
Appendix L

Coal Screening for the Uncompahgre Planning Area

APPENDIX L

COAL SCREENING FOR THE UNCOMPAHGRE PLANNING AREA

INTRODUCTION

The federal government provides for coal leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended by the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976. The Mineral Leasing Act outlines procedures for considering development of coal deposits through a leasing system that involves land use planning and environmental analysis. This document summarizes land management decisions regarding federal coal resources in the Uncompahgre Planning Area (planning area) within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO), Colorado.

The identification of areas acceptable for coal leasing consideration is a major land use planning decision, providing direction for coal leasing decisions made by the Secretary of the Interior and guiding the future development of federal coal resources throughout the planning area.

Lands in the planning area were evaluated for coal leasing suitability using the screening process set forth in the Competitive Leasing section of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 3420.1-4) and summarized as follows:

- 1) Identify lands that have coal development potential, using internal estimates and nonconfidential coal geology information and economic data provided by public and private sources
- 2) Evaluate lands identified as having coal development potential in relation to the unsuitability criteria set forth in 43 CFR 3461 to determine areas that are unsuitable for all or stipulated methods of surface mining
- 3) Identify multiple land use decisions that could eliminate from leasing lands that contain resource values and land uses that are locally, regionally, or nationally important or unique and that are not included in the unsuitability criteria.

The Department of the Interior offers federal coal resources through two application processes:

- Lease-by-application
- Application to modify an existing lease

Applications are typically initiated by coal companies, qualified individuals, or existing coal lessees. When a federal coal tract is proposed for leasing, the BLM reviews the application to ensure that it conforms to existing land use plans and contains sufficient geologic data to assess the fair market value of the coal.

Both leasing processes require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, in which the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with a proposed action are evaluated. After considering environmental analysis and public comments solicited during the NEPA process, the BLM determines whether to accept a proposed action, take no action, or develop an alternative action.

The submission of a coal lease application for lands within the planning area would initiate a fourth screening procedure:

- 4) Consult with the surface owner regarding private surface lands overlying federal coal.

RESULTS OF THE COAL SCREENING PROCESS

The following details the results of screening procedures used to identify lands in the planning area as suitable for coal leasing consideration.

Screen 1: Identification of Coal Development Potential

Somerset, Grand Mesa, Tongue Mesa, and Nucla-Naturita coal fields constitute the leased and unleased federal coal resources within the planning area where development could occur over the estimated twenty-year duration of the RMP.

Located along the northeastern boundary of the planning area in Delta and Gunnison counties, **Somerset Coal Field** contains three active mines on federal leases operating in coal seams of the Mesaverde Formation and has the highest development potential of the four areas. Adjacent to Somerset along the northern boundary of the planning area, **Grand Mesa Coal Field** straddles the Delta-Mesa County Line and is also comprised of Mesaverde coals.

Tongue Mesa Coal Field traverses the Ouray-Gunnison County Line in the southeastern portion of the planning area and contains relatively inaccessible coal seams of the Fruitland Formation. Somerset, Grand Mesa, and Tongue Mesa are considered deep coal fields, with overburden depths too great to allow for surface mining potential. **Nucla-Naturita Coal Field** is located in western Montrose County and has overburden depths sufficiently shallow to allow for surface mining of Dakota Formation coals.

At the time of this report, only private portions of the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field were being developed, and there was no active mining of federal mineral estate within either the Grand Mesa or Tongue Mesa coal fields.

Coal Development Potential in the RMP

The coal development potential area identified in the 1985 San Juan/San Miguel RMP and 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP was carried forward to Alternative A (which reflects current management) in the Draft RMP/EIS. Under Alternative A, coal potential was based on a maximum development depth of about 2,000 feet. The coal potential area in Alternatives B, C, and D was expanded because of newer technology that allows for mining of deeper coal to a maximum development depth of 3,000 feet, and the addition of Dakota coal west of Montrose and an expanded Nucla-Naturita Coal Field, both of which were not recognized in the 1985 and 1989 RMPs.

Screen 2: Unsuitability Criteria Review

As required by 43 CFR 3461, the BLM assessed the coal development potential areas (identified in Screen 1) in relation to twenty unsuitability criteria to determine suitability for surface mining. In accordance with 43 CFR 3461.3-2, lands already leased for coal mining were not assessed. The criteria focus on significant resource values that could be impacted by surface operations. **Surface coal mining operations** are defined in 43 CFR 3400.0-5 as “activities conducted on the surface of lands in connection with a surface coal mine or surface operations and surface impacts incident to an underground mine” (such as vent holes, portals, load out facilities, roads, and other surface disturbances).

Federal regulation 43 CFR 3461.1 [a] outlines exemptions and exceptions from the criteria, stating that “federal lands with coal deposits that would be mined by underground mining methods shall not be assessed as unsuitable where there would be no surface coal mining operations.” The unsuitability criteria were not applied to the three coal fields in the planning area that have deep coal deposits and no clearly defined areas where surface operations would occur. The criteria will be applied to surface facilities and operations during the exploration and leasing stages, as allowed by 43 CFR 3461.2-1(b) (1) and 3461.3-1.

A summary of the findings is as follows. Note that acres are subject to change as the BLM would evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to the criteria at the time of exploration and leasing.

Criteria	Nucla-Naturita Coal Field (acres)	Other Shallow Coal Fields (acres)
2: Rights-of-Way and Easements	2,190	30
3: Public Roads, Buildings, Cemeteries, and Parks and Occupied Dwellings	20	0
12: Bald and Golden Eagle Roosts and Winter Concentrations	340	10
17: Municipal Watersheds	70	0
Total	2,460¹	40

¹The total acreage is less than the sum total of the individual acres because some areas overlap. The total does not include overlapping acreage.

Criterion 1 - Special Systems of Federal Lands

Federal surface lands included in the following land systems or categories shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations:

- National Park System
- National Wildlife Refuge System
- National System of Trails
- National Wilderness Preservation System
- National Recreation Areas
- land acquired with money derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- National Forests (not applicable to underground mining)
- federal lands in incorporated cities, towns, and villages

Analysis: Designated as a National Historic Trail by Congress in 2002, the northern branch of The Old Spanish Trail passes through the planning area. The trail and associated corridor are unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations associated with underground mining. Prior to coal exploration and leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed federal lands and identify additional areas listed under Criterion 1 as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Criterion 2 - Rights-of-Way and Easements

Federal lands within rights-of-way or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial, or other public purposes shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: The West-Wide Energy Corridor, the Kinder-Morgan pipeline, Western Area Power Administration and Tri-state powerline corridors, utility corridors, and county road rights-of-way within the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field are unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Numerous additional rights-of-way occur within coal development potential areas in the planning area. Prior to coal exploration and leasing, the BLM will examine proposed federal lands and identify additional rights-of-way and easements listed under Criterion 2 as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Criterion 3 - Public Roads, Buildings, Cemeteries, and Parks and Occupied Dwellings

Federal lands affected by sections 522(e) (4) and (5) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations, including:

- within 100 feet of a cemetery or the outside line of a public highway right-of-way
- within 300 feet of an occupied building

- within 350 feet of an occupied public building, school, church, community, or institutional building or public park

Analysis: Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed federal lands and identify areas and structures listed under Criterion 3 as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations. Coal fields in the planning area include the following public roads:

- State Highway 133 runs through the Somerset Coal Field.
- State Highway 65 runs through the Grand Mesa coal Field.
- P77 Road and Owl Creek Pass run through the Tongue Mesa Coal Field.
- State Highway 145 runs through the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field.

Criterion 4 - Wilderness Study Areas

Federal lands designated as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations while under review by the federal administration and Congress for possible wilderness designation.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no WSAs have been designated within the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field. Because Screen 3 eliminates all WSAs from coal leasing, Criterion 4 is not applicable to surface operations for underground mines.

Criterion 5 - Class I Visual Resources

Federal lands designated as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I (signifying an area of outstanding scenic quality or high visual sensitivity) and not currently on the National Register of Natural Landmarks shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no VRM Class I areas have been designated within the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed federal lands and identify VRM Class I areas as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Criterion 6 - Scientific Studies, Demonstrations, and Experiments

Federal lands under permit by the BLM for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, or natural resources or technology demonstrations and experiments shall be considered unsuitable for the duration of the study, demonstration, or experiment, except where mining could be conducted in such a way as to enhance or not jeopardize the purposes of the study, as determined by the BLM, or where the principal scientific user or agency gives written concurrence to all or certain methods of mining.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no scientific studies listed under Criterion 6 are being conducted within coal development potential areas in the planning area. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed federal lands and identify areas with scientific studies, demonstrations, and experiments listed under Criterion 6 as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Criterion 7 - National Register of Historic Place Sites

Federal lands containing publicly owned sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations. The BLM shall consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Office and apply Criterion 7 to properties within coal development potential areas determined to be necessary in order to protect the inherent values that made the property eligible for National Register listing.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no publicly owned sites within coal development potential areas in the planning area have been identified as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed federal lands, consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Office, and identify National Register of Historic Place sites as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Criterion 8 - National Natural Landmarks

Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmark sites (containing outstanding biological and geological resources regardless of land ownership) shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no natural areas or National Natural Landmarks have been identified within coal development potential areas in the planning area. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed federal lands and identify natural areas and National Natural Landmarks listed under Criterion 8 as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Criterion 9 - Federally Designated Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species

Federally designated critical habitat for listed threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and habitat proposed to be designated as critical habitat, which is determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the surface management agency to be of essential value, and where the presence of threatened or endangered species has been scientifically documented, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no federally proposed or designated habitat for listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species have been identified within the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed surface coal operations and facilities in relation to Criterion 9.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for critical habitat that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or structures. Mine plans will identify known federally designated and proposed critical habitat for threatened and endangered plant and animal species as unsuitable, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures for habitat discovered during mining operations.

Criterion 10 - Critical Habitat for State-listed Threatened & Endangered Species

Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed as threatened or endangered by the State of Colorado pursuant to state law shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no critical or essential habitat for state-listed threatened or endangered plant and animal species has been identified within coal development potential areas in the planning area. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine proposed surface coal operations and facilities in relation to Criterion 10.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for critical and essential habitat for state-listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface mining or surface operations. Mine plans will identify known critical and essential habitat for state-listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species as unsuitable, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures for critical or essential habitat discovered during mining operations.

Criterion 11 - Bald and Golden Eagle Active Nest Sites

Federal lands containing an active bald or golden eagle nest site, along with an appropriate buffer zone around the nest site, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations. The BLM will consult with the FWS and will consider terrain and availability of habitat for prey species when defining buffer zones.

Terminology Used: According to 2007 National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines issued by the FWS, a nest is defined as a structure built, maintained, or used by eagles for the purpose of reproduction. An active nest is attended (built, maintained, or used) by a pair of eagles during a given breeding season, whether or not eggs are laid.

Analysis: Federal lands within an appropriate buffer zone of known active bald or golden eagle nesting sites (established through consultation with the FWS) will be identified as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations. At the time of this report, no known bald or golden eagle nest sites have been identified within the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field.

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface operations and facilities in relation to Criterion 11. Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for bald and golden eagle nests and nesting activity that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or facilities. Mine plans will identify known golden and bald eagle active nest sites and associated buffer zones as unsuitable and will outline measures to comply with current FWS Bald Eagle Management Guidelines & Conservation for active nest sites discovered during mining operations.

Criterion 12 - Bald and Golden Eagle Roosts

Federal lands containing bald and golden eagle roosts and concentration areas used during migration and wintering shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Terminology Used: According to 2007 National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines issued by the FWS, roosts are areas where eagles gather and perch overnight (and sometimes during the day in the event of inclement weather). Communal roost sites are usually in large trees (live or dead) that are relatively sheltered from wind and are generally in close proximity to foraging areas. Roosts may also serve a social purpose for pair bond formation and communication among eagles. Many roost sites are used year after year.

Analysis: Federal lands within one-quarter mile of known bald or golden eagle roosts and concentration areas will be identified as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations. At the time of this report, no known bald or golden eagle roosts and concentration areas have been identified within the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field.

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will examine surface operations and facilities in relation to Criterion 12. Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for bald and golden eagle roosts and concentration areas that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or facilities. Mine plans will identify known bald and golden eagle roosts and concentration areas as unsuitable, and will outline measures to comply with current FWS Bald Eagle Management Guidelines & Conservation for roosts and concentration areas discovered during mining operations.

Criterion 13 - Falcon Cliff Nest Sites

Federal lands containing falcon cliff nest sites with active nests (excluding kestrel), along with a buffer zone of federal land around the nest site, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations. The BLM will consult with the FWS and will consider terrain and availability of habitat for prey species when defining buffer zones.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no falcon cliff nest sites have been identified within the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 13.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for falcon cliff nest sites that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or structures. Mine plans will identify federal lands within an appropriate buffer zone of known active falcon cliff nest sites (established in consultation with the FWS) as unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures for nest sites discovered during mining operations.

Criterion 14 - Migratory Bird Habitat

Federal lands considered high-priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest on a regional or national basis, as determined jointly by the surface management agency and FWS, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no high-priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest has been identified within the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM (in consultation with the FWS) will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 14.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for high-priority migratory bird habitat that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or facilities. Mine plans will identify known high-priority migratory bird habitat as unsuitable, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures for habitat discovered during mining operations. During periods when a high-priority habitat is in use by a migratory bird species, underground coal mining may occur in areas where the BLM (in consultation with the FWS) determines that all or certain stipulated mining methods will not adversely affect the habitat.

Criterion 15 - Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife and Plants

Federal lands that the BLM and State of Colorado jointly identify as essential habitat for maintaining resident fish, wildlife, and plant species of high interest to the State shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Examples of lands that serve a critical function for a particular species include:

- active dancing and strutting grounds for sage-grouse
- crucial winter range for deer and elk
- migration corridors for elk
- extremes of range for plant species

Analysis: Much of the planning area consists of crucial winter range for deer and elk. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 15.

Prior to mine plan approval, the BLM will survey for crucial deer and elk winter range that could be directly or indirectly impacted by surface operations or facilities. Mine plans will identify known crucial winter range for deer and elk as unsuitable, and outline avoidance and mitigation measures.

Criterion 16 - Riverine, Coastal, and 100-Year Recurrence Interval Floodplains

Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and 100-year recurrence interval flood plains, on which the BLM determines that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property, shall be considered unsuitable for all or certain stipulated methods of mining.

Analysis: Coastal and riverine flood plains do not occur within the planning area and, at the time of this report, 100-year recurrence interval floodplains have not been identified within any coal development potential areas in the planning area. One hundred-year floodplains may exist along drainages in some areas.

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 16. Mine plans will identify potential effects of mine operations on adjacent flood plains and outline mitigation measures.

Criterion 17 - Municipal Watersheds

Federal lands that have been classified by the BLM as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: The Nucla, Naturita, Norwood, and Tri-state G&T Station are municipal watersheds within the Nucla-Naturita Coal Field identified as unsuitable for surface mining.

Grand Mesa and Somerset coal fields both contain numerous municipal watersheds within which surface operations will be considered unsuitable. Because designation of municipal watersheds is likely to increase over time, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 17 at the time of exploration and leasing.

Criterion 18 - Natural Resource Waters

Federal lands with national resource waters identified in state water quality management plans, and a buffer zone of federal lands one-quarter mile from the outer edge of the far banks of the water, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no national resource waters have been identified by the State of Colorado within coal development potential areas in the planning area. Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 18.

Criterion 19 - Alluvial Valley Floors

Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state in which they are located, as alluvial valley floors according to the definition in 43 CFR 3400.0-5 (a), standards in 30 CFR Part 822, the final alluvial valley floor guidelines of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement when published, and approved state programs under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, where mining would interrupt, discontinue, or preclude farming, shall be considered unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal land outside an alluvial valley floor would materially damage the quantity or quality of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply alluvial valley floors, the land shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: Alluvial valley floors will be identified at the time of coal exploration and leasing. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement guidelines will be followed. Surface coal mining operations may occur along alluvial valley floors if no reasonable alternative sites exist outside these areas. Lease stipulations and conditions of approval would be required in order to minimize disturbance and impacts to water supplies within these areas.

Criterion 20 - State and Indian Tribe Proposed Criteria

Within the State of Colorado, federal lands in the planning area to which an applicable criterion (i) proposed by the State or an Indian tribe located in the planning area, and (ii) adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary, shall be considered unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations.

Analysis: At the time of this report, no federal lands within coal development potential areas in the planning area have been proposed by the State of Colorado or an Indian tribe as unsuitable.

Prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area, the BLM will evaluate proposed surface mining and surface operations in relation to Criterion 20.

Screen 3: Identification of Multiple Land Use Conflicts

Screen 3 requires evaluating multiple land use decisions that could eliminate from surface or underground coal exploration and leasing consideration, federal lands containing resource values and uses that are considered locally, regionally, or nationally unique or more important than coal. Such values and uses include, but are not limited to, those identified in Section 522(a)(3) of the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act of 1977 and the Criteria for Designating Areas as Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining Operations (30 CFR 762).

The following areas within coal development potential areas have been identified as containing resource values or uses deemed of greater value than coal, for which potential impacts could not be mitigated. The conflict areas differ within each draft RMP alternative and have been identified as unacceptable for further coal exploration and leasing consideration.

Common to All Alternatives

Section 308 of the Fiscal Year 1984 Interior Appropriations Act prohibits leasing within wilderness study areas (WSAs). The WSAs in the planning area are managed according to BLM Manual 6330, Management of Wilderness Study Areas (BLM 2012b) until such time as Congress either designates them as wilderness or releases them for other purposes. These WSAs have been identified in all of the proposed RMP alternatives as unacceptable for further coal exploration and leasing consideration.

Alternative A

Under Alternative A, no WSAs are within the coal development potential area, as identified in the San Juan/San Miguel and Uncompahgre Basin RMPs (BLM 1985, 1989a). No other areas were identified as unacceptable for further coal exploration and leasing consideration under Alternative A.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, the Adobe Badlands (10,320 acres) and Camel Back (10,680 acres) WSAs are within the revised coal development potential area and will be managed as unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing as described under Common to All Alternatives. In addition, the following areas have been identified as unacceptable for further coal exploration and leasing consideration under Alternative B:

- Lands within 2,640 horizontal feet of either side of a classified surface water supply stream segment (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
- Public water supplies using a groundwater well or spring, a 2,640 horizontal foot buffer
- State parks

- State wildlife areas
- Municipal parks
- Lands identified for wilderness characteristics protection
- SRMAs
- ACECs:
 - Salt Desert Shrub
 - San Miguel River Expansion
 - East Paradox
- Suitable WSR segments classified as “wild:”
 - Monitor Creek
 - Potter Creek
 - Roubideau Creek, Segment 1
 - Dry Creek
 - Saltado Creek
 - San Miguel River, Segment 2
 - Tabeguache Creek, Segment 1
 - Dolores River, Segment 1a
 - La Sal Creek, Segment 3

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, the Adobe Badlands (10,320 acres) and Camel Back (10,680 acres) WSAs are within the revised coal development potential area and will be managed as unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing as described under Common to All Alternatives. In addition, the following areas have been identified as unacceptable for further coal exploration and leasing consideration under Alternative C:

- Lands within 1,000 horizontal feet of either side of a classified surface water supply stream segment (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
- Public water supplies using a groundwater well or spring, a 1,000 horizontal foot buffer
- State parks
- State wildlife areas
- Municipal parks

Alternative D

Under Alternative D, the Adobe Badlands (10,320 acres) and Camel Back (10,680 acres) WSAs are within the revised coal development potential area and will be managed as unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing as described under Common to All Alternatives. In addition, the following areas have been identified as unacceptable for further coal exploration and leasing consideration under Alternative D:

- State parks
- State wildlife areas
- Municipal parks
- Lands identified for wilderness characteristics protection
- SRMAs
- ACECs:
 - Adobe Badlands
 - San Miguel River
- Suitable WSR segments

Screen 4: Consultation with Private Surface Owners

Both Section 714 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and 43 CFR 3420(e)(4) require the BLM to consult with qualified owners whose lands overlie federal coal deposits proposed for development by surface mining methods. The BLM will consult with qualified surface owners prior to coal exploration or leasing within any coal development potential area in the planning area.

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