
APPENDIX F—CRITERIA FOR SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITY PLANNING

INTRODUCTION

In response to the input provided by the stakeholders on the resource management plan (RMP) revision, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) created a process for applying the most current information that allows it to set priorities for flexible, proactive management of public lands. This appendix discusses how major issues within the resource management plan planning area (RMPPA) (oil and gas leasing, off-highway vehicle [OHV] designations, transportation planning, and protection of wildlife resources) and their interactions with other RMPPA resources or resource uses will be addressed in subsequent activity planning with the intent to reduce resource impacts and user conflicts. Other issues have also been added to provide additional management flexibility, where possible.

Processes and criteria have been developed for each major issue as described in Appendix E of the RMP/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for oil and gas leasing stipulations, and below for OHV designations and transportation planning. Criteria for protection of wildlife resources are included in Appendix E and below. These criteria are a starting point and could change depending on developing information. Data collected in the RMPPA will be used to support decision changes, evaluate the effectiveness of specific practices or policies, and measure progress toward the goals and objectives adopted for the RMPPA.

OIL AND GAS LEASING

See Appendix E of the RMP/Draft EIS for procedures and criteria for granting exception, modification, and waiver to lease stipulations.

OHV DESIGNATIONS

Process

This process is designed to identify priority areas for transportation planning. Areas designated as limited will be managed as “limited to existing roads and trails” until the need to conduct transportation planning arises. Policy states that restrictions in limited categories can include the number of vehicles, types of vehicles, time or season of vehicle use, permitted or license use only, use on existing roads and trails, and use on designated roads and trails. The criteria listed below will be used as indicators of when and where site-specific transportation planning will be initiated.

Upon initiation of site-specific transportation planning, BLM will begin the collaborative process (including coordination with counties and stakeholders, triggers or thresholds for planning, data collection and monitoring, accessibility and manageability). Route inventories would be conducted to the extent necessary before transportation planning.

Criteria

The following criteria are a starting point and could change depending on developing information:

- Special management areas
- Areas identified as “limited to designated roads and trails”

- Areas that meet fragile soil criteria
- User and resource conflicts
- Excessive complaints
- Wildlife/wild horse population trends
- Evidence of trail/road proliferation
- Areas with high road densities
- Impacts on cultural resources
- Unacceptable erosion
- Degradation of water quality
- Impacts on visual resources
- Loss of trail integrity
- Habitat fragmentation and damage
- Impacts on sensitive plants
- Need to provide a variety of user experiences.

Through application of these criteria, BLM will initiate transportation planning in the Sand Wash area, including the special recreation management area (SRMA).

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Process

Through a collaborative transportation planning process, BLM will develop an access and transportation plan that meets the following criteria:

Criteria

- Enables access where needed
- Limits points of access to reduce the amount of redundant roads and trails
- Reroutes, rehabilitates, or eliminates existing roads and trails causing resource damage
- Reroutes roads and trails where landlocked by private parcels
- Restricts access to meet resource objectives (e.g., seasonal road closures, gating)
- Concentrates stream and riparian crossings
- Reduces habitat fragmentation.

DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING

Monitoring of the RMPPA is necessary for implementation. The constantly changing resource conditions create a challenge to management. Field data and observations will help make decisions better by—

- Measuring factors that indicate the condition of the RMPPA
- Increasing understanding of impacts by direct observation
- Increasing the effectiveness of project analysis by employing actual data
- Evaluating the progress toward management goals
- Helping develop effective and appropriate mitigation measures
- Providing information on the success of management practices and policies.

Baseline information for this planning process and the initiation of subsequent activity planning is presented in Chapter 3 of the Draft EIS. Continuation of monitoring activities will occur throughout the life of the plan and are detailed in the Table F-1. In addition to yearly funding of monitoring activities by

BLM, every effort will be made to obtain funding through cooperative agreements with stakeholders within the RMPPA.

Table F-1. Monitoring Detail

Indicator	Source of Information	Measurement Location	Methodology/Data Source	Information Indicator Provides
Elk distribution	BLM	RMPPA	GIS collar study; field observations	Integrity of key habitats and migratory corridors (amount of continuous land between important habitats and travel pathways between key habitats)
Elk herd health	CDOW	Herd unit area	Post-season counts; flight counts; other CDOW data	Population, health, and security of herd
Mule deer distribution	CDOW	Herd unit area	Flight counts; other CDOW data; field observations	Integrity of key habitats and migratory corridors (amount of continuous land between important habitats)
Mule deer herd health¹	CDOW	Herd unit area	Post-season counts; flight counts; other CDOW data	Population, health, and security of herd
Pronghorn distribution	CDOW	RMPPA	Radio collar studies; field observations	Integrity of key habitats and migratory corridors (amount of continuous land between important habitats)
Pronghorn herd health¹	CDOW	RMPPA	Preseason counts; flight counts; other CDOW data	Population, health, and security of herd
Sage-grouse lek use¹	BLM, CDOW	RMPPA	Field observation; lek counts	Health and security of population; reproduction opportunities
Sage-grouse population health	BLM, CDOW	RMPPA	Preseason counts; field observation	Population changes
Livestock AUMs	BLM	RMPPA	Counts; actual use reports; grazing authorizations	Amount of livestock use (+/-)
Wild horse population	BLM	Sand Wash Basin HMA	Counts	Number of wild horses (+/- AML)
Rangeland Health Standard #1	BLM	Watersheds grazing allotments	Remote sensing; field visits	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)
Rangeland Health Standard #2	BLM	Watersheds grazing allotments	Remote sensing; field visits; trend data collection	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)
Rangeland Health Standard #3	BLM	Watersheds grazing allotments	Remote sensing; field visits; trend data collection	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)
Rangeland Health Standard #4	BLM	Watersheds grazing allotments	Field visits	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)

Indicator	Source of Information	Measurement Location	Methodology/Data Source	Information Indicator Provides
Rangeland Health Standard #5	BLM and State of Colorado	Watersheds grazing allotments	Monitoring station and visual monitoring data	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)
Roads and trails creation	BLM, county	RMPPA and associated hydrologic unit code (HUC) 12 watersheds	Remote sensing; permits	Change in watershed health (+/-), habitat fragmentation, migratory corridor integrity (amount of continuous land between important habitats)
Road density	BLM, county	RMPPA and associated HUC12	Remote sensing	Change in watershed health (+/-), habitat fragmentation, migratory corridor integrity (amount of continuous land between important habitats)
O/G leased	BLM	RMPPA	BLM records	Leasing activity; opportunity taken for development
O/G available for leasing	BLM	RMPPA	Management decisions; industry interest	Interest in leasing; opportunity for development
O/G production	BLM	RMPPA	Production reports; verification activities	Lease activity (+/-); resource potential
Locatable mineral activity	BLM	RMPPA	BLM records	Opportunity for locatable mineral activity; interest in locatable minerals
Salable mineral activity	BLM	RMPPA	Permits	Opportunity for salable mineral activity; interest in salable minerals

OTHER RESOURCE ISSUES

Wild Horse AML Adjustment

Process

The following criteria would be considered for adjusting the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area (HMA) appropriate management level (AML):

Criteria

- Current monitoring data
- Rate of herd increase
- Competing uses
- Frequency of gather cycle
- Other population management options
- Herd genetics.

Yampa River Corridor

Within the Yampa River corridor, monitor the quality of the following indicators of recreation experience and regulate the use of sites and access points:

- Site disturbance
- User conflict
- Public health and safety
- Other resource impacts.

Reserve Conservation Allotments

The purpose of a Reserve Conservation Allotment (RCA) is to provide alternative forage for BLM permittees or lessees during the rest requirement while their customary allotment is undergoing an approved rangeland restoration or recovery project. Emergency conditions such as wildfire will also be considered for a condition of use of an RCA. Because of the widespread nature of drought, it will not be considered as a need for use. Overuse of the customary allotment will not be considered as a need for use of an RCA.

These allotments will remain in long-term agricultural production, while helping to maintain the stability of the livestock industry by easing the economic stress to and providing incentive for permittees to undergo range restoration projects.

These allotments may be returned to individual allotment if there is no longer a continued demand for their use. At that time, BLM will follow standard procedures for filling vacant allotments.

Criteria for Selection and Use of an Allotment as an RCA

- Does the area meet Rangeland Health Standards?
- Are there weed concerns?
- Are there adequate animal unit months (AUM) available?
- Are range improvements adequate for livestock management and maintained to BLM standards?
- Is the area suitable to meet demands as far as season of use, reasonable access, and vegetative type?
- Are there other land use concerns such as demands on forage from wild horses, wildlife, threatened and endangered (T&E) species concerns?

Criteria for Permittee/Lessee Use

- Priority will be given to those permittees or lessees whose customary allotments are under an approved rangeland restoration or recovery project
- Emergency conditions (e.g., wildfire)
- NOT to be used for drought or for overuse of customary allotment.

This page intentionally left blank.