
Appendix O

Summary of Areas of Critical Environmental
Concern Report

APPENDIX O

SUMMARY OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN REPORT

This appendix provides summary information about the ACECs evaluation process for the Uncompahgre RMP planning area. The *Evaluation of Existing and Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the Uncompahgre Planning Area* report (BLM 2011f) provides more detail on the process, as well as maps of each proposed and existing ACEC.

An ACEC is an area of BLM-administered land where special management attention is needed to protect its relevant and important values from irreparable damage. ACECs are an administrative designation made by the BLM during the land use planning process.

Special management attention refers to management prescriptions developed during RMP preparation expressly to protect the important and relevant values of an area from the potential effects of actions permitted by the RMP, including proposed actions deemed to be in conformance with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the RMP (BLM Manual 1613.12; BLM 1988). These are management measures that would not be necessary or prescribed if the critical and important features were not present.

As part of the land use planning process for the Uncompahgre RMP, a BLM interdisciplinary team reviewed 25 proposals for ACECs. The team analyzed the areas to determine if they are within the planning area and if they contain values that meet the relevance and importance criteria for consideration as potential ACECs. External sources (including other agencies and the public) submitted 11 nominations, BLM specialists submitted 9 nominations, and 5 are existing ACECs.

The *Evaluation of Existing and Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the Uncompahgre Planning Area* report (BLM 2011f) presents the evaluations of all existing and proposed ACECs. The BLM found 23 areas meet the relevance and importance criteria (**Table O-1**, Existing and Proposed ACECs Meeting the Relevance and Importance Criteria). Areas found to meet the relevance and importance criteria are identified as potential ACECs and have been fully

Table O-1
Existing and Proposed ACECs Meeting the
Relevance and Importance Criteria

ACEC	Acres
Needle Rock ACEC/ONA	80
Adobe Badlands ACEC/ONA	6,370
Salt Desert Shrub Ecosystem ACEC	34,510
Fairview South ACEC/RNA	210
Fairview South ACEC (with BLM expansion)	610
Fairview South ACEC (with CNHP Expansion)	4,250
Roubideau Corridors ACEC	8,720
Roubideau-Potter-Monitor ACEC	20,430
Lower Uncompahgre Plateau Cultural ACEC	31,810
San Miguel River ACEC	22,780
San Miguel River ACEC Expansion	35,480
San Miguel Gunnison Sage-grouse ACEC	470
Sims Cerro Gunnison Sage-grouse ACEC	25,620
Dolores River Slickrock Canyon ACEC	9,780
Dolores Slickrock Canyon ACEC	10,670
La Sal Creek ACEC	10,490
Coyote Wash ACEC	2,100
East Paradox ACEC	7,360
Biological Soil Crust ACEC	1,900
West Paradox ACEC	5,190
Paradox Rock Art ACEC	1,080
Tabeguache Pueblo/Tabeguache Caves ACEC	26,300
Tabeguache Creek ACEC/ONA	560

considered for designation and management. The BLM dropped two areas from further ACEC consideration. One area was found not to meet the relevance and importance criteria and one area is outside of the Uncompahgre RMP planning area.

Nomination

BLM staff, other agencies, or members of the public may nominate ACECs at any time, but ACECs are only designated during the BLM's land use planning process. Existing ACECs are also reconsidered at this time.

During the scoping period for the Uncompahgre RMP revision, the UFO solicited ACEC nominations from the public. At public scoping meetings, the UFO displayed a panel describing special management areas and distributed a fact sheet on ACECs, along with a map showing current ACECs in the planning area. The fact sheet and map were also made available on the RMP planning Web site: (http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html). The fact sheet and display panel are shown in Appendices A and B of the *Evaluation of Existing and Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the Uncompahgre Planning Area* report (BLM 2011f).

Relevance

Areas meeting the relevance criterion possess “significant historic, cultural, or scenic value; a fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process; or natural hazard.”

An area meets the relevance criterion if it contains *one or more* of the following:

1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).
2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).
3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features). For the purposes of the UFO’s evaluation, an area also meets the criteria for relevance if it contains a plant species or community ranked G1 through G3 or S1 through S3 by the CNHP.
4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.

Importance

To meet the importance criterion, the value, resource, system, process or hazard resource must “have substantial significance and value.” This generally requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource, or qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change. A natural hazard can be important if it is a significant threat to human life or property.

An area meets the importance criterion if *one or more* of the following characteristics are present:

1. Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.
2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
3. Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of the FLPMA.
4. Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

Maps of ACECs proposed for analysis, as well as additional information about the relevance and importance criteria, are included in the *Evaluation of Existing and Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the Uncompahgre Planning Area* report (BLM 2011f). The size and management prescriptions for each ACEC may vary by alternative to reflect a balance between the goals and objectives of the alternatives and the values being protected (BLM Manual 1613; BLM 1988). **Table O-2** (Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area) summarizes the proposed ACECs evaluated, the values assessed, and whether the criteria were met.

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
Needle Rock ACEC/ONA Existing: 80 acres	Existing	Yes	Natural System: <i>Rare Geological Feature</i> Scenic	1, 3	1, 2, 3	<p>The existing Needle Rock ACEC/ONA protects a geologic landform with high-value scientific, scenic, and interpretive characteristics. The isolated structure is the igneous core or plug of a tertiary volcano formed when magma hardened within the vent.</p> <p>The spectacular volcanic formation rises almost 1,000 feet above the Smith Fork River Valley. The structure formed in the Miocene when intruding magma hardened to form a plug (also known as a neck) and is an iconic symbol for the North Fork of the Gunnison region. The 80-acre site is managed to protect scientific and scenic qualities that are vulnerable to damage from human use.</p>
Adobe Badlands ACEC/ONA Existing: 6,370 acres	Existing	Yes	Botanical: <i>Federally Threatened Species</i> Wildlife: <i>BLM Sensitive Species</i> Scenic Natural Process: <i>Highly Erodible Soils</i>	2, 3	1, 2, 3	<p>The existing Adobe Badlands ACEC/ONA is managed to protect its unique scenic qualities, improve threatened and endangered species habitat, and reduce active erosion. The area has been managed as an ACEC since 1989, and is within the Adobe Badlands WSA, which was designated in 1992.</p> <p>The area consists of Mancos shale hills and flats</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>which, through wind and water erosion, have formed unique scenic formations. This area is listed in state and regional hiking books because of these formations.</p> <p>The area also contains occupied and potential habitat for threatened Colorado hookless cactus (<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>). The BLM sensitive species white-tailed prairie dog (<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>) inhabits the area, and the BLM Sensitive species kit fox (<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>) may be in the area.</p> <p>The area's soils are highly erodible and saline, resulting in high sediment loads and very saline runoff. The area is also within an adobe roadless area, which is vulnerable to adverse change (highly susceptible to erosion) without special management.</p>
Salt Desert Shrub Ecosystem ACEC Proposed: 34,510 acres	BLM and External Proposal	Yes	Botanical: <i>Federally Endangered and Threatened Species</i> Fish and Wildlife: <i>BLM Sensitive Species</i>	2, 3	1, 2, 3	The existing Adobe Badlands ACEC/ONA is within the proposed Salt Desert Shrub Ecosystem ACEC. The proposed Salt Desert Shrub Ecosystem ACEC contains a core population of the threatened Colorado hookless cactus, cold desert shrubland

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>communities (locally imperiled), and two BLM sensitive species: white-tailed prairie dog and burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>). The ecosystem within the proposed ACEC is easily disturbed and difficult to restore.</p> <p>This area also suitable habitat for and may have populations of BLM sensitive species: kit fox, ferruginous hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>), and pronghorn antelope (<i>Antilocapra americana</i>). Much of the known populations of the endemic and federally listed Colorado hookless cactus are located in this area. CNHP considers salt desert shrubland in the area to be globally vulnerable and locally imperiled (G3/S2).</p> <p>The area has adobe soils and is within a selenium program management area. The area has potential as a demonstration area for cactus and species recovery.</p>
Fairview South ACEC/RNA Existing: 210 acres	Existing	Yes	Botanical: <i>Endangered and BLM Sensitive Species</i>	3	1, 2, 3	The 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP designated the Fairview South ACEC/RNA. This area contains a large population of clay-loving wild buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>), which is endemic to the adobe badlands of Montrose

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>and Delta Counties. The known range of the clay-loving wild buckwheat is restricted to less than 35 square miles, and this species is vulnerable to adverse change.</p> <p>The area also contains native plant communities representative of the sparsely vegetated adobe badlands, and a population of the globally vulnerable Adobe Hills beardtongue (<i>Penstemon retrorsus</i>).</p>
<p>Fairview South ACEC (with BLM proposed expansion)</p> <p>Existing: 210 acres</p> <p>Proposed expansion: 610 acres</p>	<p>BLM Proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Botanical: <i>Federally Endangered and BLM Sensitive Species</i></p> <p>Fish and Wildlife: <i>Federal Candidate Species</i></p>	<p>2, 3</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>The proposed Fairview South ACEC is the existing Fairview South ACEC/RNA, with additional acreage. This expanded area contains a significant portion of one of the largest populations of the federally endangered clay-loving wild buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>), and a good occurrence (B-ranked) of Adobe Hills beardtongue (<i>Penstemon retrorsus</i>), identified as globally vulnerable (G3/S3). The area also has populations of white-tailed prairie dog, listed as a BLM sensitive species.</p> <p>Since designation of the existing Fairview South ACEC/RNA, additional dense populations of clay-loving wild buckwheat have been</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>discovered to the south and east. Populations of this species have been receiving increasing pressures from development both on and off BLM-administered lands. Much of the potentially suitable habitat for clay-loving wild buckwheat is located on private lands and has either been developed or may be developed in the future.</p> <p>CNHP has given this area a Biodiversity Significance Rank of B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance.</p>
<p>Fairview South ACEC (with CNHP Expansion) Existing: 210 acres Proposed expansion: 4,250 acres</p>	<p>External Proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Botanical: <i>Federally Endangered and Candidate, and BLM Sensitive Species</i></p> <p>Fish and Wildlife: <i>Federal Candidate Species</i></p>	<p>2, 3</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>The proposed Fairview South ACEC is the existing Fairview South ACEC/RNA, with additional acreage proposed by external groups to include CNHP mapped habitat. The Dry Cedar Creek area contains an occurrence of the federally endangered clay-loving wild buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>); Colorado desert parsley (<i>Lomatium concinnum</i>), a BLM sensitive and globally imperiled species; and Adobe Hills beardtongue (<i>Penstemon retrorsus</i>) and good-neighbor bladderpod (<i>Lesquerella vicina</i>), both of which are globally vulnerable. The South Canal area contains an excellent occurrence of the federally endangered clay-</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>loving wild buckwheat and the globally vulnerable Adobe Hills beardtongue.</p> <p>CNHP has given this area a Biodiversity Significance Rank of B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance.</p>
<p>Roubideau Corridors ACEC Proposed: 8,720 acres</p>	<p>BLM Proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Botanical: <i>Riparian Vegetation and BLM Sensitive Species</i></p> <p>Fish and Wildlife: <i>Aquatic and BLM Sensitive species</i></p> <p>Historical: <i>Early settlement</i></p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>The proposed Roubideau Corridors ACEC is based on the Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area, recommended by the CNHP. The canyons and streams have very high biodiversity significance, supporting good to excellent examples of narrowleaf cottonwood (<i>Populus angustifolia</i>)/skunkbrush riparian forests, montane and lower montane riparian forests with blue spruce (<i>Picea pungens</i>), Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>), narrowleaf cottonwood, and red-osier dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>). The riparian areas also have foothills riparian shrublands characterized by river birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>) and coyote willow (<i>Salix exigua</i>).</p> <p>BLM sensitive species including Grand Junction milkvetch (<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>), Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), desert bighorn sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>), and northern leopard frog</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>(<i>Rana pipiens</i>) are found there. Golden eagle nests also occur in the area. A recent fish survey conducted by the BLM indicates that Potter Creek supports, and Monitor Creek is likely to support, viable populations of BLM sensitive species bluehead sucker (<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>) and flannelmouth sucker (<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>).</p> <p>The canyons contain three perennial streams that provide available water sources for the desert bighorn sheep and other wildlife, and also provide important movement corridors from the desert and Gunnison River up to the forest on the Uncompahgre Plateau. These corridors are important for wildlife, and were important for early settlers as well. Several historic structures are found along Roubideau Creek. The area is rated as a VRI Class II.</p>
<p>Roubideau-Potter-Monitor ACEC Proposed: 20,430 acres</p>	<p>External Proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Botanical: <i>Riparian Vegetation and BLM Sensitive Species</i></p> <p>Fish and Wildlife: <i>Aquatic and BLM Sensitive Species</i></p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>The proposed Roubideau-Potter-Monitor ACEC overlays the proposed Roubideau Corridors ACEC, and would include all of the Camel Back WSA, as well as the Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area recommended by the CNHP. The canyons and streams have very high biodiversity significance,</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
			Historical: <i>Early Settlement</i>			<p>supporting good to excellent examples of narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbrush riparian forests, montane and lower montane riparian forests with blue spruce, Douglas fir, narrowleaf cottonwood, and red osier dogwood. Foothills riparian shrublands are characterized by river birch and coyote willow.</p> <p>BLM sensitive species, including Grand Junction milkvetch, peregrine falcon, desert bighorn sheep and northern leopard frog, are found there. Golden eagle nests also occur in the area. A recent fish survey conducted by the BLM indicates that Potter Creek supports, and Monitor Creek is likely to support, viable populations of BLM sensitive species bluehead sucker (<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>) and flannelmouth sucker (<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>).</p> <p>The canyons contain three perennial streams that provide an available water source for the desert bighorn sheep and other wildlife, and form important movement corridors from the desert and Gunnison River up to the forest on the Uncompahgre Plateau. These corridors are important for wildlife, and were important for</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>early settlers as well. Several historic structures are found along Roubideau Creek.</p> <p>The uplands afford protection to the integrity of the canyons below, as well as offer spectacular views down into the canyons and to mountains and mesas in the distance. With a depth of 750 to 1,000 feet from the rim to the creeks, the area is geographically configured to offer a sense of isolation for wildlife and human visitors.</p> <p>Archeological and historical sites abound in this area, including a rare collection of thirteen Ute wickiups, petroglyphs perhaps 6,000 years old, an historic inscription in Roubideau Canyon that may date back to the time of the American Revolution, and sheep herder cabins and structures more than 100 years old. The area is rated as a VRI Class II.</p>
<p>Lower Uncompahgre Plateau Cultural ACEC Proposed: 31,810 acres</p>	<p>External Proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Cultural</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1, 2</p>	<p>The proposed Lower Uncompahgre Plateau Cultural ACEC contains important rock art and archaeological sites from three different transitional time periods of occupation that are not represented elsewhere. The area was a</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						central part of the early homeland of the Ute Indians, and has many localities of traditional cultural and sacred site interest to modern Utes. The area has many scattered important archaeological sites that include archaic to historic Ute occupation in the 1880s (including the Harris site, rock art sites, and wickiups). The archaeological sites are nationally significant.
San Miguel River ACEC Existing: 22,780 acres	Existing	Yes	Botanical: <i>Riparian Vegetation</i> Wildlife: <i>Important Bird Area</i> Scenic	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	The San Miguel River ACEC was designated through an amendment of the San Juan/San Miguel RMP in 1993. The ACEC protects high quality native riparian communities that are mainly due to the undammed San Miguel River and its intact hydrology. Such communities are becoming increasingly rare in Colorado. The ACEC preserves the high quality riparian vegetation resources, habitat for many bird species, and the scenic value of the corridor. The ACEC has been designated as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society, and represents one of the finest protected southwest canyon riparian habitat in the United States (US). This area provides breeding sites

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>for a wide variety of species and primary migratory routes for nearly all of the West's songbirds. More than 300 bird species have been observed in this area. The expanding black phoebe (<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>) population, which has been moving up the San Miguel River, reached the lower end of the ACEC in 1999. The San Miguel River also provides habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>).</p> <p>The ACEC's scenic values include the Unaweep Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway, which runs along the San Miguel River. This area inventoried at VRI Class II.</p>
<p>San Miguel River ACEC, Expanded Existing: 22,780 acres Proposed expansion: 35,480 acres</p>	<p>BLM and External Proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Botanical: <i>Riparian Vegetation</i> Wildlife: <i>Important Bird Area</i> Scenic</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>The proposed San Miguel River ACEC is the existing San Miguel River ACEC, with additional acreage. The proposed ACEC would protect high quality native riparian communities that are mainly due to the undammed San Miguel River and its intact hydrology. Such communities are becoming increasingly rare in Colorado. The ACEC preserves the high quality riparian vegetation resources, habitat for many bird species, and the scenic value of the corridor.</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>The proposed ACEC expansion would extend protection to additional areas that have been recognized by the BLM and the CNHP as having high biodiversity significance. The CNHP has proposed the San Miguel River at Cottonwood Creek as a Potential Conservation Area, which hosts skunkbrush/coyote willow riparian shrubland, narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbrush riparian woodland, and coyote willow/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland; all are good to excellent examples of these community types.</p> <p>The existing ACEC has been designated as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society, and represents one of the finest protected southwest canyon riparian habitats in the US. The area provides breeding sites for a wide variety of species and primary migratory routes for nearly all of the West's songbirds. More than 300 bird species have been observed in this area. The expanding black phoebe population, which has been moving up the San Miguel River, reached the lower end of the existing ACEC in 1999.</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						The ACEC's scenic values include the Unawep Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway, which follows the San Miguel River downstream from Placerville, and the San Juan Skyway, which follows the San Miguel River upstream from Placerville. These areas inventoried at VRI Class II.
San Miguel Gunnison Sage-grouse ACEC Proposed: 470 acres	External Proposal	Yes	Wildlife Resource: <i>Habitat for BLM Sensitive Species</i>	2	2, 3	<p>The proposed San Miguel Gunnison Sage-grouse ACEC is located on several small parcels of BLM-administered land in San Miguel County. This area contains potential, historic, and occupied Gunnison sage-grouse (<i>Centrocercus minimus</i>) habitat, as defined by CPW. This area also contains proposed critical habitat (460 acres) for Gunnison sage-grouse, as designated by USFWS.</p> <p>Gunnison sage-grouse currently occur in what have previously been considered eight widely scattered and isolated populations in Colorado and Utah. The San Miguel Basin population exhibits a patchy distribution of Gunnison sage-grouse. As a result, there are six separate subpopulations identified within San Miguel Basin. This proposed ACEC is the northern end of what is considered part of the San Miguel</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>(Miramonte Reservoir) population of Gunnison sage-grouse. The core of this population is found in the BLM Dolores Field Office to the south, but small portions of occupied habitat exist in this proposed ACEC.</p> <p>Historically, Dove Creek – Monticello, San Miguel, Crawford, and Piñon Mesa all had much more sagebrush habitat and probably larger Gunnison sage-grouse populations that were somewhat connected through more contiguous areas of sagebrush habitat. An estimated 20 percent loss of sagebrush habitat between the late 1950's and the early 1990's and fragmentation of sagebrush habitat in southwestern Colorado is thought to have led to the current isolation of these populations. The protection of the small BLM portions of occupied habitat adjacent to private, state, and Forest Service lands being managed for Gunnison sage-grouse, provide additional protection for the species.</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
West Montrose County Gunnison Sage-Grouse Sites ACEC Proposed: 22,930 acres	External Proposal	No	Wildlife Resource: <i>Habitat for BLM Sensitive Species</i>	None	3	<p>The proposed West Montrose County Gunnison Sage-grouse Sites ACEC does not meet the relevance criterion. The proposed ACEC contains areas of potential habitat which have not been occupied for more than 50 years.</p> <p>The proposed ACEC contains historic and potential Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in western Montrose County, and also contains a small portion of proposed critical habitat (approx. 290 acres) for Gunnison sage-grouse, as designated by USFWS. It is located on several small parcels of BLM-administered land containing historic Gunnison sage-grouse habitat, as defined by CPW.</p> <p>Gunnison sage-grouse currently occur in what have previously been considered eight widely scattered and isolated populations in Colorado and Utah. The San Miguel Basin population exhibits a patchy distribution of Gunnison sage-grouse. As a result, there are six separate subpopulations identified within San Miguel Basin. This proposed ACEC area is at the northern end of what is considered part of the San Miguel population of Gunnison sage-grouse.</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>The core of this population is found in the Dolores Field Office to the south, but small portions of occupied habitat exist in this proposed ACEC.</p> <p>Historically, Dove Creek – Monticello, San Miguel, Crawford, and Piñon Mesa all had much more sagebrush habitat and probably larger Gunnison sage-grouse populations that were somewhat connected through more contiguous areas of sagebrush habitat. An estimated 20 percent loss of sagebrush habitat between the late 1950's and the early 1990's and fragmentation of sagebrush habitat in southwestern Colorado is thought to have led to the current isolation of these populations.</p>
Sims Cerro Gunnison Sage-grouse ACEC Proposed: 25,620 acres	External Proposal	Yes	Wildlife Resource: <i>Habitat for BLM Sensitive Species</i>	2	2, 3	The proposed Sims Cerro Gunnison Sage-grouse Sites ACEC is located on a large parcel of BLM-administered land southeast of Montrose, and on smaller BLM parcels about 10 miles east of Montrose near Cerro Summit. The ACEC contains historic, potential, and occupied Gunnison sage-grouse habitat, as defined by CPW. This area also contains proposed critical

**Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area**

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>habitat (6,970 acres) for Gunnison sage-grouse, as designated by USFWS.</p> <p>Gunnison sage-grouse currently occur in what have previously been considered eight widely scattered and isolated populations in Colorado and Utah. The Cerro Summit-Cimarron-Sims Mesa population exhibits a patchy distribution of Gunnison sage-grouse. As a result, there are two subpopulations identified within Cerro Summit-Cimarron-Sims Mesa: Cerro Summit-Cimarron; and Sims Mesa. This area includes the BLM-administered lands within the Sims Mesa subpopulation, and a very small portion of the Cerro Summit-Cimarron subpopulation that is within the planning area.</p> <p>The Sims Mesa lek locations have been periodically occupied by a few grouse as recently as 2002. While no Gunnison sage-grouse have been seen on the Sims Mesa leks in many years, Gunnison sage-grouse have been seen in the area in 2011 and 2012. Other lek sites in the area include Coal Hill (6 birds seen in 2004), Hairpin (1 bird seen in 2010), Cimarron (5 birds seen 2009), Cerro (last seen</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>2000) (CPW 2010). While no Gunnison sage-grouse have been seen on the Cerro lek in recent years, a Gunnison sage-grouse was seen in the Cerro Summit area in 2009 (CPW 2010).</p> <p>An estimated 20 percent loss of sagebrush habitat between the late 1950's and the early 1990's and fragmentation of sagebrush habitat in southwestern Colorado is thought to have led to the current isolation of these populations. The protection of the small BLM portions of occupied/historic habitat provides additional protection for the species.</p>
<p>Dolores River Slickrock Canyon ACEC Proposed: 9,780 acres</p>	<p>BLM Proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Botanical: <i>Riparian Communities and BLM Sensitive Species</i></p> <p>Fish and Wildlife: <i>BLM Sensitive Species</i></p> <p>Scenic</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>The proposed Dolores River Slickrock Canyon ACEC includes the Dolores River, La Sal Creek, and Coyote Wash, which have carved a spectacular, deep canyon through Jurassic and Triassic sandstones. Steep vertical cliffs dominate the canyon sides, broken only where tributaries enter the canyon. Most of this area is roadless and accessible only by raft, canoe or kayak.</p> <p>This area includes the riparian zone and adjacent uplands along the Dolores River, from</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>Slick Rock Canyon north almost to Bedrock. There are good to excellent occurrences of the globally common coyote willow/mesic graminoids. Typical vegetation along the river and creeks includes a band of coyote willow, mixed with giant reed at the water's edge between the low and high water marks. La Sal Creek has a critically imperiled plant association consisting of box elder and river birch. Colorado's largest population of Kachina daisy (<i>Erigeron kachinensis</i>), a G2/S1 BLM sensitive species, occurs along drainages feeding into Coyote Wash and Slick Rock Canyon.</p> <p>The canyon bottoms support a nearly continuous occurrence of the riparian plant association known as New Mexico privet foothills riparian shrubland. The area supports two excellent (A-ranked) occurrences of a globally imperiled (G2/S1) New Mexico privet riparian shrub community (<i>Forestiera pubescens</i>) along the Dolores River. The New Mexico privet plant community is known only from the major rivers in the Four Corners area.</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>There are a few hanging garden communities (<i>Aquilegia micrantha</i> – <i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i>), imperiled to vulnerable on a global scale (G2G3/S2S3), containing small populations of the globally vulnerable (G3/S1) Eastwood monkeyflower (<i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i>).</p> <p>The proposed ACEC also has a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the Naturita milkvetch (<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>), a BLM sensitive species and considered to be imperiled to vulnerable both globally and in Colorado (G2G3/S2S3).</p> <p>The Dolores River throughout the length of the site supports populations of roundtail chub (<i>Gila robusta</i>), which is a BLM sensitive species and globally vulnerable (G3/S2). Populations of the chub are at the upstream margin of the species' range and comprise the majority of occurrences for this species. The La Sal Creek tributary harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>), bluehead suckers (<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>), and roundtail chubs (<i>Gila robusta</i>); this is one of a very few spawning tributaries for these species within the Dolores</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>River Basin. . Other animal species with conservation significance are desert bighorn sheep and peregrine falcon.</p> <p>Cultural sites (rock art panels and historic structures) are in the area, as is a paleontological study area.</p>
<p>Dolores Slickrock Canyon ACEC Proposed: 10,670 acres</p>	<p>BLM Proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Botanical: <i>Riparian Communities and BLM Sensitive Species</i></p> <p>Fish and Wildlife: <i>BLM Sensitive Species</i></p> <p>Scenic</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>The proposed Dolores River Slickrock Canyon ACEC includes the Dolores River, La Sal Creek, and Coyote Wash, which have carved a spectacular, deep canyon through Jurassic and Triassic sandstones. Steep vertical cliffs dominate the canyon sides, broken only where tributaries enter the canyon. Most of this area is roadless and accessible only by raft, canoe or kayak.</p> <p>This area includes the riparian zone and adjacent uplands along the Dolores River, from Slick Rock Canyon north almost to Bedrock. There are good to excellent occurrences of the globally common coyote willow/mesic graminoids. Typical vegetation along the river and creeks includes a band of coyote willow, mixed with giant reed at the water's edge</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>between the low and high water marks. La Sal Creek has a critically imperiled plant association consisting of box elder and river birch. Colorado's largest population of Kachina daisy (<i>Erigeron kachinensis</i>), a G2/S1 BLM sensitive species, occur along drainages feeding into Coyote Wash and Slick Rock Canyon.</p> <p>The canyon bottoms support a nearly continuous occurrence of the riparian plant association known as New Mexico privet foothills riparian shrubland. The area supports two excellent (A-ranked) occurrences of a globally imperiled (G2/S1) New Mexico privet riparian shrub community (<i>Forestiera pubescens</i>) along the Dolores River. The New Mexico privet plant community is known only from the major rivers in the Four Corners area.</p> <p>There are a few hanging garden communities (<i>Aquilegia micrantha</i> – <i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i>), imperiled to vulnerable on a global scale (G2G3/S2S3), containing small populations of the globally vulnerable (G3/S1) Eastwood monkeyflower (<i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i>).</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>The proposed ACEC also has a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the Naturita milkvetch (<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>), a BLM sensitive species and considered to be imperiled to vulnerable both globally and in Colorado (G2G3/S2S3).</p> <p>The Dolores River throughout the length of the site supports populations of roundtail chub (<i>Gila robusta</i>), which is a BLM sensitive species and globally vulnerable (G3/S2). Populations of the chub are at the upstream margin of the species' range and comprise the majority of occurrences for this species. The La Sal Creek tributary harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>), bluehead suckers (<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>), and roundtail chubs (<i>Gila robusta</i>; this is one of a very few spawning tributaries for these species within the Dolores River Basin. Other animal species with conservation significance are desert bighorn sheep and peregrine falcon.</p> <p>Cultural sites (rock art panels and historic structures) are in the area, as is a paleontological study area.</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
La Sal Creek ACEC Proposed: 10,490 acres	External Proposal	Yes	Botanical: <i>Unique Vegetation Communities and BLM Sensitive Species</i> Fish and Wildlife: <i>BLM Sensitive Species</i>	2, 3	1, 2, 3	<p>The proposed La Sal Creek ACEC includes La Sal Creek, as well as uplands. La Sal Creek cuts a spectacular canyon of entrenched meanders through red Triassic and Jurassic sandstones and siltstones. The narrow floodplain supports a critically imperiled plant association consisting of box elder and river birch. In the narrow band of riparian vegetation, box elder accounts for as much as 70 percent cover, with river birch providing 25 to 60 percent cover. Only a few other small occurrences of this community are known to exist.</p> <p>New Mexico privet, coyote willow, red-osier dogwood, giant reed, and wild rose are also common. Although there are some introduced pasture grasses, including Kentucky bluegrass, there is no tamarisk along the upper part of the creek.</p> <p>Eroding shale slopes support populations of rare plants: Paradox breadroot (<i>Pediomelum aromaticum</i>), a G3/S2 BLM sensitive species; and Paradox Valley lupine (<i>Lupinus crassus</i>), a G2/S2, BLM sensitive species.</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>Upland vegetation consists of pinyon-juniper woodland with both true and dwarf mountain mahogany, cliffrose, Gambel's oak, yucca, cacti, and rabbitbrush. A good-sized population of Paradox breadroot, with several hundred plants, was found on a dry bench overlooking La Sal Creek.</p> <p>La Sal Creek harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>), bluehead suckers (<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>), and roundtail chubs (<i>Gila robusta</i>). This is one of a very few spawning tributaries for these species within the Dolores River Basin.</p>
Coyote Wash ACEC Proposed: 2,100 acres	External Proposal	Yes	Botanical: BLM Sensitive Species	3	1, 2, 3	<p>The proposed Coyote Wash ACEC is a steep-sided tributary canyon that joins the Dolores Canyon. Its flat sandy bottom has a small meandering stream that occasionally floods. Colorado's largest population of Kachina daisy, a G2/S1 BLM sensitive species, occurs along drainages feeding into the wash and canyon; hanging gardens in the canyon walls support Eastwood monkeyflower (<i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i>) a BLM sensitive species. The banks of the</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>Dolores River also have box-elder, river birch, and red-osier dogwood communities. Isolated benches in the canyon support Great Basin grassland communities that are in excellent condition.</p> <p>The south boundary of the ACEC is the UFO boundary. Because of this, the proposed ACEC does not include the bottom of the drainage.</p>
<p>East Paradox ACEC Proposed: 7,360 acres</p>	<p>BLM Proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Botanical: <i>Unique Vegetation Communities, rare species of biological soil crusts, and BLM Sensitive Species</i></p> <p>Fish and Wildlife: <i>BLM Sensitive Species</i></p>	<p>2, 3</p>	<p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>The proposed East Paradox ACEC has the best known occurrence of the BLM sensitive species Paradox Valley lupine. This species is known only to occur in Colorado and is globally imperiled (G2/S2). There are two excellent occurrences (A-ranked) of the Paradox breadroot, a BLM sensitive and globally vulnerable (G3/S2) plant.</p> <p>There are well developed cryptogamic crusts found between plants. During the spring of 2009, an inventory of biological soil crusts was conducted by Jessie Salix (BLM Vernal Field Office Botanist) in the Paradox Valley, at the request of the UFO. The survey discovered that the soils in the inventory area are derived from</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						<p>the Paradox Formation, and are highly gypsiferous. These soils tend to support a higher than normal density and species diversity of biological soil crusts.</p> <p>The inventory also resulted in the documentation of the occurrence of two species of biological soil crusts that are somewhat rare and typically found only on gypsiferous soils. The two species are: <i>Lecanora gypsicola</i> and <i>Gypsoplaca macrophylla</i>. The identification of these species was verified by Dr. Larry St. Clair, Lichenologist at Brigham Young University. Dr. St. Clair conveyed via e-mail to Jessie Salix that he felt the lichens were in need of protection for two reasons: 1) they occur exclusively on gypsiferous soils, a limited habitat that is commonly mined, 2) Dr. St. Clair has only observed these two species on less than half of the gypsiferous sites he has inventoried. The location is also the type locality for the Paradox cateye (<i>C. paradoxa</i>).</p> <p>This area has a number of occurrences of wildlife species with conservation significance. The two rarest are the roundtail chub and</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						flannelmouth sucker, both BLM sensitive fish species. Nesting peregrine falcons also occur at this site.
Biological Soil Crust ACEC Proposed: 1,900 acres	BLM Proposal	Yes	Botanical: <i>Rare species of biological soil crusts</i>	2, 3	1, 2, 3	<p>There are well developed cryptogamic crusts found between plants. During the spring of 2009, an inventory of biological soil crusts was conducted by Jessie Salix (BLM Vernal Field Office Botanist) in the Paradox Valley, at the request of the UFO. The survey discovered that the soils in the inventory area are derived from the Paradox Formation, and are highly gypsiferous. These soils tend to support a higher than normal density and species diversity of biological soil crusts.</p> <p>The inventory also resulted in the documentation of the occurrence of two species of biological soil crusts that are somewhat rare and typically found only on gypsiferous soils. The two species are: <i>Lecanora gypsicola</i> and <i>Gypsoplaca macrophylla</i>. The identification of these species was verified by Dr. Larry St. Clair, Lichenologist at Brigham Young University. Dr. St. Clair conveyed via e-mail to Jessie Salix that he felt the lichens were</p>

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						in need of protection for two reasons: 1) they occur exclusively on gypsiferous soils, a limited habitat that is commonly mined, 2) Dr. St. Clair has only observed these two species on less than half of the gypsiferous sites he has inventoried.
West Paradox ACEC Proposed: 5,190 acres	BLM Proposal	Yes	Botanical: <i>Unique Vegetation Communities and BLM Sensitive Species</i> Fish and Wildlife: <i>BLM Sensitive Species</i>	2, 3	1, 2, 3	The proposed West Paradox ACEC is located on the north side of Paradox Valley and west of the Dolores River, on dark red soils derived from the Chinle Formation. This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) and historical occurrences of the BLM sensitive species Paradox Valley lupine, a globally imperiled (G2/S2) species. It also contains Paradox breadroot, a BLM sensitive and globally vulnerable (G3/S2) plant. The Paradox Valley lupine and Paradox breadroot are both locally common in the bottoms and on the sides of draws at the base of the south-facing slopes. There are many thousands of individuals of each species, with a variety of ages represented.

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						Other vegetation consists of Utah juniper woodland, with galleta and snakeweed. The plant community is in good condition with few exotic species present.
Paradox Rock Art ACEC Proposed: 1,080 acres	External Proposal	Yes	Cultural	1	1, 2	The proposed Paradox Rock Art ACEC is located in the eastern part of Paradox Valley. It contains important rock art and archaeological sites, including several outstanding examples of Ancestral Puebloan style petroglyphs, Formative period and earlier occupations, features and isolates, and settled village sites dating more than five hundred to a thousand years old. The site is rare for its northern extent of Anasazi rock art and occupation.
Tabeguache Pueblo/ Tabeguache Caves ACEC Proposed: 26,300 acres	External Proposal	Yes	Cultural	1	1, 2	The proposed Tabeguache Pueblo/Tabeguache Caves ACEC contains important archaeological sites that show a relationship between the Fremont and Anasazi cultures. The Tabeguache Pueblos and Tabeguache Caves are important both to the prehistory of the region and to the history of archaeology in Colorado, being some of the earliest explored and described archaeological sites in the state. In addition to

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
						their historic interest, both Tabeguache caves and the pueblos still contain intact archaeological deposits dating to the Formative period Anasazi, or Ancestral Puebloan people. There is some evidence of farming (corn production).
Tabeguache Creek ACEC/ONA Existing: 560 acres	Existing	Yes	Cultural	1	1, 2	The Tabeguache Creek ACEC and ONA is designated to protect cultural resources and aquatic/riparian values. The ACEC/ONA is completely within the Tabeguache Special Management Area. It contains important archaeological sites that show a relationship between the Fremont and Anasazi cultures. The Tabeguache Creek ACEC/ONA is important both to the prehistory of the region and to the history of archaeology in Colorado. It has some of the earliest explored and described archaeological sites in the state. The ACEC contains intact archaeological deposits dating to the Formative period Anasazi, or Ancestral Puebloan people.

Table O-2
Summary of the Evaluation of Existing and Proposed ACECs in the Decision Area

Name of ACEC	Status	Relevant and Important (carried forward)?	Values Assessed	Relevance Criteria Supported (see text above for relevance criterion)	Importance Criteria Supported (see text above for importance criterion)	Comments
Young Egg Locality ACEC Proposed: 120 acres	External Proposal	No				The proposed ACEC is within the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, which is not within the Uncompahgre RMP planning area. Because the proposed ACEC is outside of the planning area, it will not be considered in the Uncompahgre RMP.