:
 - North Sand Hills: 682 acres.
 - VRM Class II:
 - North Sand Hills: 735 acres;
 - Upper Colorado River: 14,699 acres;
 - Strawberry: 3,316 acres; and
 - Wolford: 4,643 acres.
 - VRM Class III:
 - North Sand Hills: 34 acres;
 - Upper Colorado River: 329 acres;
 - Strawberry: 4,540 acres; and
 - Wolford: 20,998 acres.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-18: Visual Resources – Surface occupancy is not allowed in all VRM Objective Class I areas, in order to maintain scenic quality in accordance with documented public sensitivity to visual aesthetics and visibility.
- STIPULATION CO-CSU-15: VRM Objective Class Areas – Oil and gas development and operations, and post-operation rehabilitation, must comply with VRM contrast limits by ensuring that project design does not exceed the following contrast ratings by VRM Objective Classes in approved RMPs, in order to maintain scenic quality in accordance with documented public sensitivity to visual aesthetics and visibility:
 - Class II: weak/low;
 - Class III: moderate; and
 - Class IV: strong/high.
- The following visual resource CSU stipulations will be applied to oil and gas leasing on a case-by case basis:
 - CO-CSU-16 – Backcountry and Scenic Byway;
 - CO-CSU-17 – State and U.S. Highway Viewsheds;
 - CO-CSU-18 – Rehabilitation Within State and U.S. Highway and Interstate Viewsheds;
 - CO-CSU-19 – SRMAs;
 - CO-CSU-20 – Key Observation Points (KOPs);
 - CO-CSU-21 – River Foreground and Middleground; and
 - CO-CSU-22 – BLM-administered public lands Near Residential Development.

2.1.10 Wildland Fire Management

Goal

- Give first priority to public and firefighter safety and to protection of property. Integrate fire and fuels management in order to meet Public Land Health Standards (See Appendix J); and natural and cultural resource objectives across landscapes, agencies, and political boundaries. Recognize the role of unplanned natural fire as an essential ecological process, and allow fire to play a natural role in the ecosystem where, or when, resource objectives, or both, can be met.

Objectives

- Allow for planned and unplanned ignitions in order to meet wildland fire and other resource management objectives.
- Apply a full range of wildland fire management options, including full suppression, to unplanned natural fire managed for resource benefits.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Evaluate fuel conditions, fire danger, and hazards associated with wildland fire and manage accordingly, using mechanical, chemical, and prescribed fire treatments, and unplanned natural fire managed for resource benefits. The following areas are the primary focus areas for fuels management and analysis:
 - Yarmony Mountain Management Focus Area: 19,000 acres;
 - Troublesome Management Focus Area: 8,100 acres;
 - Jensen and Kinney Creek Management Focus Area: 16,900 acres;

- Strawberry Management Focus Area: 7,800 acres; and
- Independence Mountain/Pearl Management Focus Area: 16,400 acres.

2.1.11 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Outside of Existing WSAs

Goal

- Provide appropriate levels of protection in areas that will be managed for wilderness characteristics (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation) outside existing WSAs.

Objective

- Protect wilderness characteristics through specific actions.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Protect wilderness characteristics on about 544 acres using specific Management and Setting Prescriptions for BLM-managed public lands managed for wilderness characteristics:
 - Troublesome Addition (Northern Portion): 544 acres.
- Specific prescriptions would not be applied to protect wilderness characteristics in other assessment areas. Management actions, such as travel management, oil and gas leasing stipulations, COAs, and BMPs, may be applied to activities, especially surface-disturbing activities, which would help maintain wilderness characteristics.

Restrictions on Use

- For the Troublesome Addition (Northern Portion) 544 acres:
 - apply VRM Class II management objectives;
 - identify as a retention area;
 - exclude land-use authorizations;
 - propose for withdrawal from mineral entry;
 - close to fluid mineral leasing and preclude geophysical exploration;
 - close to saleable mineral disposal; and
 - close to non-energy solid mineral leasing.

2.1.12 Cave Resources and Abandoned Mines

Goal

- Preserve the biotic, mineralogical, paleontological, hydrologic, and cultural values in caves.

Objectives

- Protect cave values, especially those defined as significant under the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 (FCRPA) in order to provide for opportunities for people to engage in caving, research, and scientific exploration.
- Provide opportunities for people to engage in caving, research, and scientific exploration in caves, while, at the same time, preventing the introduction of White-nose Syndrome (WNS).

Allocations and Management Actions

- Manage any existing, or newly identified caves, in order to retain their physical, social, and operation settings. (See Appendix I, Management and Setting Prescriptions for Cave Resources and Abandoned Mines, in the PRMP.)
- Recommend withdrawal for significant caves.
- Apply measures established in BLM laws, rules, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines in order to prevent the introduction of WNS in caves where bat populations reside. The BLM would protect bats while, at the same time, avoiding unacceptable risks to other biota and natural systems in caves.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-24: Karst (Cave) Resources – Prohibit surface occupancy or use above recreationally significant karst (cave) resources and their associated surface and subterranean hydrologic features, in order to protect sensitive karst recreation-tourism attractions and associated recreation opportunities, and to maintain their social and economic productivity.

2.2 Resource Uses

2.2.1 Forestry

Goal

- Use a variety of silvicultural techniques and harvest systems in order to manage for healthy forests and woodlands while, at the same time, offering a variety of forest products on a sustainable basis.

Objectives

- On suitable productive forest land that is available for intensive management, produce a variety of forest products in order to meet commercial and private demands on a sustained-yield basis.
- Provide supplemental forest products by managing low-productivity forestland (woodlands and forest stands producing less than 20 cubic feet per acre per year), or sites withdrawn from planned harvest for other resource needs or because they are economically inaccessible, commensurate with meeting resource goals and objectives.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Provide forest products, including, but not limited to, sawlogs, firewood, Christmas trees, posts and poles, transplants, specialty wood products, and biomass by implementing the following actions:
 - intensively manage 28,100 acres of commercial forest land to target an average annual PSQ of 2.3 million board feet; and
 - apply limited management to the remaining forests and woodlands: 65,800 acres.
- Conduct intensive management using the following actions: clear-cuts, shelterwood, partial cuts, and other harvest cuts; pre-commercial and commercial thinning; seeding and planting; timber stand improvement; site preparation; sanitation treatments; mechanical treatments, and prescribed fire and unplanned natural fire managed for resource benefits, for stand improvement, replacement, or conversion. Maintain or improve existing access routes and construct permanent

or temporary routes for access to productive forestlands. Pursue temporary or permanent access agreements or easements in order to provide public or administrative access to productive forest areas that are currently inaccessible.

- Implement immediate salvage or accelerated harvests following adverse events (MPB and spruce beetle infestations, other insect outbreaks, disease, blow down, wildfire) in order to regenerate stands and to capture the economic value of forest products before that value is lost. Accelerate harvest of lodgepole pine killed or threatened by MPB for the next 10 years to 15 years in order to salvage commercial value and to reduce the large scale severe wildland fire potential. As markets develop, increase aspen harvest in order to regenerate stands affected by aspen decline and other pathogens.
- Conduct periodic regeneration surveys in order to monitor for adequacy of regeneration of all reproduction-method-treatment areas. If adequate regeneration is not present or anticipated within 15 years, then artificially regenerate the area.
- Conduct periodic stand examinations and forest inventories in order to monitor forest stand conditions. Thinning or other timber stand improvement projects may be monitored by periodic re-measurement of permanently measured plots that compare treated plots with untreated control plots.
- Limit ground-based harvesting systems to slopes of 40 percent or less on suitable soils. Do not constrain aerial or cable systems by slope.
- Conduct limited management, including harvesting for wood products, through the following actions: clear-cuts, shelterwood, partial cuts, and other harvest cuts; commercial thinnings; sanitation treatments; and mechanical treatments; and prescribed fire and unplanned natural fire managed for resource benefits for stand improvement, replacement or conversion. Conduct no intensive practices (such as artificial regeneration or pre-commercial thinning) unless necessary in order to achieve management objectives or benefit other resources.
- Apply forest management practices and harvesting in order to improve other resource values, and reduce hazardous fuels in cooperation with forest management activities on adjacent private lands.

2.2.2 Livestock Grazing

Goal

- Apply flexible and sustainable livestock grazing, in accordance with Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in order to contribute to local economies, ranching livelihoods, and to the rural western character integral to many communities (Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, BLM 1997a). See Appendix J.

Objective

- Meet the forage demands of livestock operations based upon current active use (AUMs) while, at the same time, improving the quantity and quality of forage available for livestock and wildlife.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Provide approximately 328,100 acres for livestock grazing and approximately 38,865 AUMs of livestock forage.

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- Close six allotments that are unsuitable for livestock grazing, totaling 8,759 acres:
 - 07041 (Pinkham): 240 acres;
 - 07522 (Selak): 5,106 acres;
 - 07524 (Fraser River): 1,396 acres;
 - 07755 (Selak East): 560 acres;
 - 07050 (Lower Sand Hills): 537 acres; and
 - 07163 (Sand Hills): 920 acres.
- Create one new allotment of approximately 480 acres in T.2 N., R. 79 W, Sections 19 and 20.
- Allow temporary non-renewable livestock grazing on BLM-managed public lands not currently authorized for grazing (except on closed allotments), including future land acquisitions, in accordance with applicable regulations, policies, and land management objectives, when livestock grazing is determined to be an appropriate use. This would result in an undetermined increase in acres available for grazing and AUMs.
- Create three reserve allotments that may be used for temporary, non-renewable livestock grazing in emergencies, or in order to manage vegetation:
 - 07505 (Sulphur Gulch): 4,797 acres;
 - 07573 (Lawson Ridge): 951 acres; and
 - 07561 (Spruce Creek): 4,616 acres.
- Categorize 257 grazing allotments for management according to one of the following three levels (Maintain, Improve, Custodial)
 - Maintain: allotment in satisfactory condition;
 - Improve: allotment in unsatisfactory condition; and
 - Custodial: small unconsolidated allotments.

Rank allotments for priority attention and make adjustments as monitoring data becomes available.

- Conduct vegetation manipulation and other range improvement projects, including grazing management practices, in order to improve the quality and quantity of forage available for livestock and wildlife.
- Assess vegetation attributes in grazing allotments in order to ensure that the BLM Colorado Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management are met in accordance with established protocols and technical references (Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, BLM 1997a). See Appendix J
- When deemed necessary by the Authorized Officer, defer, or exclude livestock grazing use for two growing seasons on disturbed areas (after a fire event, reclamation of disturbed lands, seedings, surface disturbing vegetation treatment), or until site-specific analysis or monitoring data, or both, indicate that vegetation cover, species composition, and litter accumulation are adequate to support and protect watershed values, meet vegetation objectives, and sustain grazing use.

2.2.3 Recreation and Visitor Services

Goal

- Produce a diversity of quality recreational opportunities that support outdoor-oriented lifestyles and add to participants' quality of life while, at the same time, contributing to the local economies.

Objectives

- Resource Protection – Increase awareness, understanding, and a sense of stewardship in recreational activity participants so that their conduct safeguards cultural and natural resources as defined by Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management or area-specific outcomes (such as in relation to ACECs, WSRs, etc.). See Appendix J.
- Visitor Health and Safety – Ensure that visitors are not exposed to unhealthy or unsafe human-created conditions (defined by a repeat incident in the same year, of the same type, in the same location, due to the same cause).
- Use/User Conflict – Achieve a minimum level of conflict between recreation participants in order to: 1) allow other resources and programs to achieve their RMP objectives; 2) curb illegal trespass and property damage; and 3) maintain a diversity of recreational activity participation.
- Community Growth Area – Increase collaboration with community partners in order to maintain appropriate activity-based recreational opportunities in community growth areas (BLM-managed public lands adjacent to, between, and surrounding communities; also referred to as WUI areas).

Allocations and Management Actions

- Camping Limits – In areas open to camping, implement a 14-day camping limit on BLM-managed public lands from September 1 to March 31, unless otherwise authorized. From April 1 to August 31, implement a 7-day camping limit, unless otherwise authorized. Campers must relocate at least a 30-mile radius away, and may not return within 30 days to a previous campsite.
- Camping Closures – Close the following BLM-managed public lands to camping (7,607 acres):
 - the open Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) area south and east of Wolford Mountain;
 - lands west of Grand County Road 224, south of Wolford Mountain, west of Wolford Reservoir, and east of U.S. Highway 40;
 - Confluence Recreation Site, and adjacent BLM-managed public lands;
 - State Highway 9 and Red Mountain Fishing Accesses;
 - Barger Gulch Fishing Access;
 - Reeder Creek Fishing Access and adjacent BLM-managed public lands;
 - Powers Fishing Access;
 - Sunset Fishing Access and adjacent BLM-managed public lands;
 - Windy Gap Fishing Access Parking Area;
 - Fraser River Fishing Access Parking Area;
 - Sidewinder Jeep Trail Parking Area;
 - Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Site;
 - Barger Gulch Paleo-Indian Site;
 - Yarmony Pit House Site;
 - Yarmony Jeep Trail Zone;
 - Independence Mountain Tipi Site;

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- Junction Butte Wetlands;
- Gore Ranch Site;
- Hurd Peak staging area; and
- North Sand Hills Instant Study Area.
- Allow for recreational target shooting on BLM-managed public lands outside of areas with target shooting restrictions (see below), provided that target shooting is conducted toward a proper backstop sufficient to stop the projectile's forward progress beyond the intended target. Targets shall be constructed of wood, cardboard and paper, or similar non-breakable materials. All targets, clays, and shells are considered litter after use, and must be removed and properly discarded.
- Recreational Target Shooting Use Restriction – Prohibit recreational target shooting on the following BLM-managed public lands (20,350 acres). The purpose of the restriction is to protect visitor safety by minimizing potential for accidental shootings. Continue to permit hunting in these areas in accordance with CPW regulations:
 - developed recreation sites;
 - Upper Colorado River SRMA (6,868 acres);
 - Barger Gulch fishing access (51 acres);
 - Colorado River (5,631 acres);
 - Confluence developed recreation site (32 acres);
 - Highway 9 fishing access (361 acres);
 - Powers developed recreation site (12 acres);
 - Reeder Creek fishing area (217 acres);
 - Reeder Creek parking/access (96 acres);
 - Sunset fishing access (197 acres);
 - Upper Colorado River corridor and Scenic Byway (271 acres);
 - Hebron Watchable Wildlife Area (4,281 acres);
 - Wolford SRMA, south portion (5,246 acres);
 - Strawberry SRMA, Strawberry/Hurd Peak area (852 acres);
 - Headwaters ERMA (1,408 acres);
 - Kinney Creek (1,328 acres);
 - Jacques parking area (80 acres); and
 - recreation sites developed in the future.
- Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) – Issue SRPs as a discretionary action in accordance with the BLM National and Colorado SRP Policies. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses that are consistent with resource and program objectives, and within budgetary and workload constraints. Prohibit vending permits except for special events on BLM-managed public lands (an exception would be to allow firewood sales at the Radium and the Pumphouse Recreation sites, in the North Sand Hills SRMA, and would be considered in other developed recreation sites.) Apply cost-recovery procedures for issuing SRPs where appropriate. (See Appendix K, Special Recreation Permit Evaluation Criteria.)
- Fees – As provided by the guidelines in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Fee Act of 2004 (FLREA PL 108-447), implement recreation fees, as appropriate, in order to maintain visitor services and facilities by managing sites or areas as U.S. Fee Areas.

- Trail Construction and Maintenance – Complete trail construction and maintenance using the guidelines included in the Criteria for Placement of Trails. (See Appendix L, Description of Recreation Resources.)
- Establish the following area as a separate Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) in order to specifically address local recreation issues:
 - Headwaters: 13,800 acres
- Lands not in ERMA's or SRMA's (approximately 314,000 acres) would not be managed for specific recreation opportunities. (See Appendix L, Description of Recreation Resources.)

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-NSO-23: Recreation and Visitor Resources – Prohibit surface occupancy or use within the boundaries of BLM developed recreation sites, in order to protect capital facility investments, protect recreational opportunities, maintain desirable recreation setting characteristics, and maintain the social and economic productivity of BLM recreation sites.
- The following recreation resource NSO stipulations will be applied to oil and gas leasing on a case-by-case basis:
 - CO-NSO-19: High Value Recreation and Wildlife Habitat Resources;
 - CO-NSO-20: Recreation and Visitor Resources (Parks); and
 - CO-NSO-21: Recreation and Visitor Resources (Wildlife Areas).
- STIPULATION CO-CSU-24: Developed Recreation Sites – Surface occupancy is restricted within one-half mile of the boundaries of BLM developed recreation sites, except where sights and sounds may be topographically screened, in order to protect capital facility investments, protect recreational opportunities, maintain desirable recreation setting characteristics, and maintain the social and economic productivity of BLM recreation sites.
- The following recreation resource CSU stipulations will be applied to oil and gas leasing on a case-by-case basis:
 - CO-CSU-25: Recreation Travel Routes and Corridors; and
 - CO-CSU-26: Recreation Access Zones
- STIPULATION K-CSU-1: ERMA's – Surface occupancy is restricted at sites within specific ERMA's, and at sites on other lands outside of SRMA's, where assets have been developed, in order to promote and enhance recreational activities and opportunities, and to protect the area resources, in order to protect BLM recreational investments (such as trails, roads, signs, kiosks, fencing, and facilities that provide for public health and safety) within ERMA's, and at sites outside of SRMA's. (Headwaters: 13,800 acres)

2.2.3.1 Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA's)

Objective

- Specific Outcome-focused Objectives, Recreation Setting Character Conditions, and the Administrative, Management, Information, and Monitoring Framework can be found in Appendix L (Description of Recreation Resources).

Allocations and Management Actions

- Administratively designate four SRMA's for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting (approximately 50,000 acres total)
 - North Sand Hills (1,450 acres)

- close to oil and gas leasing;
- close to non-energy solid mineral leasing;
- close to saleable mineral disposal;
- petition for withdrawal;
- land use authorization Avoidance Area;
- Retention Area; and
- apply COAs, BMPs, and SOPs on non-fluid mineral activities.
- Upper Colorado River (Parshall to State Bridge – (15,000 acres))
 - close to oil and gas leasing;
 - close to non-energy solid mineral leasing;
 - close to saleable mineral disposal;
 - petition for withdrawal (2,800 acres not already withdrawn);
 - land use authorization Avoidance Area; Retention Area; and
 - apply COAs, BMPs, and SOPs on non-fluid mineral activities.
- Strawberry (7,900 acres)
 - close to oil and gas leasing;
 - close to non-energy solid mineral leasing;
 - close to saleable mineral disposal;
 - petition for withdrawal;
 - land use authorization Avoidance Area;
 - Retention Area; and
 - Apply COAs, BMPs, and SOPs on non-fluid mineral activities.
 - *[Note: Forest management projects would occur within the Strawberry SRMA. During project planning and design, recreation setting characteristics would be protected wherever possible; although, in some cases, recreation setting characteristics may be modified within a project area to meet forest management and public health and safety objectives.]*
- Wolford (25,700 acres)
 - CSU for fluid minerals;
 - Open for other minerals;
 - Retention Area;
 - Apply COAs, BMPs, and SOPs on non-fluid mineral activities.

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-CSU – 19: SRMAs – Surface occupancy or use is restricted within the following SRMAs where the Authorized Officer identifies and documents, through the environmental analysis and planning process, specific recreation-tourism visitors and/or community customer markets to be served, and specifies setting character and service delivery system conditions essential to the achievement of specifically targeted recreation benefits and associated recreational activities; in order to protect major BLM investments within SRMAs; the distinctive character of settings and service delivery systems essential to production of specified recreation benefits and associated activity opportunities; and the individual, social, economic, and environmental benefits thereby realized: Wolford: 25,700 acres

2.2.4 Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

Goal

- The Travel Management System supports the BLM’s mission, achieves resource management goals and desired outcomes, and provides for appropriate public and administrative access.

Objective

- Maintain a comprehensive Travel Management System that best meets the full range of public, resource management, and administrative access needs.

Allocations and Management Actions – Over-Land Travel

- In areas and on routes subject to the application of seasonal closures, the closure may be waived for administrative or BLM-authorized uses, after consideration, on a case-by-case basis.
- Designate OHV-area travel as follows:
 - Open: 200 acres;
 - Limited to Existing Routes: 0 acres;
 - Limited to Designated Routes: 369,300 acres; and,
 - Closed: 8,400 acres
- Routes designated as Limited total 1,637 miles, classified as follows:
 - routes designated for full-sized vehicles (vehicles 50 inches or greater in width): 862 miles;
 - routes designated for ATVs (vehicles less than 50 inches in width, routes maintained to a maximum of 50 inches in width): 12 miles;
 - routes designated for motorcycles (vehicles with one front wheel and one rear wheel, routes maintained to a maximum of 24 inches in width): 15 miles;
 - routes designated for mechanized vehicles (non-motorized vehicles with one front wheel and one rear wheel, routes maintained to a maximum of 24 inches in width): 18 miles;
 - routes designated for foot/horse: 85 miles;
 - routes designated for foot: 6 miles; and
 - routes designated for administrative use: 645 miles;

These route designations are implementation level decisions and are therefore appealable. More details for Appeal Procedures can be found in the Record of Decision. Details on route designations can be found in Appendix A of this document and maps for route designations can be found in Appendix A of the Proposed RMP.

- *[NOTE: Administrative routes are limited to authorized users (typically, motorized access). These are existing routes that lead to developments that have an administrative purpose, where the BLM or a permitted user must have access for regular maintenance or operation. These authorized developments could include power lines, cabins, weather stations, communication sites, spring developments, corrals, or water troughs.]*
- Implement the following seasonal travel closures:

- **December 15 – April 15:** Wolford Travel Management Area, the North Sand SRMA and WSA, the Strawberry SRMA, and Inspiration Point Flats Roads.
- **December 15 – June 1:** Strawberry Road No. 2751 above Fraser River Fishing Access and single track mechanical transport trails and Hurd Peak Road.
- **December 15 – June 1: Roads**
 - Dice Hill Road No. 2750;
 - Black Mountain Access Road No. 2757;
 - Sulphur Gulch Road off of Black Mountain Road to the BLM boundary off of U.S. Hwy. 40;
 - Fox Loop (Grouse Mountain Road) No. 2758;
 - Grouse Mountain Road (up from gate) No. 2758;
 - Smith Mesa Road No. 2759;
 - Hurd Peak Road No. 2765;
 - Parson's Draw Road No. 2513;
 - Three Mile Creek Road No. 2510;
 - Bull Mountain Road No. 2505;
 - Owl Mountain Road No. 2502 and No. 2506;
 - Hogback Road No. 2760;
 - Sheriff Creek Road No. 2764;
 - McQueary Loop No. 2768;
 - McQueary Creek Road No. 2756 below gate near McQueary Loop Road;
 - Kinney Creek Road No. 2755;
 - Buffalo Peak Access Roads No. 2507 and No. 2508; and
 - Independence Mountain Access Roads No. 2503 and No. 2504.
- **Labor Day - June 1: Roads**
 - Smith Mesa Lower Mainline Road No. 2762;
 - McQueary Creek Road No. 2756 above gate near McQueary Creek Loop Road No. 2768;
 - Kinney Creek Spur Roads;
 - Behler Creek Road No. 2769;
 - Spruce Creek Road (Dice Hill before USFS boundary) No. 2767; and
 - Spruce Creek Spur Roads No. 2770 and No. 2771.
- **September 15 – June 1:**
 - Wolford Mountain Single Track Trail
- **Administrative Use Only:**
 - Mitchell Placer Road
- [NOTE: Exceptions to seasonal closures will be considered for over-the-snow travel when the average snow depth is 12 inches or more, except in the Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area, where over-the-snow travel is restricted to designated routes. The Authorized Officer may adjust the start or end date of a seasonal closure depending upon ground conditions, resource concerns, or public health and safety. The CPW will be consulted for seasonal closure adjustments regarding wildlife protection.]
- **Motorized Use** – Prohibit motorized travel off designated routes in Limited and Closed areas, with the following exceptions and supplementary stipulations:

- BLM authorization for administrative use (such as accessing private land; accessing minerals/energy sites; administering grazing allotments; or conducting maintenance or installation of range improvements, habitat treatments, trail construction, communication sites, and reservoirs);
- BLM authorization to exercise valid existing rights;
- For emergency and other purposes as authorized under 43 CFR 8340.0-5(a)(2),(3),(4) and (5):
 - any non-amphibious registered motorboat;
 - any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes;
 - any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Authorized Officer, or otherwise officially approved;
 - vehicles in official use; and
 - any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.
- **Mechanical Transport** – Prohibit motorized travel off designated routes in Limited and Closed areas, with the following exceptions and supplementary stipulations:
 - BLM authorization for administrative use (such as accessing private land; accessing minerals/energy sites; administering grazing allotments; or conducting maintenance or installation of range improvements, habitat treatments, trail construction, communication sites, and reservoirs);
 - BLM authorization to exercise valid existing rights;
 - for emergency and other purposes as authorized under 43 CFR 8340.0-5(a)(2),(3),(4) and (5):
 - any non-amphibious registered motorboat;
 - any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes;
 - any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Authorized Officer, or otherwise officially approved;
 - vehicles in official use; and
 - any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.
- **Administrative Use** – Grant Administrative use authorizations on a case-by-case basis with approval from the Authorized Officer. For all authorizations that allow off-route motorized travel or mechanical transport, or both, specify the following:
 - what type of use is allowed, and for what purpose;
 - times;
 - dates or seasons of access;
 - where motorized or mechanized vehicle travel off designated routes is allowed; and
 - emergency and other purposes, as authorized under 43 CFR 8340.0-5(a)(2),(3),(4) and (5):
 - any non-amphibious registered motorboat;
 - any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes;

- any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Authorized Officer, or otherwise officially approved;
 - vehicles in official use; and
 - any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.
- Access to Campsites – In areas with Limited travel designations, allow motorized travel or mechanical transport, or both, up to 300 feet from designated motorized routes or mechanical transport routes for direct access to dispersed campsites provided that:
 - no resource damage occurs;
 - no new routes are created; and
 - such access is not otherwise prohibited by the BLM Field Manager.
 - Game Retrieval – Prohibit motorized cross-country travel for big game retrieval on BLM-managed public lands, excluding direct access for mechanical transport game retrieval carts provided that:
 - no resource damage occurs;
 - no new routes are created; and
 - such access is not otherwise prohibited by the BLM Field Manager.
 - Non-motorized Modes of Travel – Non-motorized modes of travel (such as foot and equestrian, including pack stock) are allowed on BLM-managed public lands unless otherwise specified.

Allocations and Management Actions – Over-the-Snow Travel

- Define an over-the-snow vehicle as a motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow, and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis. An over-the-snow vehicle does not include machinery used strictly for the grooming of non-motorized trails.
- Areas and routes open to over-the-snow travel must have a minimum of 12 inches of snow in order to be considered open for public use. The 12-inch rule may be waived for administrative or BLM-authorized uses, after consideration on a case-by-case basis.
- On groomed, non-motorized winter trails, restrict travel to non-motorized and non-mechanical transport uses only, unless otherwise authorized by the BLM Field Manager.
- Designate all BLM-managed public lands open to over-the-snow vehicles, except in areas where over-the-snow travel is Limited to Designated Routes as follows:
 - Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area, restricted to snowmobiles on designated routes from December 15 to April 15 in order to protect big-game wintering habitat.
 - Prohibit over-the-snow vehicles on BLM-managed public lands in the following areas:
 - all winter wildlife closures (from December 15 to April 15):
 - Wolford Travel Management Area;
 - North Sand Hills SRMA and WSA;
 - Strawberry SRMA;
 - Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite ACEC;
 - Platte River Contiguous WSA;
 - Troublesome WSA and adjacent BLM-managed public lands, which are those lands included in the Troublesome Temporary Road and Area Closure of September 2006; and
 - Barger Gulch ACEC.

Allocations and Management Actions – Water and Air Travel

- Water – Close all BLM-managed open (i.e. non ice-covered) public waters (e.g., rivers, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs) to motorized use unless use is consistent with the area’s management objectives, and is approved by the BLM’s Authorized Officer.
 - Exception: Wolford Reservoir.
- Air – Require all motorized aircraft including, but not limited to, airplanes, helicopters, and ultralights, to have a use authorization for take-off and landing locations on BLM-managed public lands or waters.

2.2.5 Lands and Realty

Goals

- Meet public needs for realty authorizations (such as ROWs, renewable energy sources, permits, and leases) when such needs are consistent with other resource values.
- Provide for public ownership of lands (or interests in lands) with high-value resources or public values, or both, that facilitate effective BLM land management.

Objectives

- Provide for the development of transportation systems, utilities, communication sites, and renewable energy resources when development is consistent with management of other resources values.
- Apply the following criteria when considering land tenure adjustments:
 - retain all public lands or interests in lands (such as easements) that enhance multiple-use and sustained-yield management;
 - acquire lands or interests in lands that complement important resource values and further management objectives; and
 - dispose of lands or interests in lands that are difficult or uneconomical to manage or no longer needed for Federal purposes.
- Meet resource management needs by withdrawing lands from operation of the General Mining Law of 1872.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Designate as ROW corridors the alignments delineated in the 1992 (updated in 2003) Western Regional Corridor Study (Western Regional Corridor Study, 1992, 2003) . Locate new utility facilities in designated or existing corridors, unless an evaluation shows that to be impracticable.
- Designate 122,800 acres as land use authorization Avoidance Areas (including renewable energy sites, such as solar under 20 MW, wind, hydro, and biomass development):
 - Heritage Areas identified in the future;
 - ACECs not included in land-use authorization Exclusion Areas;
 - NSO steep slopes (greater than or equal to 40 percent);
 - developed recreation sites;
 - SRMAs;
 - wetlands;
 - structural range improvements;
 - occupied habitat for threatened or endangered species;

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- active Greater sage-grouse leks with 0.6-mile buffer;
- VRM Class II Areas with slopes over 30 percent and high visual sensitivity;
- Watchable Wildlife Areas (Junction Butte Wetland and Hebron Waterfowl Area); and
- Colorado River segments 4 and 5 eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS (Recreational classification.)
- *[NOTE: Avoidance Area is defined as an area within which land use authorizations such as ROW grants, would be avoided to the extent possible due to some sensitive resource value that may be damaged or diminished if development were allowed. Exception: Continuation of existing ROW grants and ongoing maintenance and operations. Additional stipulations may be added upon renewal.]*
- Designate 10,150 acres as land use authorization Exclusion Areas (including renewable energy sites, such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass development):
 - WSAs;
 - ACECs (Barger Gulch Heritage Area and Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite RNA);
 - VRM Class I Areas; and
 - lands determined to contain wilderness characteristics outside existing WSAs.
- *[NOTE: Exclusion Area is defined as an area within which a land-use authorization, such as a ROW grant, would not be considered due to some sensitive resource value that would be irreversibly damaged or diminished if development activities were allowed. Exception: Continuation of existing ROW grants and ongoing maintenance and operations. Additional stipulations may be added upon renewal.]*
- Installing memorials or monuments on BLM-managed public lands would require approval by a ROW or other authorization. Installing memorials (such as park benches or trees) in order to enhance a recreation site or wildlife habitat will be encouraged.
- Emphasize the co-location of communication site facilities and use of existing sites in order to minimize the number of total sites. Require communication site plans for new communication site locations. New communication sites may be considered if the new use cannot be accommodated on an existing site or on non-BLM administered public lands.
- Retain the following BLM-managed public lands for long-term management totaling about 467,800 acres:
 - SRMAs (50,000 acres);
 - developed recreational sites (200 acres);
 - developed administrative sites;
 - ACECs (9,700 acres);
 - WSAs (8,900 acres);
 - Colorado River segments 4 and 5 for inclusion in the NWSR (Recreational classification – 2,677 acres);
 - Heritage areas identified in the future;
 - high-potential Federal mineral estate under private and State-owned surface (118,200 acres), and high- and moderate-potential Federal mineral estate under Federal surface (116,000 acres);
 - occupied habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species (3,200 acres);
 - Greater sage-grouse core areas (123,100 acres);
 - wildlife critical winter range (229,200 acres);

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- access points to BLM-managed public lands;
- major river corridors [0.50-mile on either side of the following rivers: Colorado, Blue, Fraser (Grand County), and North Platte (Jackson County)] (19,900 acres);
- perennial stream corridors with a width of a minimum of the flood plain (3,500 acres);
- lands managed for wilderness characteristics outside of WSAs (544 acres);
- Federal reserved water right withdrawals. (If the exception criteria listed below apply, Federal reserved water right withdrawals must be revoked prior to land tenure adjustments; and
- Power Site Reserves and Power Site Classifications within, or adjacent to, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) power project (14,100 acres).
- *[NOTE: The acreages of each retention entry, when totaled will not equal the total retention acreage due to overlap.]*
- *Exception Criteria for Retention Areas – Retain the areas above for long-term management unless:*
 - the resource values and the public objectives that the Federal lands or interests to be conveyed may serve if retained in Federal ownership are not more than the resource values of the non-Federal lands or interests and the public objectives they could serve if acquired (43 CFR 2200.0-6[1]);
 - the resource values of lands leaving public ownership are guaranteed protection under other ownership (transferred lands included in a long-term Conservation Easement that become part of a wildlife management area);
 - lands on the list of Retention Areas included in a proposed land exchange for which an agreement to initiate an exchange was approved before the date of the Notice of Intent to prepare the DRMP/DEIS; or
 - lands in trespass, where it would be in the public interest to allow for a sale.
- Consider acquisitions for BLM-managed public lands inside, and outside, of Retention Areas through exchanges, boundary adjustments, donations, or purchases that meet any of the following criteria:
 - provide public access;
 - consolidate existing BLM-managed public lands, including parcels that make management easier or reduce trespass occurrences;
 - are suitable for public purposes adjacent to, or of special importance to, local communities and to State and/or Federal agencies for purposes including, but not limited to, community expansion, extended community services, or economic development;
 - areas near communities that provide open spaces and preserve agriculture; protect wildlife and critical habitat;
 - enhance recreation opportunities; and, generally, serve the public good;
 - could improve water quality or increase water quantity;
 - facilitate the conservation or recovery of Special Status Species; and
 - meet the intent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund or Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA)
- Actively pursue easements through specific parcels in order to improve access to BLM-managed public lands for administrative and public needs.

- Land use priorities and management prescriptions for future land acquisitions will be identified and established in site-specific environmental documents prepared for each individual land acquisition.
- Consider disposals through exchanges, State selections, boundary adjustments, Recreation and Public Purpose Act (RPPA) leases and patents, leases under Section 203 and 209 of the FLPMA, and sales under FLTFA for BLM-managed public lands outside of Retention Areas. Apply the following criteria to disposals:
 - lands that contain important wetland or riparian wildlife habitat, other water resources, significant cultural resources, recreational values, or are essential to Candidate, Listed, or Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis;
 - disposal of the land will not adversely impact the manageability of remaining BLM-managed public lands or minerals;
 - disposal of the land will not adversely impact the public's access to remaining BLM-managed public lands;
 - disposal of the land is deemed to be in the local public's interest; and
 - existing public access at the time of disposal would be reserved, as needed, if the lands are transferred out of public ownership.
- Reserved Federal interests in split-estate lands anywhere within the Planning Area may be considered for conveyance out of Federal ownership.
- The following areas have been withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws, totaling approximately 13,940 acres:
 - Upper Colorado River SRMA: 13,257 acres; and
 - North Sand Hills Instant Study Area (ISA): 681 acres.

[NOTE: Upper Colorado River acres include mineral estate under other surface ownership inholdings.]
- Propose the following areas for withdrawal (in priority order for action) from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws, totaling approximately 23,100 acres:
 - YMCA/Sheep Mountain Conservation Easement: 3,400 acres;
 - ACECs: 9,671 acres;
 - Developed recreation sites: 34 acres;
 - areas managed for wilderness characteristics outside of existing WSAs: 544 acres;
 - SRMAs - Upper Colorado River [West and East], and North Sand Hills acres not already withdrawn (1,600 acres), and Strawberry (7,900 acres);
 - Eligible segments in the NWSRS not already withdrawn as part of the Upper Colorado River SRMA; 24 acres;
 - National Scenic Trails; and
 - Caves, when discovered and determined to be significant.

[NOTE: 1) Due to overlapping acreages, the total acreage for withdrawal will not equal the sum of the acreages of the individual areas proposed for withdrawal; and 2) the acreage proposed for withdrawal is under BLM-managed surface and other surface ownerships.]
- Review withdrawals, as needed, and recommend their renewal, continuation, revocation, or termination.

2.2.6 Energy and Minerals

2.2.6.1 Coal

Goal

- Provide opportunities for the leasing, exploration, and development of coal in order to meet local and national energy needs. See Appendix L in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Objective

- Facilitate environmentally sound exploration and development of coal resources, using the best available technology.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Manage approximately 123,700 acres of Federal mineral estate within the McCallum Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area (KRCRA) as open to consideration for coal leasing. [Within the McCallum KRCRA, a preliminary application of 20 unsuitability criteria revealed that about 106,000 acres are unsuitable for surface mining (see Appendix L in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS).] Additional applications of unsuitability criteria will not be made on future or existing, non-producing coal lease until the mine plan review stage. All lands determined suitable, unsuitable, or unacceptable for future consideration for leasing may be reviewed, and suitability determinations may be modified based upon new data during activity planning efforts.

If lands outside the McCallum KRCRA are proposed for consideration for coal leasing, determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis, including identifying lands that are acceptable for consideration for coal leasing and development.

Before a decision is made to lease specific tracts, site-specific activity planning, environmental analysis, and a determination of development potential, may be required. Lands with special designations (such as ACECs or SRMAs) are considered to be unsuitable for coal leasing and surface development. In situations where development potential of an area is unknown, exploratory drilling may be allowed in order to obtain sufficient data for resource management decisions, and to make fair market value determinations.

- Apply special conditions that must be met during more detailed planning, lease sale, or post-lease activities, including measures required to protect other resource values, as outlined in Appendix C (Conditions of Approval for Applicable Surface-Disturbing Activities Other Than Oil and Gas Leasing), and Appendix D (Best Management Practices and Standard Operating Procedures).

Restrictions on Use

- **STIPULATION:** Controlled Surface Use CO-CSU-27 - Coal Resources – Apply CSU (site-specific relocation) restrictions to oil and gas operations within the area of federally leased coal. Relocate oil and gas operations outside the area to be mined or located in order to accommodate room and-pillar mining operations, in order to protect coal resources.

2.2.6.2 Fluid Minerals (Oil and Gas, Oil Shale)

Goal

- Provide opportunities for leasing, exploration, and development of fluid minerals (oil and gas, including coalbed methane) using balanced, multiple-use and sustained-yield management in order to meet local and national energy needs.

Objective

- Facilitate orderly, economic, and environmentally sound exploration and development of oil and gas resources in conjunction with other resource uses and objectives, using the best available technology.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Manage approximately 590,300 acres of Federal mineral estate as open to oil and gas leasing and development. Standard lease terms and leasing stipulations would be applied to leases. COAs, BMPs, and SOPs (see Appendices C and D), design features, and mitigation measures would be applied to development proposals. (The BLM has the discretion to modify surface operations in order to change or to add specific mitigation measures when supported by scientific analysis.) All mitigation and conservation measures not already required as stipulations will be analyzed in a site specific environmental analysis document, and be incorporated, as appropriate, into COAs of the Permits, Plans of Development, or other use authorizations.

Restrictions on Use

[NOTE: The acreages in the following leasing stipulation summaries are not additive. Leasing stipulations (NSO, CU, and TLs) will be applied in a variety of overlapping combinations on Federal mineral estate open to leasing in order to accomplish specific management objectives].

- NO LEASING SUMMARY – Close approximately 63,200 acres of the Federal mineral estate to oil and gas leasing and geophysical exploration:
 - lands managed for wilderness characteristics outside of WSAs (544 acres);
 - suitable WSR segments (5,256 acres);
 - State-owned wildlife areas (11,800 acres);
 - Upper Colorado River SRMA (15,000 acres);
 - YMCA/Sheep Mtn. Conservation Easement (3,400 acres);
 - North Sand Hills SRMA (1,450 acres);
 - Strawberry SRMA (7,900 acres);
 - WSA and Troublesome inholding (9,388 acres); and
 - municipal boundaries (10,300 acres).
- NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY SUMMARY – Apply major constraints (NSO) to 313,900 acres of Federal Mineral estate that are open to fluid minerals leasing. Lease areas with fluid minerals NSO stipulations in order to protect resources.
- CONTROLLED SURFACE USE SUMMARY – Apply moderate constraints (CSUs) to approximately 483,600 acres of Federal mineral estate that are open to fluid minerals leasing. Lease areas with CSU stipulations in order to protect resources.

- **TIMING LIMITATION SUMMARY** – Apply moderate use constraints (TLs) to approximately 486,000 acres of Federal mineral estate that are open to fluid minerals leasing. Lease areas with timing limitation stipulations in order to protect resources.

2.2.6.2.1 North Park Master Leasing Plan (MLP)

Objective

- North Park Master Leasing Plan Vision: Facilitate the exploration and development of oil and gas resources in the North Park MLP Planning area, while resolving possible conflicts with future leasing and development, and ensuring protection of the area’s resources and resource uses, including, but not limited to: air quality; soils; water; riparian; fish and wildlife; Special Status Species; recreation; and ACECs.

Resource Protection Measure (Action or Restriction)

- Approximately 376,600 acres of Federal mineral estate in the North Park MLP Planning area will be open to oil and gas leasing and development. Approximately 14,000 acres of Federal mineral estate in the North Park MLP Planning area will be closed to oil and gas leasing and geophysical exploration.
- Apply NSO, CSU, and TL leasing stipulations in the North Park MLP area to protect resources:
 - Apply major constraints (NSO) to about 184,000 acres of Federal mineral estate that are open to fluid minerals leasing;
 - Apply moderate constraints (CSU) to about 328,400 acres of Federal mineral estate that are open to fluid minerals leasing;
 - Apply moderate constraints (TL) to about 321,200 acres of Federal mineral estate that are open to fluid minerals leasing.

Table 2 Oil and Gas leasing Stipulations Summary and Fluid Mineral Potential for the MLP Planning area

Stipulations and Fluid Mineral Potential	Federal Mineral Estate RMP Acreage (Rounded)
CLOSED to fluid mineral leasing	14,000
High-potential areas	2,100
Moderate-potential areas	500
OPEN to fluid mineral leasing	376,600
High-potential areas	109,700
○ High-potential areas with major constraints (NSO)	54,000
○ High-potential areas with moderate constraints (CSU)	106,900
○ High-potential areas with moderate constraints (TL)	108,100
Moderate-potential areas	20,300
○ Moderate-potential areas with major constraints (NSO)	14,500
○ Moderate-potential areas with moderate constraints (CSU)	17,400
○ Moderate-potential areas with moderate constraints (TL)	19,000

Note: Stipulation acreages may overlap

Table 3 Oil and Gas leasing Stipulations Summary and Land Management for the MLP Planning area

Stipulations and Land Management	Federal Mineral Estate RMP Acreage (Rounded)
MLP Planning area (MLP Planning Area)	390,600
No Surface Occupancy (NSO)	184,000
○ BLM-administered surface	141,900
○ State/CPW surface	739
○ Private Surface	41,400
Controlled Surface Use (CSU)	328,400
○ BLM-administered surface	189,600
○ State/CPW surface	11,800
○ Private Surface	127,000
Timing Limitations (TL)	321,200
○ BLM-administered surface	182,700
○ State/CPW surface	12,900
○ Private Surface	125,600
BLM Planning Area	653,500
No Surface Occupancy (NSO)	313,900
Controlled Surface Use (CSU)	483,600
Timing Limitation (TL)	486,000

*Notes: 1. The MLP Planning Area is the acreage in the MLP Planning area on which the BLM will make leasing decisions.
 2. The BLM Planning Area is the acreage in the Planning Area on which the BLM will make leasing decisions. The BLM Planning Area acreage is included for comparison purposes.
 3. Stipulation acreages may overlap*

- The following Conditions of Approval (COAs) from Table C-1, Appendix C will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to lands with existing oil and gas leases, subject to existing lease rights. These COAs may also be applied to development proposals of future leases:
 - Drilling Multiple Wells from a Single Pad.
 - Colocation of Surface Disturbances.
 - Centralizing of Production Facilities.
- [NOTE: Refer to other oil and gas management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP Planning Area, including the North Park MLP Planning Area.]

NPMLP: Air Quality - Objective

- Limit air quality degradation within the MLP Planning area by ensuring that land use activities are in compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

NPMLP: Air Quality - Resource Protection Measure (Action or Restriction)

- Require operators to implement new technologies to reduce and capture emissions. The following Conditions of Approval (COAs) from Table C-1, Appendix C, may be applied at the development stage consistent with environmental analysis and lease rights:
 - Dust Abatement.
 - Engine Emissions.

- VOC Emission Requirements.
- *[NOTE: Refer to other air quality management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP Planning area, including the North Park MLP Planning area.]*

NPMLP: Soils - Objective

- Ensure that surface disturbances do not cause accelerated erosion (such as rills, soil pedestals, and actively eroding gullies) on a watershed scale (e.g., 6th hydrologic unit scale).

NPMLP: Soils - Resource Protection Measure (Action or Restriction)

- Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the North Park MLP Planning area to protect soils. See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.
 - STIPULATION: CO-NSO-1: Fragile Soils or Slopes Greater Than 40 Percent; and
 - STIPULATION: CO-CSU-1: Soils on Slopes Between 25 and 40 percent.
- The following Conditions of Approval (COAs) from Table C-1, Appendix C will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to lands with existing oil and gas leases subject to existing lease rights: This COA may also be applied to development proposals of future leases.
 - Soil Erosion and Steep Slopes.
- *[NOTE: Refer to other soils management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP Planning area, including the North Park MLP Planning area.]*

NPMLP: Water Quality, Fisheries, and Other Aquatic Wildlife - Objective

- Protect surface water and groundwater in order to maintain their present good quality. All streams on public lands in the MLP Planning area that meet or exceed State water quality standards, and that have acceptable channel stability, will be maintained in their present condition through limited management. Streams not meeting State standards, or having unstable channels, will be improved in order to meet minimum standards through intensive management.

NPMLP: Water Quality, Fisheries, and Other Aquatic Wildlife - Resource Protection Measure (Action or Restriction)

- Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the North Park MLP Planning area to protect water quality: See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-2: Major River Corridors;
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-3: Municipal Watersheds and Public Water Supplies;
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-4: Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, Fisheries, and Riparian Areas;
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-5: Intermittent and Ephemeral Streams;
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-2: Municipal Watersheds and Public Water Supplies;
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-3: Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, Fisheries, and Riparian Areas; and
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-4: Intermittent and Ephemeral Streams.
- The following Conditions of Approval (COAs) from the Proposed Resource Management Plan Table C-1, Appendix C will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to lands with existing oil and gas leases subject to existing lease rights: This COA may also be applied to development proposals of future leases.
 - Water and Riparian Resource Buffers.

- *[NOTE: Refer to other water management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP Planning area, including the North Park MLP Planning area.]*

NPMLP: Coldwater Sport and Native Fish, Big Game, Raptors, Migratory Birds, Shore Birds, Waterbirds, and Waterfowl - Objectives

- Minimize big game stress and disturbance from surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities on winter ranges, winter concentration areas, severe winter ranges, migration corridors, and birthing areas.
- Provide healthy and productive habitat for migratory bird species, raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, and fish.

NPMLP: Coldwater Sport and Native Fish, Big Game, Raptors, Migratory Birds, Shore Birds, Waterbirds, and Waterfowl - Resource Protection Measure (Action or Restriction)

- Designate the following areas in the North Park MLP Planning area as Core Wildlife Areas. Core Wildlife Areas are areas of high habitat value for multiple species, including sage-grouse and big game (e.g., elk and mule deer): No oil and gas-related surface occupancy or use will be permitted in Core Wildlife Areas.
 - Eight areas in Jackson County:
 - Cowdrey: 1,710 acres;
 - California Gulch: 8,370 acres;
 - Walden Reservoir: 6,787 acres;
 - Spring Creek: 3,276 acres;
 - Sentinel Mountain: 901 acres;
 - Dunes: 310 acres;
 - Case Flats: 8,365 acres; and
 - Independence Mountain: 3,729 acres.
 - Three areas in Grand County:
 - Wolford Mountain: 14,956 acres;
 - Sulphur Gulch: 2,749 acres; and
 - Parshall Divide: 5,104 acres.
- Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas lease in the North Park MLP Planning area to protect big game, raptors, and fish: See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-6: Raptor – Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk
 - STIPULATION K-NSO-1: Core Wildlife Areas;
 - STIPULATION CO-TL-1: Native Fish and Important Sport Fish;
 - STIPULATION CO-TL-2: Big Game Production Areas;
 - STIPULATION CO-TL-3: Big Game Crucial Winter Range (Severe Winter Range and Winter Concentration Areas);
 - STIPULATION CO-TL-4: Shore Birds, Waterbirds and Waterfowl;
 - STIPULATION CO-TL-5: Raptor – Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk;
 - LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-1: Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat; and
 - LEASE NOTICE K-LN-1: High-Value Wildlife Habitat;

- The following Conditions of Approval (COAs) from Table C-1, Appendix C, will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to lands with existing oil and gas leases subject to existing lease rights: These COAs may also be applied to development proposals of future leases.
 - Raptor Nesting Habitat;
 - Raptors, Active Nest Sites;
 - Native Fish and Important Sport Fish;
 - Big Game Production Areas;
 - Big Game Crucial Winter Range;
 - Waterfowl and Shorebird Habitat and Rookeries;
 - Shorebirds, Waterbirds, and Waterfowl Nesting Habitat;
 - Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat;
 - Biological Inventories in Special Status Species Habitat;
 - Core Wildlife Areas; and
 - High Value Wildlife Habitat.
- *[NOTE: Refer to other big game, raptor, and fish management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP Planning area, including the North Park MLP Planning area.]*

NPMLP: Greater Sage-grouse - Objective

- Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome in order to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush-dependent species.

NPMLP: Greater Sage-grouse - Resource Protection Measure (Action or Restriction)

- Implement surface-disturbance caps in Greater sage-grouse core areas in the North Park MLP Planning area.
- Allow no more than five percent of the surface area within Greater sage-grouse core areas to be disturbed at any one time.
- Prohibit a net increase of acreage in roads. Close and rehabilitate roads that are fragmenting the sagebrush ecosystem. Require development and approval of a Master Development Plan in Greater sage-grouse core areas.
- Encourage clustered development of oil and gas facilities through negotiation, development of a Master Development Plan, or the use of COAs or BMPs, to mitigate impacts.
- Avoid approving land use authorizations (e.g., ROWs) within 0.6 miles of active sage-grouse leks. Where land use authorizations cannot be avoided, encourage them in areas where disturbances already occur.
- Apply the following stipulations and mitigation measures on future oil and gas leases to protect Greater sage-grouse habitat: See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.
- Stipulations:
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-9: Sage-grouse Lek Habitat;
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-8: Mapped Seasonal Habitats (non-lek breeding, late brood rearing, and winter habitat) or Suitable Sagebrush Habitat Within a 4-mile radius of a Lek;
 - STIPULATION CO-TL-7: Sage-grouse Nesting [NOTE: This stipulation is intended to apply to construction, drilling, fracking and completion activities, but it may apply to

operation, maintenance, and production activities that may disrupt reproductive activities of sage-grouse as well.];

- STIPULATION CO-TL-8: Sage-grouse Winter Habitat; and
- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-4: Important Sage-grouse Habitat.
- **Mitigation Measures:**
 - Measures to mitigate impacts to Greater sage-grouse, including leasing stipulations, may be applied to future oil and gas leases in the MLP Planning area upon publication of the Northwest Colorado BLM Greater Sage-grouse Record of Decision (ROD).
 - The following Conditions of Approval (COA) from Table C-1, Appendix C will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to lands with existing oil and gas leases, subject to existing lease rights. These COAs may also be applied to development proposals of future leases:
 - Greater Sage-grouse Leks;
 - Mapped Seasonal Habitats or Suitable Sagebrush Habitat within a 4-mile Radius of a Lek;
 - Greater Sage-grouse Nesting and Winter Habitat; and
 - Important Sage-grouse Habitat.
- *[NOTE: Refer to other big game, raptor, and fish management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP Planning area, including the North Park MLP Planning area.]*

NPMLP: Special Status Species - General Management Guidance

Special status species are (1) species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including designated critical habitat, and (2) species designated as BLM sensitive by the State Director, requiring special management consideration to promote their conservation and reduce the need for future listing under the ESA. All Federal candidate species, proposed species, and delisted species for five years following their delisting will be considered BLM sensitive species per BLM 6840 Manual.

Under the ESA, as amended, an *endangered* species is an animal or plant species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A *threatened* species is a species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A *proposed* species is a species of animal or plant that is proposed in the Federal Register to be listed under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, while a *candidate* species is one on which the USFWS (or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries service) has sufficient file information regarding its biological vulnerability and threats to support a proposal for listing as endangered or threatened.

In addition, the BLM maintains a list of special status species that include species listed or proposed for listing under the ESA, and species requiring special management consideration to promote their conservation and reduce the likelihood and need for future listing under the ESA. These latter are designated as BLM *sensitive* by the respective State Director.

Guidance for implementation of the ESA is contained in BLM Manual 6840. Field offices are directed to maintain current inventories of special status species, to implement recovery plans for listed species, and to ensure all BLM authorized actions comply with the ESA and other directives related to special status species. Manual 6840 also requires that BLM authorized actions do not contribute to the need to list any

special status species under the provision of the ESA or contribute to the designation of additional critical habitat.

The BLM will protect federally listed species by requiring site-specific evaluations and clearances and by applying more stringent management prescriptions in areas that have been specially designated to protect target species. Any action that may affect federally listed species requires consultation with the USFWS under section 7 of the ESA. Commitments to avoid adverse impacts to special status species are met by applying appropriate stipulations (e.g., timing or seasonal restriction or site-specific limitations) or by not authorizing the action altogether.

The BLM will continue to collaborate with Federal, State, and local governments, tribal governments, and landowners to manage special status species habitats. Management prescriptions will be attached to authorized actions to minimize negative effects. Where possible, habitats for species listed as proposed, threatened or endangered by the USFWS, habitat designated as critical by the USFWS, and species listed by the BLM State Director or BLM Manual 6840 as sensitive species will be enhanced.

NPMLP: Special Status Species - Objective

- Protect occupied and suitable habitat for federal proposed, candidate, and threatened or endangered species, and protect occupied habitat for BLM sensitive species necessary for:
 - Maintenance and recovery of proposed, candidate, and threatened or endangered species; and
 - Support of BLM sensitive species and significant plant communities, consistent with BLM policy on special status species management (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. December 12, 2008., BLM 2008o).

NPMLP: Special Status Species - Resource Protection Measure (Action or Restriction)

- Apply the following stipulations and conservation measures on future oil and gas leases within the North Park MLP Planning area to protect Special Status Species: See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.
- Stipulations:
 - STIPULATION CO-TL-1: Native Fish and Important Sport Fish;
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-7: BLM-Sensitive Amphibians;
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-6: Significant Plant communities and Relict Vegetation;
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-7: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Plants;
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-5: BLM Sensitive Plant Species;
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-25: ACECs, RNAs, and ONAs;
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-15: Least Tern, Snowy Plover, and Piping Plover Nesting Habitat;
 - STIPULATION CO-TL-15: Mountain Plover Nesting Habitat;
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-11: Raptors – Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle [*Note: The Golden Eagle is not currently a Special Status Species; however it is afforded special considerations under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.*];
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-12: Bald Eagle Winter Roosts;
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-11: Bald Eagle Habitat – Cottonwood Communities ;
 - STIPULATION CO-TL-11: Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Nest Sites;

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- STIPULATION CO-TL-12: Bald Eagle Winter Roost Sites;
- STIPULATION CO-NSO-13: Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, and Northern Goshawk;
- STIPULATION CO-TL-13: Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, and Northern Goshawk Nest Sites;
- STIPULATION CO-TL16: Greater Sandhill Crane Nesting, Roosting, Staging, and Migration Habitat;
- STIPULATION CO-NSO-6: Raptor – Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Burrowing Owl, Great horned Owl, and all owls and raptors, with exception of American Kestrel;
- STIPULATION CO-TL-5: Raptor – Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Burrowing Owl, Great horned Owl, and all owls and raptors, with exception of American Kestrel Nest Sites;
- STIPULATION CO-NSO-8: Sensitive or Federally Listed Bat Species;
- STIPULATION CO-CSU-9: Prairie Dog Town Complexes;
- STIPULATION CO-CSU-10: Established Lynx Corridors and Lynx Habitat within LAUs;
- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-3: Special Status Species Plants and Wildlife; and
- LEASE NOTICE CO-LN-2: Endangered Species Act;
- Conservation Measures (See Appendix O):
 - North Park Phacelia, Kremmling Milkvetch, and Penland Beardtongue;
 - Canada Lynx;
 - North Platte River and Colorado River Species; and
 - Greenback (Lineage GB) Cutthroat Trout.
- The following Conditions of Approval (COA) from Table C-1, Appendix C, will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to lands with existing oil and gas leases, subject to existing lease rights. These COAs may also be applied to development proposals of future leases.
 - Native Fish and Important Sport Fish;
 - BLM-Sensitive Plant Species;
 - ACECs, RNAs, and ONAs;
 - Least Tern, Snowy Plover, and Piping Plover Nesting Habitat;
 - Mountain Plover Nesting Habitat;
 - Bald Eagle Winter Roost Site Surface Occupancy Buffer;
 - Bald Eagle Habitat in Cottonwood Communities;
 - Bald Eagle Winter Roost Sites Timing Restriction;
 - Greater Sandhill Crane Nesting, Roosting, Staging, and Migration Habitat;
 - Bat Maternity Roosts and Hibernacula;
 - Designated Prairie Dog Towns;
 - Biological Inventories in Special Status Species Habitat; and
 - Endangered Species Act.
- *[NOTE: Refer to other Special Status Species management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP Planning area, including the North Park MLP Planning area.]*

NPMLP: Recreation - Objective

- Provide for specific outcome-focused objectives and recreation character conditions in the Wolford SRMA and the Headwaters ERMA, as described in Appendix L for each of these Recreation Management Areas (RMAs).

NPMLP: Recreation - Resource Protection Measure (Action or Restriction)

- Designate the following area in the North Park MLP area as an SRMA for the protection of the recreation outcomes and settings: Wolford: 18,614 acres
- Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the North Park MLP Planning area to protect recreation outcomes and settings: See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-19: SRMAs;
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-25: Recreation Travel Routes and Corridors; and
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-26: Recreation Access Zones.
- Designate the following area in the North Park MLP area as an ERMA to address local recreation issues: Headwaters: 13,800 acres
- Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the North Park MLP Planning area to address local recreation issues: See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.
 - STIPULATION K-CSU-1: ERMAs;
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-25: Recreation Travel Routes and Corridors; and
 - STIPULATION CO-CSU-26: Recreation Access Zones.
- The following Conditions of Approval (COA) from Table C-1, Appendix C, will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to lands with existing oil and gas leases, subject to existing lease rights. These COAs may also be applied to development proposals of future leases.
 - Wolford SRMA: Special Recreation Management Areas;
 - Headwaters ERMA: Extensive Recreation Management Areas; and
 - Wolford SRMA and Headwaters ERMA: Developed Recreation Facilities and Trails.
- *[NOTE: Refer to other recreation management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP Planning area, including the North Park MLP Planning area.]*

NPMLP: ACECs - Objective

- Designate the following ACECs and provide special management necessary to protect the relevant and important geologic, botanic, historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; other natural systems (rare or exemplary); and human life and property from natural hazards:
 - Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite RNA: 198 acres;
 - North Park Natural Area: 4,444 acres;
 - Kremmling: 636 acres;
 - Troublesome Creek: 998 acres; and
 - Kinney Creek: 588 acres.

NPMLP: ACECs - Resource Protection Measure (Action or Restriction)

- Apply the following stipulations on future oil and gas leases in the North Park MLP Planning area to protect the relevant and important characteristics of ACECs: See Appendix B for a detailed description of stipulations.
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-25: ACECs, RNAs, and ONAs; and

- The following Conditions of Approval (COA) from Table C-1, Appendix C, will be analyzed at the development stage and may be applied to lands with existing oil and gas leases, subject to existing lease rights. These COAs may also be applied to development proposals of future leases.
 - ACECs, RNAs, and ONAs;
- *[NOTE: Refer to other ACEC management actions that will be applied throughout the RMP Planning area, including the North Park MLP Planning area.]*

2.2.6.2 Fluid Minerals (Geothermal)

Objective

- Facilitate environmentally sound exploration and development of geothermal resources using the best available technology.

Allocations and Management Actions

- The Planning Area has geothermal development potential. Most geothermal resources are likely to be of a lower temperature; therefore, no nominations for commercial electrical generation leases (indirect use) are expected. However the BLM could receive future applications for onsite electrical generation from geothermal resources for oil and gas facilities (direct use). Leasing and development of geothermal resources will be in conformance with the stipulations, conditions of approval and best management practices identified in Appendices B and C. Objectives for resource conditions identified in the RMP will guide development of reclamation requirements prior to abandonments of areas developed for geothermal energy production.
- The Record of Decision for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States, amended the 1984 Kremmling RMP, by closing 13,807 acres to geothermal leasing (wilderness study areas, ACECs existing at the time, and threatened or endangered plant and animal species habitats) (Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States, 2008).

2.2.6.3 Locatable Minerals, Salable Minerals (Mineral Materials), and Non-Energy Leasable Minerals

Goal

- Provide opportunities for development of locatable minerals, mineral materials, and non-energy leasable minerals while, at the same time, preventing unnecessary and undue degradation.

Objective

- Facilitate environmentally sound exploration and development of locatable minerals, mineral materials, and non-energy leasable minerals.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Locatable Minerals – All BLM-managed public lands are open to mineral entry and development (locatable minerals) under the General Mining Law of 1872 unless already withdrawn (23,100 acres), proposed for administrative withdrawal, or designated as Wilderness. Locatable mineral exploration and development on BLM-managed public lands will be regulated under 43 CFR 3800. All surface estate will be open to location of mining claims for locatable minerals. In WSAs (8,872 acres), restrictions on mineral development will become effective only if Congress

designates them as Wilderness. Pending this determination, WSAs remain open provided that activities meet non-impairment criteria, and that those activities began before the passage of the FLPMA.

- Saleable Minerals (mineral materials such as moss rock, top soil, sand and gravel, scoria, fill dirt)
 - Open all surface estate to mineral material disposal, except for those areas identified below, which will be closed to mineral material disposal:
 - WSAs: 8,872 acres;
 - ACECs: 9,668 acres;
 - SRMAs: 50,000 acres;
 - developed recreation sites: 1,600 acres;
 - proposed National Scenic Trails;
 - areas managed for wilderness characteristics outside of WSAs: 544 acres;
 - YMCA/Sheep Mountain Conservation Easement: 3,400 acres; and
 - Colorado River segments 4 and 5 suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS: 5,265 acres

Open areas total approximately 300,000 acres.

[NOTE: The National Scenic Trails entry is a placeholder, to disclose a future action if a National Scenic Trail corridor is established. Refer to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail discussion in this Table. When a trail corridor is identified, a NEPA analysis will be conducted to address the impacts of trail designation and the management actions from the RMP that would be applied.]

- Saleable Minerals (mineral materials such as moss rock, top soil, sand and gravel, scoria, fill dirt)
 - Dispose of salable minerals primarily from established common use areas.
- Saleable Minerals (mineral materials such as moss rock, top soil, sand and gravel, scoria, fill dirt)
 - Apply COAs, BMPS, and SOPs to the disposal of salable minerals (mineral materials). Salable minerals on BLM-managed public lands will be regulated under 43 CFR 3600.
- Non-Energy Solid Leasable Minerals (solid minerals such as sylvite and halite) – Open all surface estate to solid minerals leasing, except for those areas identified below, which would be closed to leasing:
 - WSAs: 8,872 acres;
 - ACECs: 9,668 acres;
 - SRMAs: 50,000 acres;
 - developed recreation sites: 1,600 acres;
 - proposed National Scenic Trails;
 - areas managed for wilderness characteristics outside of WSAs: 544 acres;
 - YMCA/Sheep Mountain Conservation Easement: 3,400 acres; and
 - Colorado River segments 4 and 5 suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS: 5,265 acres

Open areas total approximately 300,000 acres.

[NOTE: The National Scenic Trails entry is a placeholder, to disclose a future action if a National Scenic Trail corridor is established. Refer to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail discussion in this Table. When a trail corridor is identified, a NEPA analysis will be

conducted to address the impacts of trail designation and the management actions from the RMP that would be applied.]

- Non-Energy Solid Leasable Minerals (solid minerals such as sylvite and halite) – Apply COAs, BMPS, and SOPs to the leasing, exploration, and development of non-energy leasable minerals.

2.2.7 Renewable Energy

Allocations and Management Actions

- Encourage wind energy development in acceptable areas, in accordance with current policy and when consistent with Goals and Objectives. ROW Avoidance and Exclusion Areas apply.
- The Solar Energy Development PEIS ROD was signed on October 12, 2012 and excluded all lands within the Field Office for solar development projects 20 MW or greater. Consider ROW applications for solar energy development projects under 20 MWs. ROW Avoidance and Exclusion Areas apply.

2.2.8 Special Designations

Goal

- Use special management area designations to recognize the unique values on BLM –managed public lands that require special management in order to protect those resource values.

2.2.8.1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECS)

Objective

- Designate ACECs and provide the special management necessary in order to protect the relevant and important geologic, botanic, historic, cultural, and scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, other natural systems (rare or exemplary), and human life and property from natural hazards.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Designate the following areas as ACECs (9,700 acres (acres are approximate)):
 - Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite RNA ACEC: 198 acres;
 - North Park Natural Area ACEC: 4,444 acres (including the 318 acres currently designated);
 - Barger Gulch Heritage Area ACEC: 535 acres;
 - Kremmling ACEC: 674 acres;
 - Laramie River ACEC: 1,783 acres;
 - Troublesome Creek ACEC: 998 acres;
 - Kinney Creek ACEC: 588 acres; and
 - North Sand Hills ACEC: 486 acres.

Allocations and Management Actions - Barger Gulch ACEC (Heritage Resources)

- Designate the Barger Gulch Heritage Area (535 acres) as an ACEC in order to protect heritage resources. Management actions designed to protect the cultural resources are as follows:
 - exclude use of heavy equipment;
 - prohibit motorized or mechanized travel, with the exception of administrative access;

- manage as a land use authorization Exclusion Area (including renewable energy sites, such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass development).

Allocations and Management Actions - Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite ACEC (Fossils)

- In the Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite ACEC/RNA (198 acres), apply the following management actions in order to protect the important ammonite fossils:
 - exclude use of heavy equipment;
 - prohibit motorized or mechanized travel, with the exception of administrative access;
 - manage as a land use authorization Exclusion Area (including renewable energy sites, such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass development).

Allocations and Management Actions - Kremmling ACEC (Rare Plants)

- Designate the Kremmling ACEC (674 acres) in order to protect Osterhout milkvetch (*Astragalus osterhoutii*), a federally listed Endangered plant species. Management action designed to protect the plant is:
 - manage as a land use authorization Avoidance Area.

Allocations and Management Actions - Laramie River ACEC (Rare Plants)

- Designate the Laramie River ACEC (1,783 acres) in order to protect North Park Phacelia (*Phacelia formulosa*), a federally listed Endangered plant species. Management action designed to protect the plant is:
 - manage as a land use authorization Avoidance Area.

Allocations and Management Actions - North Park Natural Area ACEC (Rare Plants)

- Designate the North Park Natural Area (4,444 acres, including the 318 acres from the existing North Park Natural Area ACEC) an ACEC in order to protect North Park Phacelia (*Phacelia formulosa*), a federally listed Endangered plant species. Management action designed to protect the plant is:
 - manage as a land use authorization Avoidance Area.

Allocations and Management Actions - Troublesome Creek ACEC (Rare Plants)

- Designate the Troublesome Creek ACEC (998 acres) in order to protect Penland's Beardtongue (*Penstemon penlandii*) and Osterhout milkvetch (*Astragalus osterhoutii*), 2 federally listed Endangered plant species. Management action designed to protect the plant is:
 - manage as a land use authorization Avoidance Area.

Allocations and Management Actions - Kinney Creek ACEC (Cutthroat Trout)

- Designate the Kinney Creek ACEC (588 acres) in order to protect the Colorado River cutthroat trout core conservation population. Management action designed to protect the plant is:
 - manage as a land use authorization Avoidance Area;
 - consider stream/riparian improvements on a case-by-case basis;
 - allow camping in designated dispersed areas; and
 - prohibit the use of unplanned natural fire managed for resource benefits.

Allocations and Management Actions - North Sand Hills ACEC (Rare Plants)

- Designate the North Sand Hills (486 acres) as an ACEC in order to protect the boat-shaped bugseed (*Corispermum navicula*), a rare plant. Management action designed to protect the plant is:
 - manage as a land use authorization Avoidance Area;
 - close the area to oil and gas leasing;
 - reduce direct and indirect impacts to listed and special status plants by maintaining existing protective fences;
 - fence, restore closed routes and/or sign known special plan populations that have been determined to be impacted by human or other disturbances;
 - prohibit the use of over-the-snow vehicles from December 15 to April 15;
 - limit motorized use to designated routes; and
 - close the ACEC to livestock grazing.

[NOTE: This action is no longer warranted if the boat-shaped bugseed is not listed as a Special Status Species (ACEC designation would be removed through a plan amendment).]

Restrictions on Use

- Apply the following management to all ACECs, in addition to ACEC-specific restrictions on use:
 - STIPULATION CO-NSO-25: ACECS, RNAs, and ONAs – Prohibit surface occupancy or use in ACECs, RNAs, and ONAs in order to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards, except that the North Sand Hills ACEC will be closed to oil and gas leasing because it is within the North Sand Hills SRMA, which will be closed to leasing.
 - Apply COAs, BMPs, and SOPs on non-fluid mineral activities.
 - Aggressively control noxious weeds using Integrated Weed Management (IWM) methods consistent with protection and promotion of relevant and important values. Methods may include, for example, biological control, site-specific spraying, and grubbing by hand. Any weed control measures proposed in WSAs within ACECs (such as the North Sand Hills ISA) will be consistent with the BLM’s WSA 6330 policy direction. Weed-control measures proposed within Wilderness or WSRs will be consistent with the legislation covering those areas.
 - Recommend ACECs for withdrawal from mineral location.
 - Close ACECs to solid mineral leasing, mineral material sales, and coal leasing.
 - Consider the use of retardant and heavy equipment in wildfire suppression, except in the Barger Gulch Heritage Area and the Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite ACECs, after determining the resource values at risk and identifying potential impacts to those resource values. Any use of retardant or heavy equipment must be approved in advance by a line officer. Use prescribed fire and unplanned natural fire managed for resource benefits when desired characteristics of the ACEC will be preserved and management objectives will be met.
 - Prohibit new motorized routes, with the exception of new administrative routes.
 - Evaluate vegetation treatments on a case-by-case basis, and then permit them as long as ACEC values are maintained.

2.2.8.2 Wilderness Study Areas

Goal

- Preserve the wilderness characteristics of WSAs.

Objective

- Preserve wilderness characteristics in WSAs in accordance with non-impairment standards as described in BLM Manual 6330, Management of Wilderness Study Areas, until Congress either designated these lands as Wilderness or releases them for other purposes (BLM Manual 6330, Management of Wilderness Study Areas (Public)., BLM 2012f).

Allocations and Management Actions

- Manage the following 3 WSAs (8,872 acres) under the Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas policy:
 - North Sand Hills WSA (ISA): 681 acres;
 - Platte River Contiguous WSA: 33 acres; and
 - Troublesome WSA: 8,158 acres.
- Designate WSAs and Wilderness (if designated by Congress) as VRM Class I.
- Prohibit motorized and mechanized travel in two WSAs:
 - Platte River Contiguous WSA; and
 - Troublesome WSA
- Allow, in the North Sand Hills WSA (ISA), cross-country motorized and mechanized travel on 163 acres, and limit motorized and mechanized travel to designated routes on 509 acres.
- Close approximately 9,400 acres of Federal mineral estate in the WSAs to oil and gas leasing, which includes about 520 acres of a split-estate inholding in the Troublesome WSA.
- Apply COAs, BMPs, and SOPs in WSAs. (See Appendix C and Appendix D)
- If Congress releases one or more WSAs from wilderness consideration, update the wilderness characteristics inventory for lands that were formerly WSAs (FLPMA Section 201).
- If Congress releases the North Sand Hills WSA (ISA) from wilderness consideration, manage the lands under the prescriptions of the North Sand Hills SRMA and the North Sand Hills ACEC.
- If Congress releases the Platte River Contiguous WSA or the Troublesome WSA from wilderness consideration, manage the lands under the following prescriptions:
 - protect the non-motorized and non-mechanized recreation activity opportunities, primitive (undeveloped) physical recreation setting character, and scenic values;
 - close the areas to mechanized and motorized travel under Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management requirements; and
 - close these areas to mineral leasing.

2.2.8.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers

Goal

- Manage suitable river segments, protecting the free-flowing condition, water quality, outstandingly remarkable values, and tentative classifications until Congress designates the river or releases it for other uses in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (WSRA), and with applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines. See Appendix I.

Objective

- Manage all eligible segments to protect the free-flowing condition, water quality, ORVs, and tentative classification, pending congressional action or for the duration of the Approved RMP.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Alternative B2 – Defer a Wild and Scenic River suitability determination, and adopt and implement the Stakeholder Management Plan in order to protect the free-flowing condition, water quality, ORVs, and tentative classifications of Colorado River Segments 4 (Recreational) and 5 (Recreational). See Appendix I.
- Apply management prescriptions in order to protect the free-flowing condition, water quality, ORVs, and tentative classifications of Segments 4 and 5 of the Colorado River.
- If monitoring indicates that the Stakeholder Management Plan is not adequately protecting the free-flowing condition, water quality, ORVs, and tentative classification, the BLM will initiate a process to evaluate suitability and determine if Segments 4 and 5 are suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.
- Determine the following 13 eligible river segments as not suitable, and release them from interim management protections afforded eligible segments. This concludes the suitability study phase for these segments:
 - Blue River segment 2 (Recreational);
 - Blue River segment 3 (Recreational);
 - Colorado River segment 1 (Recreational);
 - Colorado River segment 2 (Recreational);
 - Colorado River segment 3 (Recreational);
 - Kinney Creek;
 - Muddy Creek;
 - North Platte River;
 - Piney River;
 - Rabbit Ears Creek;
 - Spruce Creek;
 - Sulphur Gulch; and
 - Troublesome Creek.
- *[NOTE: Blue River segment 1 is on National Forest System lands and, due to mapping inconsistencies, was inadvertently analyzed for eligibility by the BLM. As a result, segment 1 is not being further considered in the BLM's suitability analysis.]*
- Close Colorado River Segments 4 and 5 that are eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS to oil and gas leasing.
- Apply the following interim protective management guidelines to Colorado River Segments 4 and 5:
 - approve no actions altering the free-flowing condition, water quality and ORVs of the eligible stream segments through impoundments, channeling, or rip-rapping;
 - approve no actions that would measurably diminish a stream segment's identified ORV(s) affecting its potential suitability;
 - approve no actions that would modify the setting or level of development of an eligible river segment to a degree that would change its tentative classification;

- apply land use authorization avoidance;
- approve no actions that would significantly degrade the water quality in the segment that is necessary to support the ORVs; and
- apply COAs, BMPs, and SOPs designed to protect the free-flowing condition, water quality, ORVs, and tentative classification of the eligible stream segments.
 - (See Appendix C and Appendix D.)
- Interim protective management will be subject to valid existing rights

Restrictions on Use

- STIPULATION CO-CSU-28: Wild and Scenic River Segments – Restrict surface occupancy or use within 0.25 mile of all rivers that are eligible or suitable for WSR designation, in order to preserve their outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs), free-flowing condition, water quality, and tentative classifications; and their consequent recreational, social, economic, and environmental significance (locally, regionally, and nationally).

2.2.8.4 Watchable Wildlife Areas

Goal

- Use special designations to recognize the unique values on BLM-managed public lands that require special management in order to protect resource values.

Objectives

- Designate Watchable Wildlife Areas (WWAs), and provide the special management necessary in order to protect the area's wildlife resources and values so that those areas will not be disqualified from designation.
- Manage vegetation produced in order to provide optimum habitat for waterfowl and upland bird species; and to provide optimum winter forage for big game animals, including mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk.
- Provide educational opportunities for the general public.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Designate the following areas (totaling approximately 4,420 acres) as WWAs:
 - Junction Butte Wetland: 120 acres; and
 - Hebron Waterfowl Area: 4,300 acres.
- Coordinate with the CPW regarding the need for seasonal and emergency closures in order to resolve conflicts with hunting and other uses at WWAs, and for interpretation of watchable wildlife resources.
- Issue Class I SRPs that are consistent with WWA objectives. (See Appendix K, Special Recreation Permit Evaluation Criteria.).
- Identify and construct the necessary facilities (such as parking areas, toilets, trailheads) at WWAs in order to ensure public health and safety, and to protect other resources.
- Close WWAs to recreational target shooting.
- Implement the appropriate management activities (such as those associated with grazing, manual or mechanical techniques, prescribed fire and unplanned natural fire managed for resource benefits, herbicide treatments) in order to enhance vegetation for wildlife at WWAs.

- Coordinate with project partners, the CPW, Ducks Unlimited, and other interested parties, in order to ensure habitat objectives are met.
- Increase willow habitat at the periphery of the ponds at the Junction Butte Wetlands in order to provide nesting habitat for migratory birds.
- Design and construct the necessary access trails, interpretive displays, and brochures.

Restriction on Use

- STIPULATION K-NSO-4: Watchable Wildlife – Prohibit surface occupancy or use on designated WWAs, in order to protect high value habitat and recreational values associated with designated WWAs.

2.2.8.5 Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

Goal

- Maintain the continuous nature of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST).

Objective

- Establish a 0.25 mile-wide National Trail Management Corridor and SRMA up to 5 miles in width for the unlinked segment of the CDNST in the Muddy Pass CDNST Location Zone

Allocations and Management Actions

- Manage public lands within the established corridor and SRMA in accordance with BLM Manual 6280, in order to retain their natural settings consistent with the nature and purpose of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the 2009 Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan.
 - Locate the CDNST in primitive or semi-primitive Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes, provided that the corridor may have to traverse intermittently through more developed ROS classes to provide for continuous travel. Use ROS inventory and management processes to develop CDNST management prescriptions for the corridor and SRMA.
 - Locate a CDNST segment on a road only where it is primitive and offers recreational opportunities comparable to those provided by a trail with a designed use of pack and saddle stock; provided that the CDNST may have to be located on or across motorized routes because of the inability to locate the trail elsewhere.
 - Locate the CDNST as close as possible to the Continental Divide, but as far away as necessary to provide for safe travel and diverse recreational appeal, to be economically feasible, and to keep environmental impacts to an acceptable level. Use public lands or existing rights-of-ways as much as possible.
 - Conduct a visual resource inventory of the CDNST corridor in accordance with BLM Manual 8400, and on the basis that the CDNST is a high-sensitivity level travel route.
 - Manage the CDNST to provide high-quality scenic, primitive hiking and pack and saddle stock opportunities.
- Pursue agreements with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trails groups, private landowners, and other land management agencies, and secure rights-of-ways for the CDNST of sufficient width to protect natural, scenic, cultural, and historic features along the CDNST

corridor and SRMA, and to provide needed public use facilities. Consider land exchanges and easement acquisitions, where opportunities arise, in order to improve the continuity of the trail.

- Propose withdrawal for newly identified or proposed trail corridors.
- Apply COAs (Appendix C) and BMPs and SOPs (Appendix D) to actions proposed in the 0.25 mile-wide trail corridor.

Restriction on Use

- STIPULATION K-NSO-3: National Trail Corridors – Prohibit surface occupancy or use in National Trail alignments, and in viewshed corridors up to five miles in width, where trail resources and associated settings are present, in order to conserve, protect, and restore National Scenic and Historic Trail resources, qualities, and values within National Trail management corridors. The BLM shall promote preservation, public access, travel opportunities, enjoyment, and appreciation of National Scenic and Historic Trails for present and future generations as units of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). Activities within National Trail management corridors will be conducted according to the National Trails System Act, national and State BLM policies and budget, and Comprehensive Management Plans and Statewide Trail Management Plans.

2.2.8.6 State or National Trails and Byways

Goal

- Cooperatively identify, plan, implement and manage with other agencies or interest groups potential or proposed State or national trails and byways that may occur within the Planning Area.

Objective

- Use BLM-managed public lands in the Planning Area for alignments of State or national trail corridors and byways, where appropriate.

Allocations and Management Actions

- If BLM-managed public lands are included, or are considered for inclusion, in State or national trails corridors, manage those lands to retain their physical, social, and operational settings; and to support the conservation, protection, restoration, enjoyment, and appreciation of the resources, qualities, and values of those corridors.
- BLM-managed public lands in corridors along BLM Byways and Back Country Byways, All-American Roads, and National Scenic Byways will be managed in order to retain their physical, social, and operational settings; and to support the conservation, protection, restoration, enjoyment, and appreciation of the resources, qualities, and values of those corridors.
- Apply COAs, BMPs, and SOPs to actions proposed in State or National Trails and Byway corridors. (See Appendix C and Appendix D.)

Restriction on Use

- STIPULATION CO-CSU-16: Backcountry Scenic Byway Viewsheds – Surface occupancy is restricted within viewsheds of designated backcountry, Scenic and Historic Byways, at foreground and middleground distances (within five miles), unless topographically screened from view, in order to protect scenic integrity of Colorado’s Scenic and Historic Byways and their social and economic significance to nearby communities, and to Colorado’s Statewide economy.

2.2.9 Transportation System Management

Goal

- Provide a transportation system that is manageable, maintainable, and that meets the need for managing resources and resource uses. See Appendix A and Appendix F.

Objective

- Maintain BLM roads to identified maintenance intensity levels (appropriate intensity, frequency, and type of maintenance) consistent with public safety and Resource Management Plan objectives.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Route maintenance:
 - Maintain 0 miles of road at Maintenance intensity Level 0: existing routes that will no longer be maintained and no longer be declared a route (routes identified as Level 0 are identified for removal from the Transportation System entirely.)
 - Maintain 17 miles of road at Maintenance Intensity Level 1: routes where minimum (low intensity) maintenance is required in order to protect adjacent lands and resource values. These roads may be impassable for extended periods of time.
 - Maintain 119 miles of road at Maintenance Intensity Level 3: routes requiring moderate maintenance due to low-volume use (seasonally or year-round for commercial, recreational, or administrative access). Maintenance intensities may not provide year-round access; however, they are intended to, generally, provide resources appropriate in order to keep the route in use for most of the year.
 - Maintain 2 miles of road at Maintenance Intensity Level 5: routes for high (maximum) maintenance due to year-round needs, high-volume traffic, or significant use. Also may include routes identified through management objectives as requiring high intensities of maintenance or to be maintained open on a year-round basis.

These route designations are implementation level decisions and are therefore appealable. More details for Appeal Procedures can be found in the Record of Decision. Details on route designations can be found in Appendix A of this document and maps for route designations can be found in Appendix A of the Proposed RMP.

- Coordinate road maintenance with the USFS, for USFS forest management activities that use BLM transportation system roads.

2.1.10 Health and Safety

Goal

- Protect lives, resources and property in order to improve the quality of life in local communities.

Objective

- Ensure that BLM-managed public lands provide safe facilities and conditions for visitors, users, and employees, with minimum conflict among users and minimum damage to BLM-managed public lands and resources.

Allocations and Management Actions

- Investigate all reported incidents and injuries to ensure that all contributing factors are identified and, where appropriate, plans are formulated to take corrective action.
- See the Recreation and Visitor Services section for camping, parking, and firearm use restrictions.
- Close motorized vehicle access routes that lead to illegal dumpsites.

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