Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan
Environmental Assessment

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Gunnison Field Office
DOI-BLM-CO-S060-2011-0004-EA

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S060-2011-0004-EA

PROJECT NAME: Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan, Gunnison County, CO

PLANNING UNIT: Gunnison Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP), Management Units 8, 13 and 16.

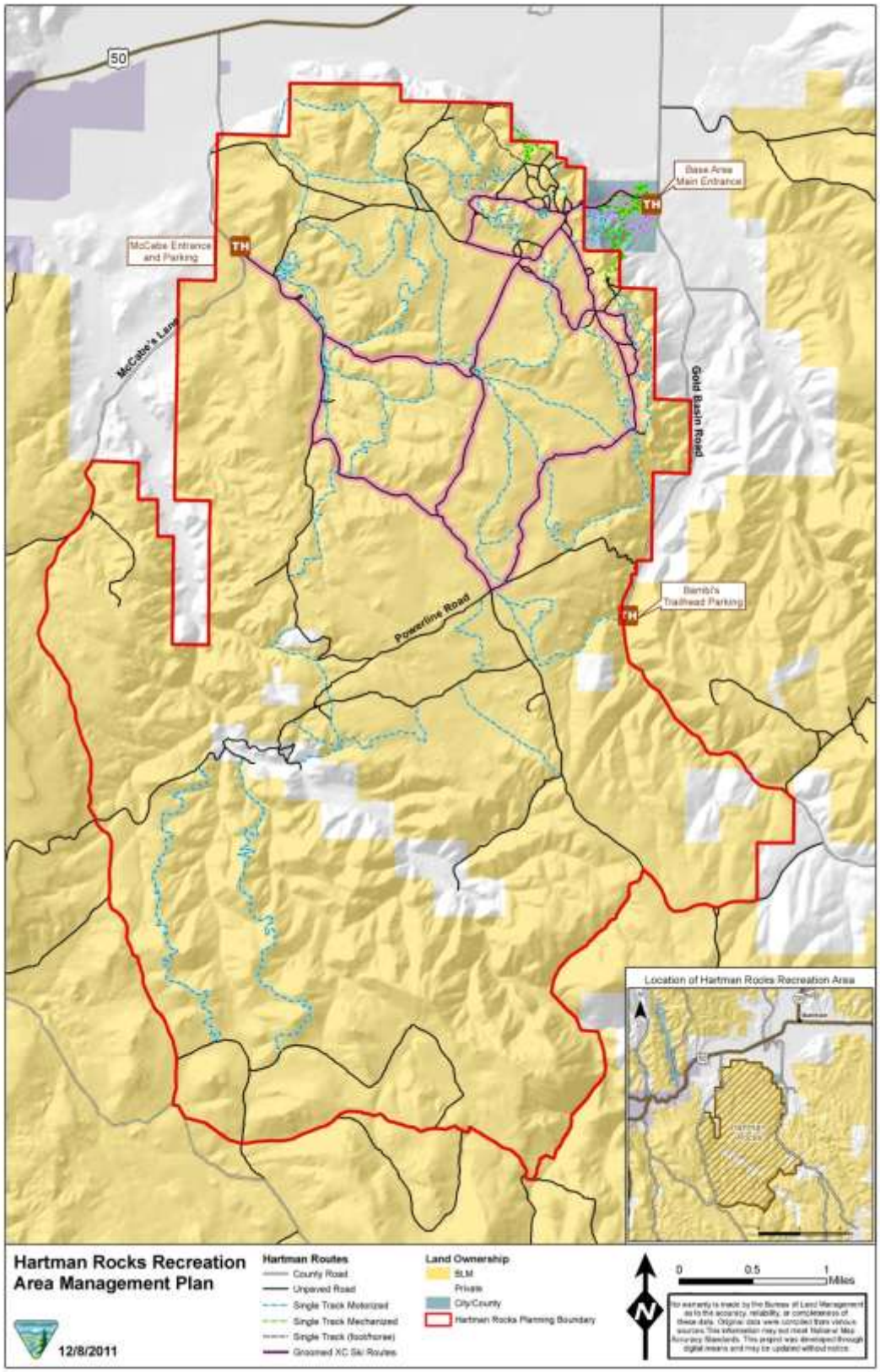
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
NMPM, T.49N., R.1 W., Portions of Sections 9, 15 thru 17, 20 thru 23, 26 thru 30, and 31thru 35.
NMPM, T.48N., R.1W., Portions of Sections 1thru 6, 7thru 12, and 14 thru 17.

The total planning area boundary is approximately 14,423 acres. The planning area boundary is a boundary selected by the Interdisciplinary Team to look at how recreation affects all resources in the entire area.

See Figure 1.0 Planning Area Boundary and General Location Map

APPLICANT: USDI, Bureau of Land Management

Figure 1.0 - Planning Area Boundary and General Location Map



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background/Introduction

Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is a popular urban interface recreation area a few miles southwest of Gunnison, Colorado. Its proximity to Gunnison makes it easy to access for local residents for a recreation experience. It is a destination location for mountain biking, rock climbing and single track motorized enthusiasts. It is estimated that Hartman Rocks receives approximately 40,000 visits each year. Visitors enjoy a variety of recreation activities including mountain biking, motorcycling, ATV riding, 4-wheeling, rock climbing, bouldering, camping, trail running, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, social gathering, target shooting, hunting and more. The area also has other resource values that must be considered when contemplating recreation management actions. These include livestock grazing, cultural sites, wildlife habitat and rare plants. The total planning area boundary is 14,423 acres.

According the Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the population in Gunnison County is expected to grow by 38% from 2007 to 2030. In 2011 the BLM placed traffic counters and that indicated use had grown from approximately 20,000 in 2006 to 40,000 in 2011. The 2006 use figures were estimates so the actual increase in use may not be as significant as these figures suggest. Increased use has resulted in increased impacts to the resource such as wide-spread human waste, trash, erosion, vegetation trammeling, etc.

The focused recreation use in this area has led to some benefits and some problems. The benefits are that many visitors use the roads, trails and rocks in this area regularly for a variety of recreational pursuits. Hartman Rocks also benefits the public as a destination for people outside of the Gunnison area. Hartman Rocks provides economic benefits to the local community: visitors buy food, fuel, stay in motels, purchase supplies, utilize guide services and rent equipment such as mountain bikes. Some of the concerns that arise from this focused recreation use include human use impacts to soils and vegetation, potential impacts to cultural sites (vandalism, removal of artifacts), impacts to wildlife, conflicts between recreationists and livestock operations, trespass on adjacent private lands and conflicts between different recreation groups, such as motorized use and non-motorized use, recreational target shooters and trail users.

The 2006 Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for Hartman Rocks provides good general guidance and some specific management decisions, much of which have been accomplished. Due to issues with sensitive species, site specific decisions which are no longer valid, increased

visitor use and other changed conditions this plan is no longer sufficient and needs more direction to reduce human use impacts and conflicts in this area. The 2006 RAMP focuses on local use and does not take into consideration use from outside the geographic area. It does not allow for geographic expansion and does not include a large southern area including the Aberdeen Loop Trail. The 2006 RAMP included site specific direction for trail and road management but lacked direction and vision to address human use impacts on public lands.

The 1993 Gunnison Resource Area Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) mentions Hartman Rocks as part of the Gunnison Extensive Recreation Management Area which will be managed for a diversity of recreation opportunities. Potential recreation projects will be considered, and if proposed for development these projects will be addressed in Recreation Project Plans. Given the focused and varied recreation use of the Hartman Rocks area, management as part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) for the BLM Gunnison Field Office is no longer appropriate.

1.2 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose and need of this proposed action is to;

1) Amend the Resource Management Plan for the Gunnison Resource Area dated February 1993 to designate Hartman Rocks Recreation Area as a Special Recreation Management Area. This is needed in order to provide for the appropriate level of management actions.
2) Take an adaptive management approach to recreation planning at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area and to update some guidance decisions made in the 2006 RAMP accordingly. An updated RAMP will: provide guidance and direction toward managing recreation in a manner that maintains or improves the condition and health of the unique landscape and its natural resources; while creating a sustainable recreation environment to promote a diversity of high quality recreation opportunities; and provide for the health and safety of visitors. An updated Recreation Area Management Plan is needed due to issues with sensitive species, site specific decisions which are no longer valid, increased visitor use and other changed conditions. The 2006 RAMP is no longer sufficient and needs more direction to reduce human use impacts and conflicts in this area.

1.3 Decision to be Made

Decisions to be made:

1) The BLM will decide whether or not to amend the RMP for the Gunnison Resource Area dated February 1993 to designate Hartman Rocks Recreation Area as a Special Recreation Management Area and the SRMA boundary location.

2) The BLM will decide whether or not to update and replace the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan, and if so, what management directions to include.
3) The BLM will decide whether or not to close Hartman Rocks Recreation Area, or a portion thereof to dispersed target shooting.
4) The BLM will decide whether or not to restrict over-the-snow travel to designated routes within Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

The BLM Gunnison Field Office Manager is the Responsible Official who will make the decision.

1.4 Scoping and Public Involvement

Hartman Rocks User Group meetings were held on July 20, 2010; March 2, 2011; November 30, 2011; February 6, 2012; and February 15, 2012 to discuss various issues at Hartman Rocks and to discuss potential solutions responsive to these issues.

Interdisciplinary Team Meetings were held on February 8, 2011; October 26, 2011; January 26, 2012; and October 16, 2012 to discuss internal issues.

A public open house to discuss issues at Hartman Rocks was held on January 20, 2011. Notice of this public open house was advertised in the local paper on January 13, 2011. Approximately 25 individuals, government/agency representatives attended that meeting.

A Draft Environmental Assessment was released to the public on July 31, 2012 and the public was encouraged to comment on the draft by August 31, 2012. The BLM received comments from 15 interested parties.

A Federal Register Notice was published on September 13, 2013. The notice was published to allow the amendment of the Gunnison Resource Area Resource Management Plan through this EA planning decision. The BLM received comments from 5 interested parties during the FRN outreach effort.

A subsequent Federal Register Notice was published on 11/20/13 temporarily closing 4,363 acres of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area to target shooting year round for up to two years. No comments were received concerning this notice.

1.5 Issues and Concerns

As a result of public and internal scoping, several issues were identified.

1.5.1 Roads and Trails

a) What roads and trails are necessary to provide for a variety of recreational uses and opportunities while balancing resource concerns?
b) Where should new trails be constructed at Hartman Rocks yet still allow for the feeling of remoteness and solitude?
c) At what difficulty level should new trails be constructed and maintained?
d) Would ride around trails be provided on difficult sections of trails?
e) Would some trails be retrofitted or constructed to accommodate hand cycles?
f) How will public access issues across private lands be resolved?
g) What closed routes not identified as open in the 2010 Gunnison Basin Federal Lands Travel Management Plan Record of Decision will be obliterated or restored?

1.5.2 Shooting

a) How will recreational shooting be managed consistent with BLM policy, while minimizing safety hazards associated with recreational target shooting?
b) How will recreational target shooting be managed in a high-use recreation area?
c) Will the Hartman Rocks Plan address safety issues associated with the old dispersed target range and continue to provide dispersed shooting opportunities?

1.5.3 Terrain Park/Rock Crawling/Open Play Areas/Trials Riding

a) How will BLM manage for motor-cross use without increasing agency liability and could the motorized area be expanded for future use?
b) How will the old gravel pit area at the top of Kill Hill be managed?
c) Is rock crawling a legitimate use at Hartman Rocks and if so what location would best fit this type of use?
d) Will trials riding and rock hopping be allowed off designated routes at Hartman Rocks? If so, where would it be allowed?

1.5.4 Rock Climbing

a) How will rock climbing and human use impacts associated with rock climbing be managed at Hartman Rocks as well as its potential to affect other resources?

1.5.5 Camping

a) How will dispersed camping and associated human use impacts be managed at Hartman Rocks?

1.5.6 Parking/Facilities

a) How will the BLM provide facility development for future growth and associated parking with all recreation uses at Hartman Rocks?
b) How will facility development help reduce human use impacts?

1.5.7 Use Levels and Education

a) How will information and education be provided to reduce resource impacts?

1.5.8 Special Recreation Permits and Events

a) How will special recreation permits and events be managed?

1.5.9 Law Enforcement

a) How will BLM enforce regulations at Hartman Rocks?

1.5.10 Winter Recreation

a) Will cross country ski grooming continue and if so what roads would be open for winter cross country ski grooming?
b) Would winter snow biking and other uses be allowed on groomed ski trails?
c) Would snow bikers be allowed to ride single track trails at Hartman Rocks?
d) Where would snowmobile travel be allowed?
e) Can wheeled motorized vehicles drive on BLM roads within Hartman Rocks during the snow season?

1.5.11 Migratory Birds

a) How can BLM manage Hartman Rocks for recreation outcomes while complying with the MBTA?

1.5.12 Wildlife

a) To what extent would the BLM manage Hartman Rocks for deer and elk winter range, yet continue to manage the area for recreation outcomes?

1.5.13 Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

a) How would BLM manage Hartman Rocks for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, yet continue to manage the area for recreation outcomes?

1.5.14 Livestock Grazing

a) How will BLM reduce the potential for conflicts between recreationists and livestock grazing activities?

1.5.15 Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns

a) How will BLM manage Hartman Rocks to protect cultural resources with increased visitation and facility development?

1.5.16 Soils

a) Will the BLM include in this plan management actions designed to prevent, minimize, or rehabilitate areas of soil erosion?
b) How will areas with accelerated erosion on BLM Roads 3520c, 3054a and 3585a be addressed in the Hartman Rocks Plan?
c) How will vegetation loss and erosion issues be addressed on open roads and trails?

1.5.17 Riparian Areas and Wetlands

a) Will BLM include in this plan; actions designed to prevent, minimize, or rehabilitate impacts to riparian areas?

1.5.18 Fire and Fuels Management

a) How will BLM recreation management at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area affect fire and fuels management?

1.5.19 Invasive, Non-native Species

a) Will BLM include management actions designed to prevent or minimize the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive plant species?

2.O DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Actions Common in All Alternatives Except the No Action Alternative

Amend Gunnison Resource Area RMP to Designate Hartman Rocks as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) – The Hartman Rocks recreation area planning area boundary, which includes 14,423 acres would be designated as a SRMA. The Gunnison Resource Area RMP would be amended to designate the new SRMA designation.

Management Plan Goals – In all alternatives the BLM would manage for a diversity of recreation in a way that seeks to improve the recreation experiences for visitors within the area that is currently used intensively by recreationists. Recreation use could expand within the planning area to help BLM meet the goal of improving visitor experiences. The general goals and objectives for alternative development are:

1) New development, expansion, and special recreation permits would not be authorized if the proposal would have long term impacts that could not be resolved or mitigated.
2) Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is a multiple use recreation area.

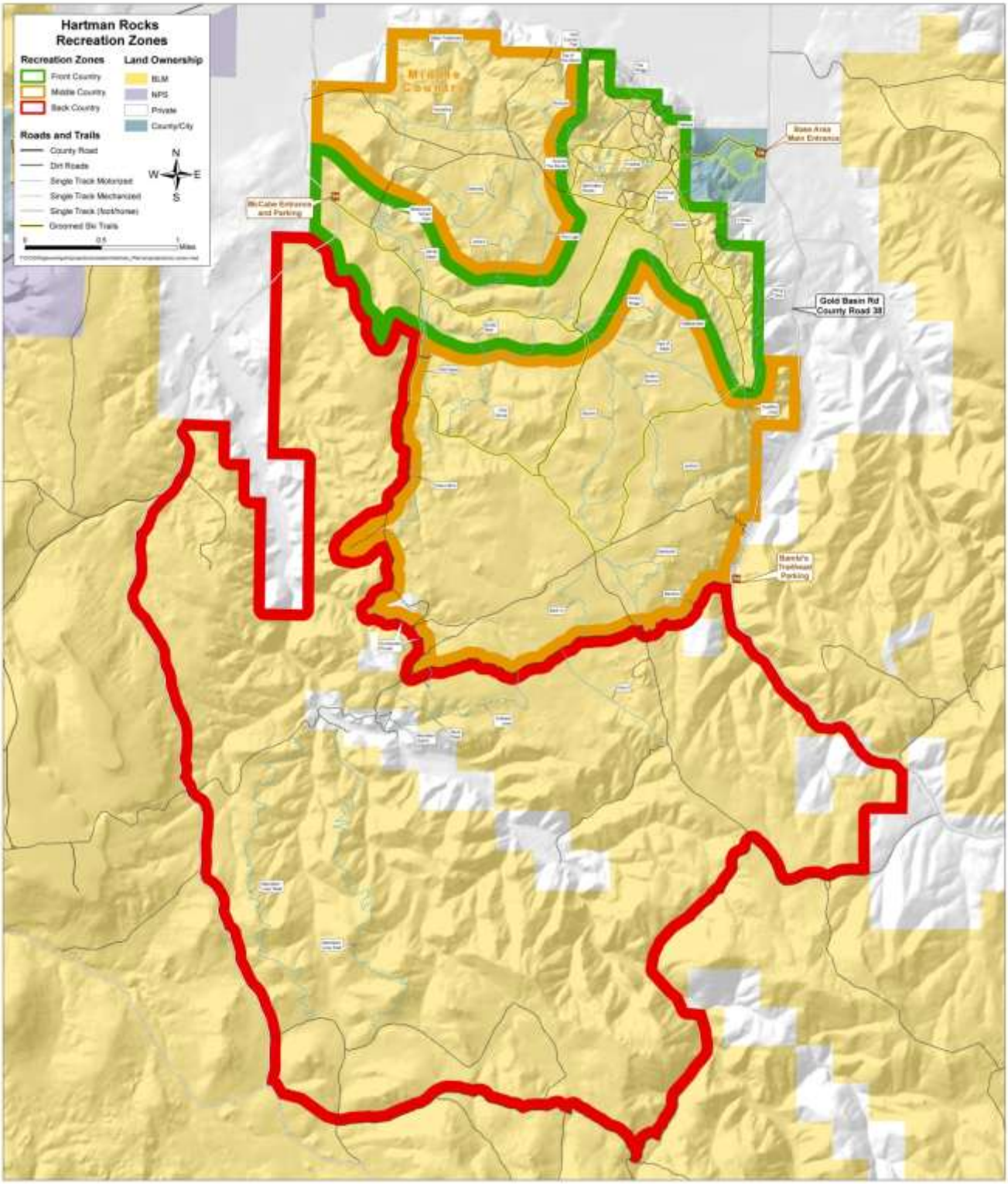
2.1.1 Recreation Management

The BLM would expand the recreation management planning area. See Figure 2.1.1 for map of recreation zones which includes the planning area. The BLM would manage Hartman Rocks as an urban interface recreation area that receives moderate to heavy use. It is an after work and weekend play area for local residents but it is also a destination location for mountain biking, rock climbing and single track motorized enthusiasts. The BLM would manage for positive recreation experiences and outcomes. Reducing the resource impacts caused by recreation is important to maintain a healthy, natural setting for recreation. Intensive recreation management would largely stay within the boundaries of the planning area and not expand

beyond those boundaries. Recreation management would attempt to be more proactive by identifying problems while they are small and hopefully easier to resolve. The BLM would open active dialogues with the visitors at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area to keep track of how well expectations of visitors are being met.

During this planning effort the BLM divided Hartman Rocks into three different zones; Front Country, Middle Country and Back Country. See Figure 2.1.1 for map of recreation zones. Proposed development at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area would be in accordance with the description in these zones setting.

Figure 2.1.1 Recreation Zone Map



RECREATION MANAGEMENT IN THE FRONT COUNTRY ZONE	
Primary Market Strategy	Primary Market
After Work/ Weekend Use and Destination Location	Local Valley Residents/Out of Town Visitor Destination
NICHE	
Hartman Rocks Front Country Zone is a multiple-use area and a place for a quick day or overnight outdoor experience for visitors looking to camp, trail ride, hike, run, dog walk, rock climb, ATV, UTV, gather socially, rock crawl, play in open area, etc.	
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	
By the year 2020, management of this zone would provide a variety of quality recreation experiences for visitors while containing and minimizing human use impacts through education and facility development. This objective could be measured through customer feedback whereas no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community had at least a moderate realization of benefits. (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
ADMINISTRATIVE OBJECTIVES	
• Coordinate management with Gunnison County and the City of Gunnison. • Maintain a positive relationship with partner groups such as Hartman Rocks User Group, Gunnison Trails, State Parks and Wildlife, and Gunnison Valley OHV Alliance of Trailriders. • Post regulations at trailheads and parking areas. • Provide consistent signing throughout the front country zone as well as other zones within Hartman Rocks.	
MARKETING/INFORMATION/EDUCATION	
• Promote single track trail riding and rock climbing at Hartman Rocks. • Promote winter recreation during the snow season. • Work with partners on developing brochures and web site information so information and education messages are consistent. • Update informational kiosks with maps and educational material.	
PRIMARY TARGET OUTCOMES	
Activities	
• Single Track Motorized • Single Track Mechanized • Dog Walking • Hiking • Running • Camping • Rock Climbing	• Rock Crawling • ATVing/UTVing • Social Gathering • Cross Country Skiing • Winter Biking • Snowshoeing
Experiential Benefits	
• Developing Skills and Abilities • Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes • Enjoying risk-taking adventure • Enjoying getting a good workout • Knowing this area will always be near a community	

Personal Benefits
• Improved balance of work and play in my life • Improve physical fitness and health maintenance • Personal development and growth • Personal appreciation and satisfaction
Community Benefits
• Improved functioning of individuals in family and community • Improved community integration • Lifestyle improvement or maintenance • Encouraging visitors to help safeguard our lifestyle and quality of life • Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions • Enlarged sense of community dependency public lands
Environmental Benefits
• Greater protection of archaeological sites • Improved soil, water and air quality • More sustainable recreation facilities • Reduced wildlife disturbance from recreation facility development
Economic Benefits
• Maintenance of community's distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or character • Increased desirability as a place to live or retire • Reduced health maintenance costs • Increased work productivity • Increased local job opportunities • Greater value-added local services/industry

OUTCOMES TO BE AVOIDED	
Activities	**Negative Benefits**
• Dispersed Target Shooting • Riding/Hiking Closed Routes	• Increased tension with increased use • Increased use increases disregard for natural resources • Increased pollution, litter, traffic, noise • Looting and vandalism of cultural sites

Description of the Front Country Zone

This is a heavy use zone and includes 1,758 acres with locations such as Kill Hill, Ring Dike, Main Street, Behind the Rocks, Cottonwood Grove, the Terrain Park and McCabe's Parking Area. This zone contains the two main access points into Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. These access roads are drivable by two-wheel drive vehicles. More people would be encountered in this zone and visitors may experience a variety of recreational activities. Activities include mountain biking, dirt biking, hiking, running, dog walking, climbing, bouldering, social gathering, paint balling, driving for pleasure, ATVing, rock crawling, cross country skiing, snow biking, snowmobiling, or snowshoeing. This zone contains most of the rock climbing, bouldering routes, terrain parks, and rock crawling routes. It also contains the majority of all dispersed campsites. Single track trails in this area are shorter in distance but still provide challenge due to terrain features. Parking areas exist in this zone. Human impacts are evident with surface vegetation gone and soil compacted in concentration areas throughout the zone. Sounds of people can be regularly heard.

SETTING CHARACHERISTICS – FRONT COUNTRY

Recreation Management Zone ***Hartman Rocks Front Country Zone***

Natural Resource Recreation Settings Characteristics

Prescribed Setting

PHYSICAL– LAND AND FACILITIES: character of the natural landscape

	Primitive		*Back Country*	*Middle Country*	*Front Country*	*Rural*	*Urban*
	Pristine	*Transition*					
Remoteness	More than 10 miles from a motorized route.	More than 3 miles from any motorized route.	More than ½ mile from any kind of motorized route/use area, but not as distant as 3 miles.	On or near motorized routes, but at least ½ miles from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.	On or near improved gravel roads, but at least ½ mile from highways.	On or near paved primary highways, but still within a rural area.	Municipal streets and roads within towns or cities.
Naturalness	Undisturbed natural landscape.		Naturally-appearing landscape having modifications not readily noticeable.	Naturally-appearing landscape except for obvious motorized routes.	Landscape partially modified by roads/trails, utility lines, etc., but none overpower natural landscape features.	Natural landscape substantially modified by agriculture or industrial development.	Urbanized developments dominate landscape.
Visitor Facilities	None.		Some primitive trails made of native materials such as log bridges and carved wooden signs.	Maintained and marked trails, simple trailhead developments, improved signs, and very basic toilets.	Improved yet modest, rustic facilities such as campsites, restrooms, trails, and interpretive signs.	Modern facilities such as campgrounds, group shelters, boat launches, and occasional exhibits.	Elaborate full-service facilities such as laundry, restaurants, and groceries

SOCIAL – VISITOR USE AND USERS: character of recreation – tourism use

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

OPERATIONAL – ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES: character of how Public Land Managers, Cooperative Agencies and Local Businesses Care for the Area and Serve Visitors

	Primitive	*Back Country*	*Middle Country*	*Front Country*	*Rural*	*Urban*
Mechanized Use	None whatsoever.	Mountain bikes and perhaps other mechanized use, but all is non-motorized.	Four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized, mechanized use.	Two-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also four-wheel drives and non-motorized, mechanized use.	Ordinary highway auto and truck traffic is characteristic.	Wide variety of street vehicles and highway traffic is ever-present.
Visitor Services	None is available on-site.	Basic maps, but area personnel seldom available to provide on-site assistance.	Area brochures and maps, plus area personnel occasionally present to provide on-site assistance.	Informational materials describe recreation areas and activities. Area personnel are periodically available.	Information described to the left, plus experience and benefit descriptions. Area personnel do on-site education.	Information described to the left, plus regularly scheduled on-site outdoor skills demonstrations and clinics.
Management Controls	No visitor controls apparent. No use limits. Enforcement presence very rare.	Signs at key access points on basic user ethics. May have backcountry use restrictions. Enforcement presence rare.	Occasional regulatory signing. Motorized and mechanized use restrictions. Random enforcement presence.	Rules clearly posted with some seasonal or day-of-week use restrictions. Periodic enforcement presence.	Regulations prominent. Total use limited by permit, reservation, etc. Routine enforcement presence.	Continuous enforcement to redistribute use and reduce user conflicts, hazards, and resource damage.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE COUNTRY ZONE	
Primary Market Strategy	Primary Market
After Work/ Weekend Use and Destination Location	Local Valley Residents/Out of Town Visitor Destination
NICHE	
Hartman Rocks Middle Country Zone is a mid-distance single track trail zone.	
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	
By the year 2020, management of this zone would provide a quality single track trail experience for visitors while containing and minimizing human use impacts through education and facility development. This objective could be measured through customer feedback whereas no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community had a moderate realization of benefits. (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
ADMINISTRATIVE OBJECTIVES	
• Maintain positive relationship with partner groups. • Post regulations at trailheads and parking areas. • Provide consistent signing throughout the zone. • Provide limited facility development to reduce resource concerns.	
MARKETING/INFORMATION/EDUCATION	
• Promote single track trail riding in this zone. • Promote winter recreation. • Work with partners on developing brochures and web site information so information and education messages are consistent. • Update informational kiosks with maps and educational material.	
PRIMARY TARGET OUTCOMES	
Activities	
• Single Track Motorized • Single Track Mechanized • ATVing/UTVing • Hiking/Running • Cross Country Skiing • Snow Biking • Snow Shoeing	
Experiential Benefits	
• Developing Skills and Abilities • Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes • Enjoying risk taking adventure • Enjoying getting a good workout • Knowing this area will always be near a community	
Personal Benefits	
• Improved balance of work and play in my life • Improve physical fitness and health maintenance • Personal development and growth • Personal appreciation and satisfaction	

Community Benefits
• Improved functioning of individuals in family and community • Lifestyle improvement or maintenance • Encouraging visitors to help safeguard our lifestyle and quality of life
Environmental Benefits
• Greater protection of archaeological sites • Improved soil, water and air quality
Economic Benefits
• Maintenance of community's distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or character • Increased desirability as a place to live or retire • Reduced health maintenance costs • Increased work productivity • Increased local job opportunities • Greater value-added local services/industry

OUTCOMES TO BE AVOIDED	
Activities	**Negative Benefits**
• Facility Development • Riding/Hiking Closed Routes	• Increased tension with increased use • Increased use increases disregard for natural resources • Increased pollution, litter, traffic, noise • Looting and vandalism of cultural sites

Description of the Middle Country Zone

This 4,205 acre zone receives less visitation than the Front Country Zone and is geographically described as areas north of the power line but outside the Front County Zone. This zone is accessed by interior roads and trails. Visitor facilities include two track roads and single track trails. Informal parking areas exist in this zone and the zone could include additional small parking areas. Main activities include mountain biking, dirt biking, hiking, running, ATVing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, or snowshoeing. Camping is not popular in this zone but dispersed campsites do exist. Single track trails in this area are middle distance trails with less drastic terrain features. Small areas of alteration can be seen. Surface vegetation is showing wear with some bare soil around development. Sounds of people can occasionally be heard.

SETTING CHARACHERISTICS – MIDDLE COUNTRY

Recreation Management Zone ***Hartman Rocks Middle Country Zone***

Natural Resource Recreation Settings Characteristics

Prescribed Setting

PHYSICAL– LAND AND FACILITIES: character of the natural landscape

	Primitive		*Back Country*	*Middle Country*	*Front Country*	*Rural*	*Urban*
	Pristine	*Transition*					
Remoteness	More than 10 miles from a motorized route.	More than 3 miles from any motorized route.	More than ½ mile from any kind of motorized route/use area, but not as distant as 3 miles.	On or near motorized routes, but at least ½ miles from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.	On or near improved gravel roads, but at least ½ mile from highways.	On or near paved primary highways, but still within a rural area.	Municipal streets and roads within towns or cities.
Naturalness	Undisturbed natural landscape.		Naturally-appearing landscape having modifications not readily noticeable.	Naturally-appearing landscape except for obvious motorized routes.	Landscape partially modified by roads/trails, utility lines, etc., but none overpower natural landscape features.	Natural landscape substantially modified by agriculture or industrial development.	Urbanized developments dominate landscape.
Visitor Facilities	None.		Some primitive trails made of native materials such as log bridges and carved wooden signs.	Maintained and marked trails, simple trailhead developments, improved signs, and very basic toilets.	Improved yet modest, rustic facilities such as campsites, restrooms, trails, and interpretive signs.	Modern facilities such as campgrounds, group shelters, boat launches, and occasional exhibits.	Elaborate full-service facilities such as laundry, restaurants, and groceries

SOCIAL – VISITOR USE AND USERS: character of recreation – tourism use

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

OPERATIONAL – ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES: character of how Public Land Managers, Cooperative Agencies and Local Businesses Care for the Area and Serve Visitors

	Primitive	*Back Country*	*Middle Country*	*Front Country*	*Rural*	*Urban*
Mechanized Use	None whatsoever.	Mountain bikes and perhaps other mechanized use, but all is non-motorized.	Four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized, mechanized use.	Two-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also four-wheel drives and non-motorized, mechanized use.	Ordinary highway auto and truck traffic is characteristic.	Wide variety of street vehicles and highway traffic is ever-present.
Visitor Services	None is available on-site.	Basic maps, but area personnel seldom available to provide on-site assistance.	Area brochures and maps, plus area personnel occasionally present to provide on-site assistance.	Informational materials describe recreation areas and activities. Area personnel are periodically available.	Information described to the left, plus experience and benefit descriptions. Area personnel do on-site education.	Information described to the left, plus regularly scheduled on-site outdoor skills demonstrations and clinics.
Management Controls	No visitor controls apparent. No use limits. Enforcement presence very rare.	Signs at key access points on basic user ethics. May have backcountry use restrictions. Enforcement presence rare.	Occasional regulatory signing. Motorized and mechanized use restrictions. Random enforcement presence.	Rules clearly posted with some seasonal or day-of-week use restrictions. Periodic enforcement presence.	Regulations prominent. Total use limited by permit, reservation, etc. Routine enforcement presence.	Continuous enforcement to redistribute use and reduce user conflicts, hazards, and resource damage.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT IN THE BACK COUNTRY ZONE	
Primary Market Strategy	Primary Market
Weekend Use	Local Valley Residents/Out of Town Visitor Destination
NICHE	
Hartman Rocks Back Country Zone is a long-distance single track trail zone.	
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	
By the year 2020, management of this zone would provide a quality long distance single track trail experiences for visitors. This objective could be measured through customer feedback whereas no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community had a moderate realization of benefits. (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
ADMINISTRATIVE OBJECTIVES	
• Maintain positive relationship with partner groups. • Post regulations at trailheads and parking areas. • Provide consistent signing throughout the zone.	
MARKETING/INFORMATION/EDUCATION	
• Promote single track trail riding on trails and UTV/ATV use on roads. • Promote winter recreation during the snow season on groomed ski trails. • Work with partners on developing brochures and web site information so information and education messages are consistent. • Update informational kiosks with maps and educational material.	
PRIMARY TARGET OUTCOMES	
Activities	
• Single Track Motorized • Single Track Mechanized • Hiking • ATVing/UTVing	
Experiential Benefits	
• Developing Skills and Abilities • Enjoying risk taking adventure • Enjoying getting a good workout • Feeling good about solitude, isolation and being independent	
Personal Benefits	
• Greater sense of independence and self-reliance • Improve physical fitness and health maintenance • Improved competence from being challenged • Personal appreciation and satisfaction • Greater appreciation of vast landscapes and views	
Community Benefits	
• Lifestyle improvement or maintenance • Encouraging visitors to help safeguard our lifestyle and quality of life • Feeling good about how natural resources and trails are being managed. • Enlarged sense of community dependency public lands	

Environmental Benefits
• Greater protection of archaeological sites • Improved soil, water and air quality • Greater protection of habitat from growth
Economic Benefits
• Maintenance of community's distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or character • Increased desirability as a place to live or retire • Reduced health maintenance costs • Increased work productivity • Increased local job opportunities • Greater value-added local services/industry

OUTCOMES TO BE AVOIDED	
Activities	**Negative Benefits**
• Riding/Hiking Closed Routes	• Increased tension with increased use • Increased use increases disregard for natural resources • Increased pollution, litter, traffic, noise • Looting and vandalism of cultural sites

Description of the Back Country Zone

This 8,460 acre zone receives less visitation than the Middle Country Zone and is geographically described as areas south of the power line and west of BLM Road 3555. This zone is accessed by interior roads and trails as well as some remote exterior access points. Access with vehicles is challenging due to roughness of roads and lack of roads and trails. Large areas are undeveloped. Visitor facilities include two track roads and single track trails. Main activities include mountain biking, dirt biking and ATVing. Cross country skiing may take place in northern portions of this zone. Camping is not popular in this zone but does exist in the far reaches of the zone. Single track trails in this area are longer distance trails due to the distance from the main trailheads. Some trails have more technical difficulty than others. Informal parking areas exist in this zone. Small areas of alteration can be seen. Surface vegetation is showing wear with some bare soil around development. Sounds of people can occasionally be heard but are less frequent than the Middle Country Zone. New facility development is not planned in this zone but managing human use impacts are important.

SETTING CHARACHERISTICS – BACK COUNTRY

Recreation Management Zone ***Hartman Rocks Back Country Zone***

Natural Resource Recreation Settings Characteristics

Prescribed Setting

PHYSICAL– LAND AND FACILITIES: character of the natural landscape

	Primitive		*Back Country*	*Middle Country*	*Front Country*	*Rural*	*Urban*
	Pristine	*Transition*					
Remoteness	More than 10 miles from a motorized route.	More than 3 miles from any motorized route.	More than ½ mile from any kind of motorized route/use area, but not as distant as 3 miles.	On or near motorized routes, but at least ½ miles from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.	On or near improved gravel roads, but at least ½ mile from highways.	On or near paved primary highways, but still within a rural area.	Municipal streets and roads within towns or cities.
Naturalness	Undisturbed natural landscape.		Naturally-appearing landscape having modifications not readily noticeable.	Naturally-appearing landscape except for obvious motorized routes.	Landscape partially modified by roads/trails, utility lines, etc., but none overpower natural landscape features.	Natural landscape substantially modified by agriculture or industrial development.	Urbanized developments dominate landscape.
Visitor Facilities	None.		Some primitive trails made of native materials such as log bridges and carved wooden signs.	Maintained and marked trails, simple trailhead developments, improved signs, and very basic toilets.	Improved yet modest, rustic facilities such as campsites, restrooms, trails, and interpretive signs.	Modern facilities such as campgrounds, group shelters, boat launches, and occasional exhibits.	Elaborate full-service facilities such as laundry, restaurants, and groceries

SOCIAL – VISITOR USE AND USERS: character of recreation – tourism use

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

OPERATIONAL – ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES: character of how Public Land Managers, Cooperative Agencies and Local Businesses Care for the Area and Serve Visitors

	Primitive	*Back Country*	*Middle Country*	*Front Country*	*Rural*	*Urban*
Mechanized Use	None whatsoever.	Mountain bikes and perhaps other mechanized use, but all is non-motorized.	Four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized, mechanized use.	Two-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also four-wheel drives and non-motorized, mechanized use.	Ordinary highway auto and truck traffic is characteristic.	Wide variety of street vehicles and highway traffic is ever-present.
Visitor Services	None is available on-site.	Basic maps, but area personnel seldom available to provide on-site assistance.	Area brochures and maps, plus area personnel occasionally present to provide on-site assistance.	Informational materials describe recreation areas and activities. Area personnel are periodically available.	Information described to the left, plus experience and benefit descriptions. Area personnel do on-site education.	Information described to the left, plus regularly scheduled on-site outdoor skills demonstrations and clinics.
Management Controls	No visitor controls apparent. No use limits. Enforcement presence very rare.	Signs at key access points on basic user ethics. May have backcountry use restrictions. Enforcement presence rare.	Occasional regulatory signing. Motorized and mechanized use restrictions. Random enforcement presence.	Rules clearly posted with some seasonal or day-of-week use restrictions. Periodic enforcement presence.	Regulations prominent. Total use limited by permit, reservation, etc. Routine enforcement presence.	Continuous enforcement to redistribute use and reduce user conflicts, hazards, and resource damage.

2.1.2 Roads and Trails

The road and trail system in Hartman Rocks was designated in the 2006 Recreation Management Plan for Hartman Rocks. In 2010 the BLM completed a comprehensive travel plan for the Gunnison Field Office and all open routes in the approved 2006 Hartman Rocks Plan were adopted in the 2010 Travel Plan. All motorized and mechanized travel on BLM lands in the Gunnison Basin is limited to routes as defined in the 2010 Gunnison Basin Federal Lands Travel Management BLM Record of Decision.

All routes open to motorized and mechanized travel would be signed accordingly on the ground so it is clear which routes are open to recreationists. Motorized and mechanized travel would not occur off those designated routes.
Listed below are designated roads and trails in Hartman Rocks (Tables 2.1.2b and 2.1.2c) and a map of roads and trails in Hartman Rocks (Figure 2.1.2d)

Table 2.1.2b Designated Roads in Hartman Rocks Recreation Area

Road Name	Distance in Miles	BLM Road Number
Cottonwood/McCabes Road	2.56	3500
	0.11	3500a
	0.05	3500b
Interstate Lane	1.53	3505
	0.06	3505a
	0.21	3505b
	0.18	3505c
	0.12	3505d
	0.11	3505e
	1.09	3510
	0.11	3510a
	0.03	3510a
	0.01	3510b
	0.84	3515
	0.22	3515a
	0.12	3515b
	0.12	3515c
	0.10	3515d
	0.02	3515e
	0.36	3520
	0.07	3520a
	0.09	3520b

Main Street	1.53	3525
Chinnery Rock Spring Rd	0.17	3525a
Budda's Belly Loop	0.14	3525b
Tiger Wall parking	0.01	3525c
Tiger Wall parking	0.01	3525d
	0.16	3525e
	0.11	3525f
	0.09	3525g
Pinnacle Rock Road	0.70	3530
Hawk’s Nest Road	0.47	3530a
	0.88	3535
	0.10	3535a
Estop Drop Road	0.90	3540
West Side Drive	2.42	3545
Overlook Road	0.83	3545a
	0.14	3545a1
Trench Road	0.28	3545b
Power Line Road	7.69	3550
	0.10	3550a
	0.34	3550b
Stage Coach Road	2.82	3555
	0.10	3555a
	0.09	3555b
Stage Coach Point	0.28	3555c
Cattle Pond Drive	1.14	3560
	1.73	3565
Top Side Road	1.62	3570
Richardson Road	1.64	3575
	0.14	3575a
Back Door Road	3.85	3580
Boobies Drive	0.21	3580a
Moncrief Drive	0.94	3580b
	0.72	3580c
	3.09	3585

Table 2.1.2c Designated Trails in Hartman Rocks Recreation Area

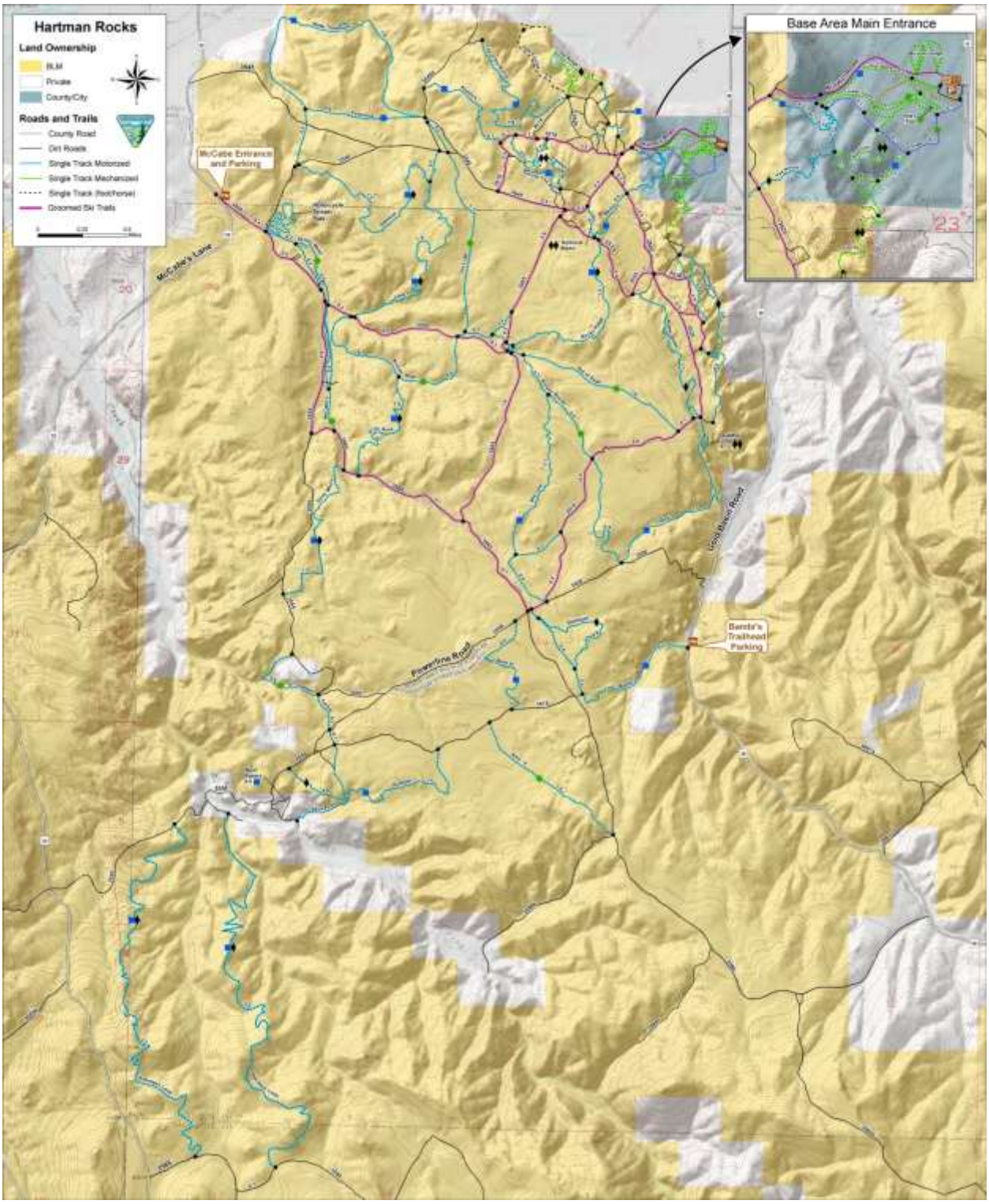
Name of Trail	Type of Trail	Distance in Miles	BLM Route Number
Motorcycle Terrain Park	ST Motorized	0.9951	3501T
Sandy Wash	ST Motorized	1.2523	3502T
Buddy Bear	ST Motorized	1.2523	3504T
Luge Connector	ST Motorized	0.0937	3506T
The Luge Trail	ST Motorized	1.4168	3507T
Luge South Connector	ST Motorized	0.0534	3508T
Jacks Trail	ST Motorized	0.0589	3509T
Alonzos	ST Motorized	0.7098	3511T
Gravel Pit Trail Complex	ST Motorized	0.3330	3512T
Behind the Rocks	ST Motorized	0.5192	3513T
Freefall	ST Motorized	0.7042	3514T
Golf Course Trail	Foot/ Horse	0.8010	3516T
Tailpipe	ST Motorized	0.1269	3517T
The Ridge	ST Mechanized	1.0761	3518T
The Notch	ST Motorized	0.0896	3526T
Becks	ST Motorized	0.3714	3527T
V Drop	ST Mechanized	0.2877	3528T
Ring Dike	ST Motorized	0.8216	3531T
Ring Dike South	ST Motorized	0.5834	3532T
Ring Dike West	ST Motorized	0.4157	3533T
Ring Dike North	ST Motorized	0.1492	3534T
Rattlesnake	ST Motorized	1.2269	3536T
Rocky Ridge	ST Motorized	1.3659	3536T
Technical Becks	ST Motorized	0.2160	3538T
Gateway Trail	ST Motorized	1.5069	3541T
Water Treatment Trail	ST Motorized	2.4563	3542T
Fenceline Trail	ST Motorized	0.6501	3543T
Josie's Trail	ST Motorized	1.8323	3545T
Top of the World	ST Motorized	1.5396	3547T
Skyline	ST Motorized	1.4774	3551T
Back In	ST Motorized	0.8523	3552T
Skull Pass	ST Motorized	0.8032	3553T
McCabes Trail	ST Motorized	0.5065	3556T
McCabes Trail	ST Motorized	0.6488	3557T
Enchanted Forest	ST Motorized	0.7616	3558T

Dirty Socks	ST Motorized	0.9916	3561T
Dave Mo's Trail	ST Motorized	1.1700	3562T
Sea of Sage	ST Motorized	1.0796	3566T
Josho's	ST Motorized	2.1363	3571T
Qualifier Loop	ST Motorized	0.1310	3572T
Broken Shovel	ST Motorized	0.7384	3573T
Skyline Connector	ST Motorized	0.3028	3574T
Outback Loop	ST Motorized	1.4312	3576T
9-0	ST Motorized	0.9861	3581T
Bambi's Trail	ST Motorized	1.4442	3582T
Sawtooth Trail	ST Motorized	0.7953	3583T
Aberdeen Loop West	ST Motorized	3.3174	3586T
Aberdeen Loop East	ST Motorized	3.5566	3587T

Road and Trail Density

Recreation Zone	**Front Country**	**Middle Country**	**Back Country**
Acres	1758	4205	8460
Miles of Open Road	14	16	23
Road Density	.0079 miles/acre	.0083 miles/acre	.0026 miles/acre
Miles of Trail	14	21	11
Trail Density	.0079 miles/acre	.005 miles/acre	.0013 miles/acre
Miles of Closed Routes	8	7	16
Closed Route Density	.0044 miles/acre	.0017 miles/acre	.0019 miles/acre

Figure 2.1.2d Map of Existing Roads and Trails (Some roads and trails in this map are not common to both alternatives.)



Closed Routes and Roads

A priority would be made to obliterate and restore closed routes. New trails/roads and reroutes might not be considered until obliteration/restoration work has made significant progress unless another significant issue arises such as access, safety or special initiatives. Currently Hartman Rocks Recreation Area has a total of 15 miles of closed routes in the Front and Middle Country Recreation Zones. A restoration goal for the Front Country and Middle Country Zones is to complete 2 to 3 miles of restoration per year for a total of 5 years to complete a total of 15 miles.

Use Change on Roads:

- The east half of **3505b** is a redundant route and has some resource issues. This section of road would be changed from a road to a single track motorized trail. It is the road between the kiosk at the top of Kill Hill and the Tailpipe parking area. A campsite along this route would be closed to overnight camping as well. The Tailpipe parking would continue to be accessed by use the west half of 3505b. Changing this road to a single track motorized would require barrier placement at strategic locations as well as rock placement to narrow the road to a trail and close the campsite.

Additional Road Closures:

- **Close 3520C,** which is a redundant route to 3520 and has caused soil quality to not meet land health standard 2. The road has caused on the road and off the road gully erosion.

- **Close 3054a,** which has caused accelerated soil erosion and doesn't meet land health standard 2. This road has become a gully for 0.20 miles of its length between closed routes Z4-1921 and Z4-X168. This road is not needed for any permits or recreational sites. Maintaining this road will be too costly and unsustainable.

- **Close 3585a,** which is a cut-across route between 3585 and 3557. The route is rarely used; it has caused soil erosion and does not meet land health standards.

Site-Specific Actions for Route Obliteration/Restoration on Specific Closed Routes:

- HRR A28 - Rip and revegetate 0.30 miles of this closed route that is not rehabbing with a barrier alone. Motorcyclists still use this route and this route is highly visible from BLM road 3054.

- HRR22 - Rip and revegetate 125 feet of this route, which has caused 2 active headcuts with a total soil loss of 14 cubic yards. Revegetate 368 feet of this route with native plants to restore infiltration and provide protective ground cover.

- Close 3520C - Rip and revegetate 781 feet of this road, which has caused has caused 3 active headcuts with a total soil loss of 1,160 cubic yards.

- 3520 - Rip a user created segment of 85 feet to reduce the amount of compacted surface contributing to excessive runoff and erosion in this part of the watershed. Revegetate 0.02 acres of bare ground where users have caused widening of the road.

- Head cuts - Stabilize 9 active headcuts that threaten to migrate head ward, which would result in damage of BLM Roads 3510 and 3515 (see map). Headcuts range in size between 1 and 72 cubic yards. Hand crews would stabilize 8 of the headcuts, while a backhoe is required for the largest headcut with a volume of 72 cubic yards. Headcuts would be re-contoured to a 2:1 slope where feasible. Erosion control fabric would be installed between the riprap and the soils. All bare ground would be revegeted with native plants.

<u>Actions for Route Obliteration/Restoration on Other Closed Routes:</u>
The list of routes (see table 2.1.2a) which were closed under the 2006 RAMP and the 2010 Travel Management Plan, will be targeted for restoration. Site specific cultural and biological clearances will be completed by a qualified person prior to obliteration and restoration. Newly created or undocumented non-system routes not listed in table 2.1.2a or Figure 2.1.2b would also be obliterated using these methods.

Treatment actions for transportation routes not open to motorized mechanized travel fall into varying levels. Closed routes and unauthorized routes within Hartman Rocks Recreation Area will be evaluated on a case by case basis for levels of decommissioning. The following methods will be the tools for decommissioning closed roads and routes within the Gunnison Field Office. The minimal tools that cause the least amount of disturbance required to best protect the resources will be used and determined on a site specific basis. Revegetation may occur at all levels as deemed necessary by the BLM. Disturbed areas may be stabilized with erosion control

products as deemed necessary by the BLM. Levels of decommissioning may be completed in conjunction with other levels of decommissioning.

Level of Decommissioning done by hand, ATV, or UTV.

Level 1 – Allow the closed road to naturally revegetate
Level 1 would be implemented if the closed road has naturally revegetated, shows no signs of erosion, and displays no use by motorized or mechanized recreation. To prevent attention being drawn to these sites, signs would not be appropriate.

Level 2 – Install sign with a hand crew
Level 2 would be implemented if an area has naturally revegetated or there is an existing barrier. Signing would be appropriate if minimal use by motorized or mechanized vehicles has occurred. Area of disturbance is limited to the location of the sign. These types of areas may be on level ground and outside of water influence zones. These roads and routes have no accelerated erosion on or off the old road prism. The field office would use this level of road decommissioning as an interim step until resources are available to fully implement the closure.

Level 3 –These activities will be done by a hand crew or equipment smaller than a UTV with implements.

a) Install/Remove worm fence/barricade, buck and pole fence/barricade, rock barriers, or gate.
b) Place slash on the road surface, drop trees, dead plant vegetation, plant live vegetation, transplant live vegetation from nearby areas, and install erosion products such as coir logs (i.e. wattles), mulch, and erosion control blankets.
c) Install and remove cross ditches/drains; check dams; and water bars.
d) Rototill or scarify the ground.

Level 3 would be used if a route needs to be closed for the protection of resources. Implementation of 3b could be used to reduce visual fragmentation by blending the disturbed area with the natural setting. Implementation of 3a is limited to the line of the fence or barricade and approximately 15 feet of that structure. Additional ground disturbance would occur within the road or trail prism with 3b. For live planting and dead planting, vegetation within about 100 feet of the edge of the road or trail could be gathered. Boulders and rocks used under this level would be gathered about 100 feet of both edges of the route. Additional ground disturbance would result from foot traffic and digging holes for planting or installation erosion control products. Implementation of 3c is limited to the drainage feature and up to 15 feet of the structure.

Levels of decommissioning done with tracked or wheeled equipment (such as an excavator, dozer, track hoe, or back hoe).

Level 4 – Physical Barricades. Install gates, rock blockades or trees with mechanized equipment, such as a tracked excavator or dozer.
Boulder or rock placement would be emplaced with the bottom one-third in the ground where feasible. Spacing between the boulders would range between 2 and 3 feet. Disturbance would occur at the site of the boulder placements and where feasible at sources of boulders. Boulders used for this level would be gathered where an excavator can extend its arm from open and closed roads.

Level 5 – With mechanized equipment, rip the road; sub-soil the road; or construct water bars or ditches within and outside of the road prism.
Level 5 would be used on closed roads that are highly visible from open roads and still shown signs of mechanized and motorized use. This level of road decommissioning may be used to reduce accelerated erosion (gullying and head cutting) on and off the closed road; on roads within water influence zones that have altered the hydrologic function, and closed roads with gradients above 15%. Additional ground disturbance could occur approximately 15 feet from the road prism.

Level 6 – With mechanized equipment, re-contour the road prism by pulling back all cut and fill slopes in addition to inboard ditches.
Level 6 would be appropriate on closed roads with cut and fill slopes. The affected areas of disturbance are the cut and fill slopes and about 15 feet beyond those slopes.

Level 7 –With mechanized equipment, remove drainage structures including cross drains (culverts, rolling dips, and water bars); stream crossings structures (culverts); and unstable fills. All culverts within closed roads will be removed to prevent future failures. Water bars and rolling dips would be removed on a site specific basis, depending on whether their existence would continue to cause soil erosion or sedimentation of surface water bodies, including wetlands. Areas of disturbance of crossings are the road fill and the culverts. There would be stream bed disturbance where the culvert lies. For the removal of water bars and rolling dips, the area of disturbance is almost 15 feet of these drainage features.

Table 2.1.2a Closed Routes to be Obliterated

Route Name	**Miles**	**Route Number**
	0.0829	Z4-X102
River Trail	0.1227	HR A2
Hartman Rocks Trail A3	0.1607	HRT A3
	0.1577	HR1
Gateway Reroute Closed	0.1461	Z4-X103
	0.1906	HR2
Hartman Rocks Trail A23	0.1729	Z4-X104
Hartman Rocks Trail A7	0.1742	Z4-X105

Hartman Rocks Trail A7	0.0574	Z4-X106
Closed segment of the Luge	0.2358	Z4-X107
Hartman Rocks Road A27	0.2877	Z4-X108
Hartman Rocks Rd A68	0.1909	HRR A68
	0.3775	HRR1
	0.2004	Z4-X109
	0.0321	Z4-X110
	0.0343	Z4-X111
Gateway Reroute Closed	0.0485	Z4-X112
	0.0560	HRR2
Hartman Rocks Trail A3	0.3067	HRT A3
	0.0758	HR3
	0.0350	Z4-X113
Hartman Rocks Trail A6	0.3811	Z4-X114
	0.0430	Z4-X115
Ridgeline - closed portion	0.2778	HRT A4
	0.1846	HRR3
	0.0459	HRR4
	0.0905	HRT1
	0.0891	HRR5
	0.0190	HRR6
Freefall	0.1235	HRT A8
Dirty Sock Closed Section	0.3952	HRT A31
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.0988	HRR A11
	0.0935	HRT2
Hartman Rocks Rd A14	0.0717	HRR A14
Hartman Rocks Trail A12	0.1595	HRT A12
Hartman Rocks Trail A51	0.5016	HRT A51
	0.0658	HRT3
Hartman Rocks Trail A13	0.1497	HRT A13
	0.0686	HRR7
	0.2306	HRT4
	0.0210	HRR8
Road to Top of Becks	0.0564	HRR R42a
	0.0370	HRR9
Hartman Rocks Trail A35	0.1548	HRT A35
Hartman Rocks Trail A29	0.2191	HRT A29

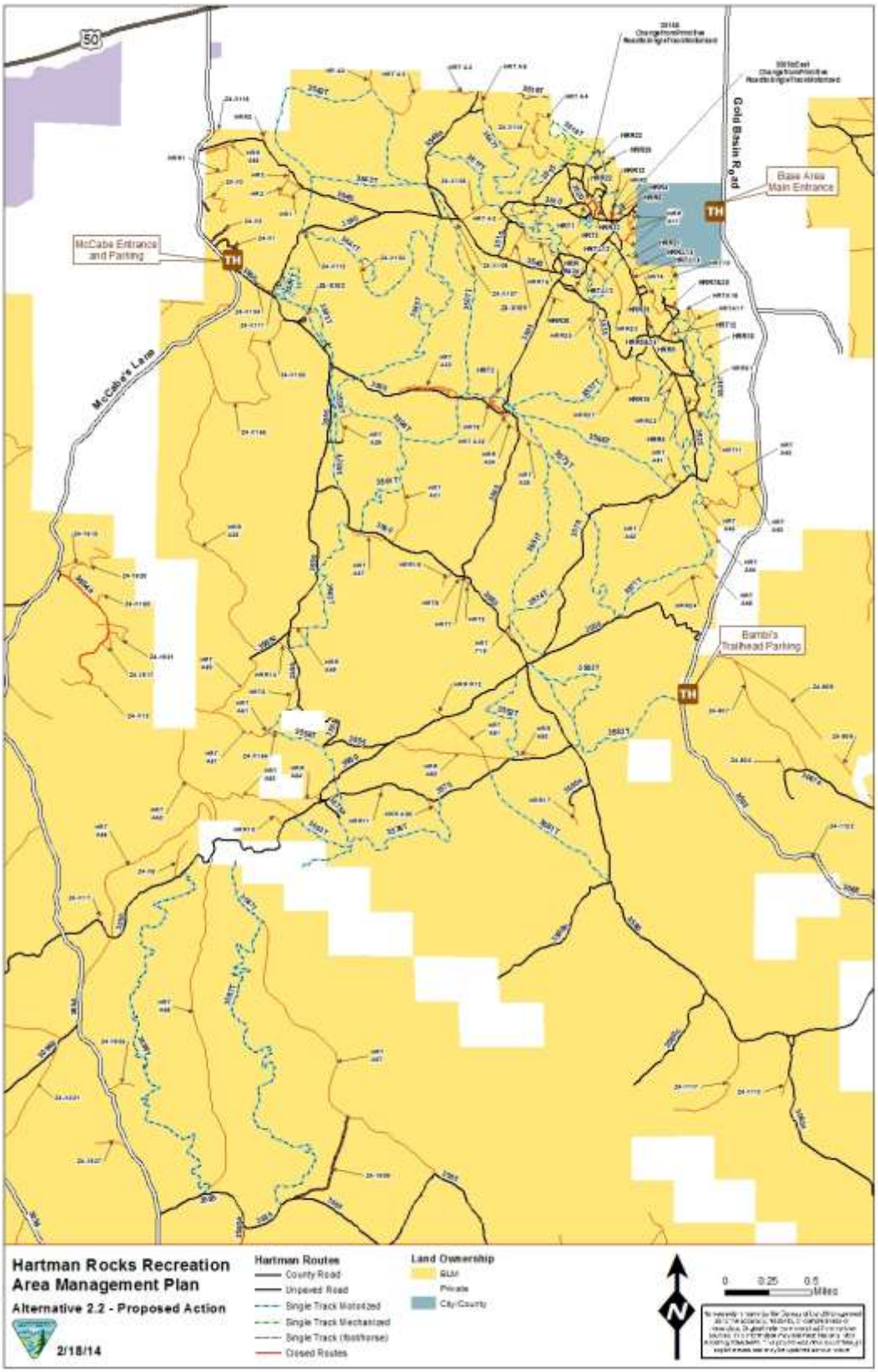
Hartman Rocks Rd 12	0.0850	HRR R12
Hartman Rocks Trail A61	0.4225	HRT A61
Powerline maintenance spur	0.0864	HRR10
Powerline maintenance Spur	0.0410	HRR A54
	0.0416	HRR11
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.1146	HRR A11
East Trail	0.1108	HRT A17
Hartman Rocks Road 63	0.1311	HRR A63
Hartman Rocks Road A62	0.6808	HRR A62
Powerline maintenance Spur	0.0990	HRR A54
Back Door	2.3093	HRR A28 [1]
	0.1688	HRT5
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.0391	HRR A11
	0.0765	HRT6
	0.0711	HRT7
	0.0245	HRR12
Hartman Rocks Trail A51	0.0459	HRT A51
Hartman Rocks Trail A50	0.4538	HRT A50
Hartman Rocks Rd A60	0.1215	HRR A60
Old Quarry Drop	0.5332	HRT A53
Arden's	1.5877	HRT A55
Hartman Rocks Trail A47	0.2299	HRT A47
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.1230	HRR A11
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.0734	HRR A11
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.0375	HRR A11
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.0305	HRR A11
	0.0827	HRR13
Hartman Rocks Rd A34	0.1602	HRR A34
	0.0787	HRT8
Connector R14 to A64	0.0867	HRR14
Skyline Closed	0.1713	HRT T16
Hartman Rocks Trail A44	0.1574	HRT A44
Hartman Rocks Trail A42	0.1005	HRT A42
Alt entrance to Trail 14	0.1503	HRT A41
Bong Hits	0.1862	HRT A43
	0.0661	HRT A32
Hartman Rocks Trail A32	0.5710	HRT A32

	0.4337	HRT A32
	0.0683	Z4-X116
	0.2834	HRR15
Hartman Rocks Trail	0.0427	HRT9
	0.1066	HRR16
Extension of HRR 9	0.1197	HRR17
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.0174	HRR A11
V Drop Closed Section	0.0333	HRT10
	0.0544	HRR18
Bong Hits	0.0798	HRT A43
Hartman Rocks Trail A45	0.1117	HRT A45
Quarry Drop Old	0.0908	HRT A53
	0.0372	HRR19
	0.0295	HRR20
Arden's	0.0248	HRT A55
	0.0569	HRR21
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.0316	HRR A11
Sacrifice	0.0865	HRT A16
	0.0986	HRR22 [1]
	0.2507	HRR23
	0.2438	HRR24
	0.0427	HRR25
	0.0933	HRR26
Bong Hits	0.1551	HRT A43
Hartman Rocks Trail A14	0.1114	HRT A14
	0.0736	HRT11
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.7074	HRR27
Hartman Rocks Rd	0.1146	HRR28
	0.1870	HRT A32
	0.0127	HRR29
	0.0875	HRT12
	0.0543	HRT13
	0.0179	HRR30
	0.0383	HRR31
	0.1213	HRR32
	0.0299	HRR33
Sacrifice	0.0443	HRT A16

Old Railroad Grade	0.6079	HRT A52
Hartman Rocks Trail A52	0.0241	HRT A52
Bong Hits	0.3832	HRT A43
	0.0428	HRR34
	0.3529	Z4-1922
	0.0517	Z4-X120
Enchanted Forest	0.0920	Z4-X154
Hartman Rocks Road A27	0.8188	Z4-X155
	0.3209	Z4-191
	0.4971	Z4-X162
	0.1653	Z4-1918
	0.0861	Z4-X168
	0.0073	Z4-X224
	0.2529	Z4-1915
	0.2499	Z4-X232
	0.1072	Z4-X247
	0.2968	Z4-X253
	0.0756	Z4-X265
	0.15	3520c
	0.83	3585a

[1] Subject to site-specific actions for route obliteration/restoration described on pg. 24-25.

Map 2.1.2b Proposed Route Obliteration



Access Issues:
Trails such as Water Treatment, V-drop and Aberdeen Loop are high priority trails that either need reroutes to get off private land or legal public easements to preserve the single track trail experience at Hartman Rocks. Public access is also a high priority on BLM Road 3555 near Enchanted Forest and BLM Road 3550 in the Aberdeen Quarry. An access easement across private land for the Enchanted Forest Trail and BLM Road 3555 near that trail was donated by the private landowner in 2012.

Consideration of New Routes:
New proposed routes or reroutes must be evaluated and authorized by the BLM prior to construction. It is more desirable to locate new trails in the Front Country and Middle Country zones at Hartman Rocks. Any routes created without authorization would be closed as soon as practical. Routes added to the trail and road system at Hartman Rocks through future analysis would be added to the BLM Map of Record Database for travel management.

If new routes are considered for analysis they should meet the criteria below prior to consideration.

- Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is a multiple use recreation area.
- New development, expansion, and special uses of facilities would not be considered if it would negatively impact other resources such as sensitive species or cultural sites.
- New trails or segments of trails would be designed to incorporate best management practices and should be sustainable in both directions.

Adaptive sports trails/hand cycle trails would be considered when adding or relocating routes. Retrofitting routes for hand cycle use to meet the needs of people with disabilities would be considered with adequate analysis. Constructing or retrofitting trails to make trails accessible for hand cycles will be done on a trial basis and it is not the intent to adapt every trail at Hartman Rocks. Hand cycle trails or “wide” trails will be managed as single track trails at Hartman Rocks and open to all single track trail uses as well as hand cycles.

New trails or reroutes could be proposed and built for a variety of reasons like safety concerns, resource issues, unsustainable trails or sections of trails, connectivity of trails, dispersing use, social issues, accessibility, and experience. Some issues like safety and resource issues may be a higher priority than other trail issues. Trails too close to fence lines, deeply rutted trails, or trails too close to erosion gullies are examples of trail safety issues and those trails may need to be rerouted. New trails or reroutes must go through proper planning, site-specific analysis, and be authorized by BLM prior to construction.

During route exploration the BLM would consult with trail users to look for opportunities to include a variety of difficulty levels and a variety of loop options. This may include bypass trails around difficult sections of trail. Designing a trail system with a variety of loop options for riders would help disperse use as visitor use increases at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is known for its single track type experience and keeping this type of experience is important to trail users.

More skilled riders and advancing technology in bikes that have more suspension and can handle steeper terrain are resulting in some demand for steep downhill routes. Steep routes have a much higher chance of erosion problems and tend to create more obvious visual scars. The BLM must be careful when designing more expert routes to try to offer a challenging ride and still avoid unacceptable resource impacts. This can be done by searching for routes with rock or durable soils as a substrate, including extensive features to control water and prevent soil erosion, and designing routes to minimize visual impacts. Construction of one-way trails is not a normal practice at Hartman Rocks but this is one situation where BLM could consider one-way trail traffic.

Ride-around trails could be constructed on some technical sections of trail to stop resource damage from occurring. However, not every technical section on every trail should require a ride-around. For instance a “blue” trail with a “black” feature should have a ride-around built in to prevent multiple social routes around the “black” feature. This may not be the best management option on every route so it needs to be looked at on a case by case basis and ride-around routes will be cleared by BLM prior to formalizing as part of the trail. These ride-around trails are often in need of maintenance and resource specialists will need to clear these routes before designation.

In the future the BLM may decide to develop a trail plan for Hartman Rocks Recreation Area as an appendix to the RAMP. The comprehensive trail plan could establish guidelines, maintenance standards, procedures, and timelines for trail work and evaluation of trail conditions. It could establish locations for new routes and reroutes. The plan could also establish a saturation point for new trail development through a maximum miles per-acre scenario.

<u>Seasonal Closures</u>:

Spring closures would continue to be employed each year to minimize damage to roads and trails when they are wet. Vehicle closure gates would continue to be used to avoid damage on the routes in the spring. Mechanized and motorized users would be required to follow regulations governing spring closures. The spring closures would apply to all motorized vehicles

and mechanized vehicles, such as mountain bikes and other wheeled vehicles, as well as to horses. Roads and trails north of the power line would open annually, after winter, when the roads are free of snow, ice and water. The BLM may harden sections of roads and trails that are muddy to allow Hartman Rocks to open earlier in the spring. The BLM Field Office Manager may also decide to open Hartman Rocks Recreation Area north of the power line earlier even if roads are still wet and accept the damage to trails and roads. This may reduce recreation use in outlying areas of Gunnison and concentrate use at Hartman Rocks to assist with limiting impacts to Gunnison sage-grouse. The Field Office Manager may weigh the option of opening trails earlier to all uses with the understanding that all volunteer days and partnership work will be geared towards repairing damaged trails from early spring use. The BLM Field Office Manager may institute a graduated opening on Hartman Rocks trails allowing mountain biking earlier than motorcycles based on wet trail conditions.

The Terrain Park may open earlier in the spring to accommodate motorized use during spring run-off. The gate on McCabe's Lane would be opened and two additional gates would be installed on each side of the Terrain Park so unauthorized forms of travel cannot go further into Hartman Rocks Recreation Area until BLM management opens the area to all recreation uses each spring. One gate would be installed on BLM Road 3500, past BLM Road 3540 and another gate installed on BLM Road 3540 just past the Terrain Park parking lot.

Roads and trails south of the power line road would be closed to motorized and mechanized vehicles from March 15 to May 15 each year for Gunnison sage-grouse conservation.

Supplemental rules not allowing motorized or mechanized use in the spring would be put in place. Anyone found riding cross country, riding on closed or illegal routes or riding during the spring closure could be issued a violation notice by law enforcement.

Foot and Horse Trails:

All trails and roads are open to horse and foot access. For all Alternatives hikers and runners would continue to have full use of the area year round, except that horse use would not be allowed during spring closures. Access trails would be designated in and around climbing crags.

Opportunities for hikers and dog walkers could be improved by installing a few rustic benches at scenic overlooks or other enjoyable spots around the area. A hiking trail down to the Aberdeen Quarry Historical Site may be considered if permission can be obtained from the landowner.

The Golf Course Trail is the only "hiking only" trail in Hartman Rocks. The development or designation of new hiking trails may be considered in the future if the trail mitigates resource issues or assists with the recreation demand.

A small neighborhood group formed after the Dos Rios Golf Course management blocked access to the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area via the green with a locked gate. After exploring several potential private land-to-private land solutions, the group concluded that installing a bridge across Tomichi Creek from private land to BLM land is the only viable alternative. Information is still being gathered and the BLM is not making a decision either way on the construction of a bridge or trail to resolve this access issue. The BLM would allow for the potential of a bridge from the subdivision with a legal easement, proper public input and planning. The installation of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is outside the scope of this proposed action.

Signs and educational materials would strongly encourage all trail users to use good trail etiquette throughout Hartman Rocks.

2.1.3 Dog Walking

Dog owners would be encouraged through public education efforts to walk dogs on leashes. Dogs owners are encouraged to keep dogs under control at all times. Dogs are not allowed to harass wildlife. Owners would also be encouraged to remove dog waste from trails. Dog related issues can be reevaluated at any time if needed and new regulations could be implemented.

2.1.4 Rock Climbing

Rock climbing would continue to be managed as a valid use at Hartman Rocks. BLM and community partners would work to delineate parking, incorporate signage at popular crags, adopt and improve some user created access routes where appropriate, restore and naturalize extraneous access routes, and delineate and improve belay areas where appropriate. Appropriate access routes would be added to GFO's approved travel plan. The BLM would not be responsible for the soundness or integrity of bolts placed by climbers. This proposed action would continue to authorize commercial guiding for this activity in the area. Climbing in sensitive portions of the planning area would be discouraged. If climbing begins to cause unacceptable resource impacts (such as long term impacts that cannot be resolved or mitigated), measures would be put in place to reduce and/or remove those impacts. Management actions could include bolting moratoriums, closure of climbing routes, hardening belay areas, etc. A list (Table 2.1.4a) and map (Figure 2.1.4b) of inventoried climbing crags are included below.

Climbing areas would be evaluated and monitored for existing and potential bird nesting sites (eagles, falcons, owls, ravens etc). Known nesting areas would be closed to climbers during the nesting season (May 15 through July 15). The extent of the closure would be determined on a case by case basis taking into consideration a variety of factors including visibility, sensitivity of the species to disturbance, height of the nest and climbing patterns of use in the area. Generally a closure could include up to 100 yards on either side of the nest site. The boundaries of the closure would be marked on the ground with signs at the base of the cliff. If a nest site is not occupied by May 15 in a given year the closure on that nest site would be lifted for the rest of that season. If a nest site is not used for 3 consecutive seasons the automatic closure would be lifted. The closure would be reinstated if nesting activity begins again.

Definitions

Sport Climbing – a method of climbing relying on "fixed protection;" i.e. expansion bolts placed into the rock with a battery powered drill. These bolts and other hardware (chain anchors, etc.) are permanently fixed to the rock face.

Traditional Climbing (trad climbing) –a style of climbing in which a climber "places" all gear in order to protect against falls. Traditional climbing gear historically includes pitons, nuts, and cams. Anchors are created by slinging webbing around trees, rock horns or placing gear. All gear is removed when the climb is completed.

Bouldering – a style of climbing in which no ropes or fall protection (bolts or trad gear) are used. Bouldering routes are rarely more than ten to twelve feet high, with some lateral routes in existence. Most bouldering is done over a "ground" or "crash" pad to protect against serious injury.

Table 2.1.4a Hartman Rocks Crags (from North to South, divided by Management Zones)

Front Country Zone		
Crag Name	**Parking**	**Access**
Kill Pass Rock	Top of Kill Pass in the Notch Area.	Trail exists from the Notch barrier (at pull-off near Chinnery Rock). Not much use.
Lowe Wall	Barriers at the Notch trail head.	User created network of trails (non-climbing) branching out from Chinnery Rock area.

		Must bush-whack to reach Lowe Wall Crag. Not much use; 3-5 short bolted routes. Un-published.
Shark's Fin	Buddha's Belly	A trail exists from Buddha's Belly Area. Trail follows drainage north from parking area and passes Tom Sawyer en route to Shark's Fin. Not much use.
Tom Sawyer	Buddha's Belly	Unpublished crag. Not much use.
Buddha's Belly	Large parking with camp site.	Crag is close to parking, but the approach can be improved (crosses small drainage at multiple points), and defined. This is the most popular climbing area at Hartman Rocks, and a network of trails lead to crags in close proximity. Some of these trails receive motorized use.
Buddha's Crack	Large parking with camp site.	This crag is immediately to the northeast of Buddha's Belly in a gully. There is only one (mixed) route at this crag without much use. Main use of the trail is to access easy top-roping site for Buddha's Belly.
Buddha's Slab	Large parking with camp site.	This crag is accessed via the Buddha's Belly Trail system. This trail dead-ends at Buddha's Slab.
Television Wall/Rock N' Roll Wall	Limited parking on Main Street, or at Tiger Wall.	Accessible via a short hike from Main Street. It is also possible to connect to the

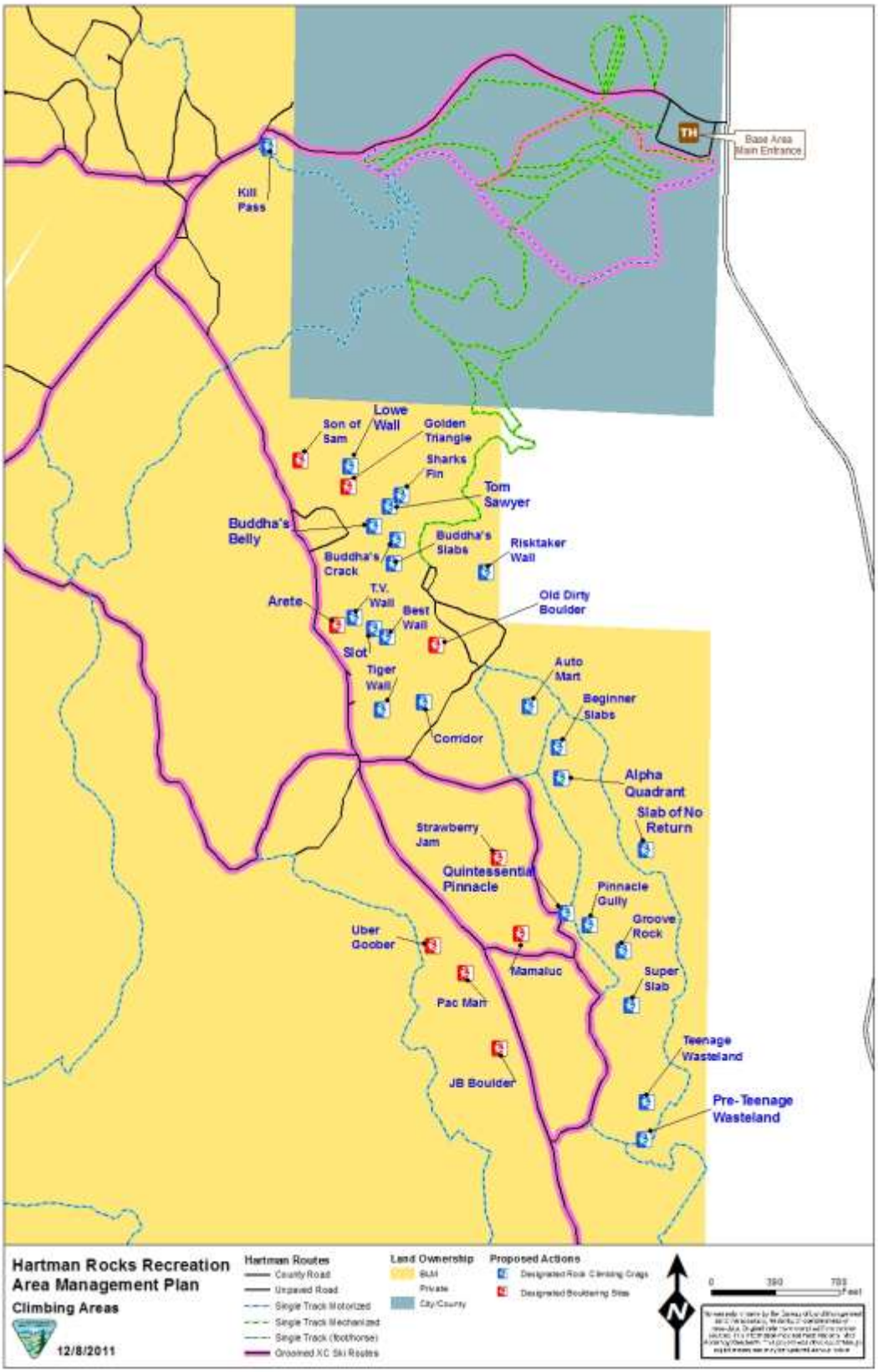
		area via user created trails from Buddha's Belly. The main trail from Buddha's is closed in the Hartman Plan, and receives regular motorized use.
Slot Area	Park at Tiger Wall, access user created trail (East) into the Slot.	It is also possible to connect to the area via user created trails from Buddha's Belly.
Best Wall	Park at Tiger Wall. Access to Best Wall is via a slick rock Gully northeast of Tiger Wall.	Route is on rock and therefore sustainable.
Tiger Wall	Parking on Main Street, Climber's Trail Access to numerous crags.	Tiger Wall is easily accessible from parking. Parking could be expanded to accommodate volume of users at multiple crags.
Corridor	Climbers park at multiple sites heading east from the 4 way past Tiger Wall. Best access is to turn north from the east route past TW, park and hike directly up (NW) to the base of the crag.	Access route is on slick-rock covered with large rocks.
Resistance Wall	Parking for Resistance Wall is at the northern end of the "Rock Garden" loop; accessed by going east and then north from the 4 way stop past Tiger Wall.	Route to base of climb is predominately on rock, and sustainable. Resistance Wall has few bolted routes; trail ends at the northern most route.
Auto Mart	Parking at Beginner Slab parking.	Auto Mart is accessed by following Ring Dike (system trail) north from Beginner Slab.
Beginner Slab	Parking accessed by staying east from 4 way stop past Tiger Wall.	Currently, vehicles access the base of Beginner Slab. This is causing some impacts, and could be addressed by limiting vehicle access and improving

		parking from the main (system) road. This is a heavily used crag, and could benefit from a sustainable multiple use trail that accesses the crag and the Ring Dike Trail.
Alpha Quadrant	Beginner Slab Parking	Crag is immediately south of Beginner Slab. Not much use.
Quintessential Pinnacle	Parking at the base of the crag. This parking is also used to access Pinnacle Gully.	Parking is predominately on slick-rock and undefined. Access to crag is on slickrock, with no noticeable impacts. (Note: One of the protection bolts on this crag is an old piton.)
Pinnacle Gully	Quintessential Pinnacle Parking	Trail is in the bottom of the drainage that leads to Pinnacle Gully, Disco Boy, and Slab of No Return. The climbs at Pinnacle Gully have a belay spot that is eroding heavily; it may be possible to improve the belay spot.
Slab of No Return/ Disco Boy/Valley Girl	Quintessential Pinnacle Parking	Not much use, but accessible by the same trail system that accesses Pinnacle Gully.
Groove Rock	Groove Rock Parking	Crag is accessed immediately from parking.
Super Slab	Super Slab Parking	Crag is accessed immediately from parking.
Teenage Wasteland	Teenage Wasteland Parking	Crag is accessed via a short user created spur trail from the Ring Dike Trail. Main trail would require some delineation and signage to distinguish it from Ring Dike Trail.

Pre-Teen Wasteland	Teenage Wasteland Parking	Crag is accessed via a short user created spur trail from the Ring Dike Trail.
Middle Country Zone		
Bambi Trail Buttress	Bambi Trail Parking	Crag is north of Bambi's Trail, 40 feet off trail. To access crag, climbers must cross a deep gully; no major impacts. Not much use.
Back Country Zone		
Skull Wall	Small User created parking site at Skull Pass Trail. Crag is located by following Skull Pass Trail until it crests a ridge, then hiking up a notch to the right.	Not much use, mix of sport and trad routes. BLM would continue to monitor trail and belay impacts.
The Skull	Small User created parking site at Skull Pass Trail. Crag is located by following Skull Pass Trail until it crests a ridge, then hiking up a notch to the right.	Not much use, mix of sport and trad routes. BLM would continue to monitor trail and belay impacts

At this time, the highest concentration of climbing use occurs at bolted crags from the Buddha's Belly area south to the Teenage Wasteland area (see above). This use all occurs within the Hartman Rocks Front Country Management Zone. Climbers typically travel by vehicle to the specific crag (or group of crags) that they are interested in climbing. When they finish climbing at that crag, many climbers would get back in their vehicle and travel to the next crag (or group of crags). As part of this planning effort, the Bureau of Land Management would pursue opportunities to improve and sign parking at the following locations: Buddha's Belly, Tiger Wall, The Corridor, Resistance Wall, Beginner Slabs, Quintessential Pinnacle, Groove Rock, Super Slabs, Teenage Wasteland, Skull Wall, and Aberdeen Quarry (with permission from the landowner).

Figure 2.1.4b Designated Climbing Crags



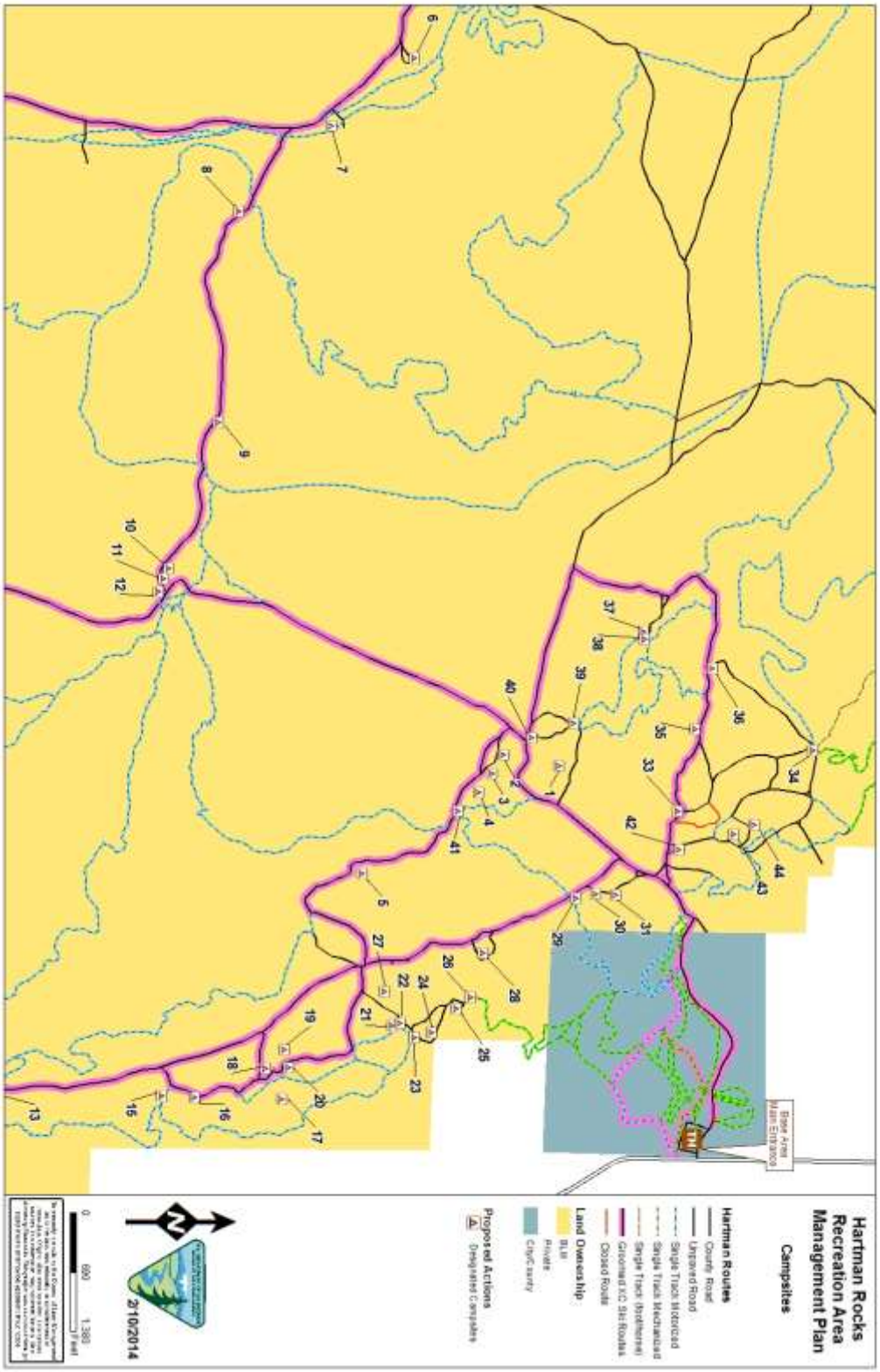
2.1.5 Camping and Campfires

Camping would continue to be allowed but people would be required to camp in designated dispersed campsites in the Front Country Zone. Campsites would be located at least 150 feet away from open water (springs, lakes, streams, etc.). Campsites would be designated with amenities such as firegrates, picnic tables, and parking spurs. Gravel may be added to these sites to improve access and to delineate living/impact area. Both group campsites and individual campsites would be designated. A map of proposed designated campsites are shown in figure 2.1.5a. Campsites in the Front Country Zone can be added or removed if resource issues arise such as discovery of cultural sites, sensitive plant species, or high visitation warrants more campsites in the Front Country Zone. Future designation of campsites would be based on distance to water, distance to other campsites or activities, density of campsites, and impacts to other resources such as sensitive species or cultural sites.

Campfires would only be allowed in sites with improved designated fire grates in the Front Country zone to reduce the risk and spread of human caused wildfires. Campfire rings may be installed at sites in Middle Country and Back Country Zones if needed. Campfire restrictions in Middle Country and Back Country Zones may also be put in place if needed. Due to lack of dead and down firewood in Hartman Rocks, visitors would be required to bring firewood from outside Hartman Rocks and firewood collection in Hartman Rocks would not be allowed. Pallet burning would not be allowed in Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

Dispersed camping would be allowed in the Middle Country and Back Country Zones. Camping would be allowed away from stream channels and at least 150 feet from open water. If unacceptable impacts arise, the BLM would designate campsites in the Middle and Back Country Zones and the public would be required to camp in those designated sites.

Figure 2.1.5a Proposed Designated Campsites



2.1.6 Restroom Facilities

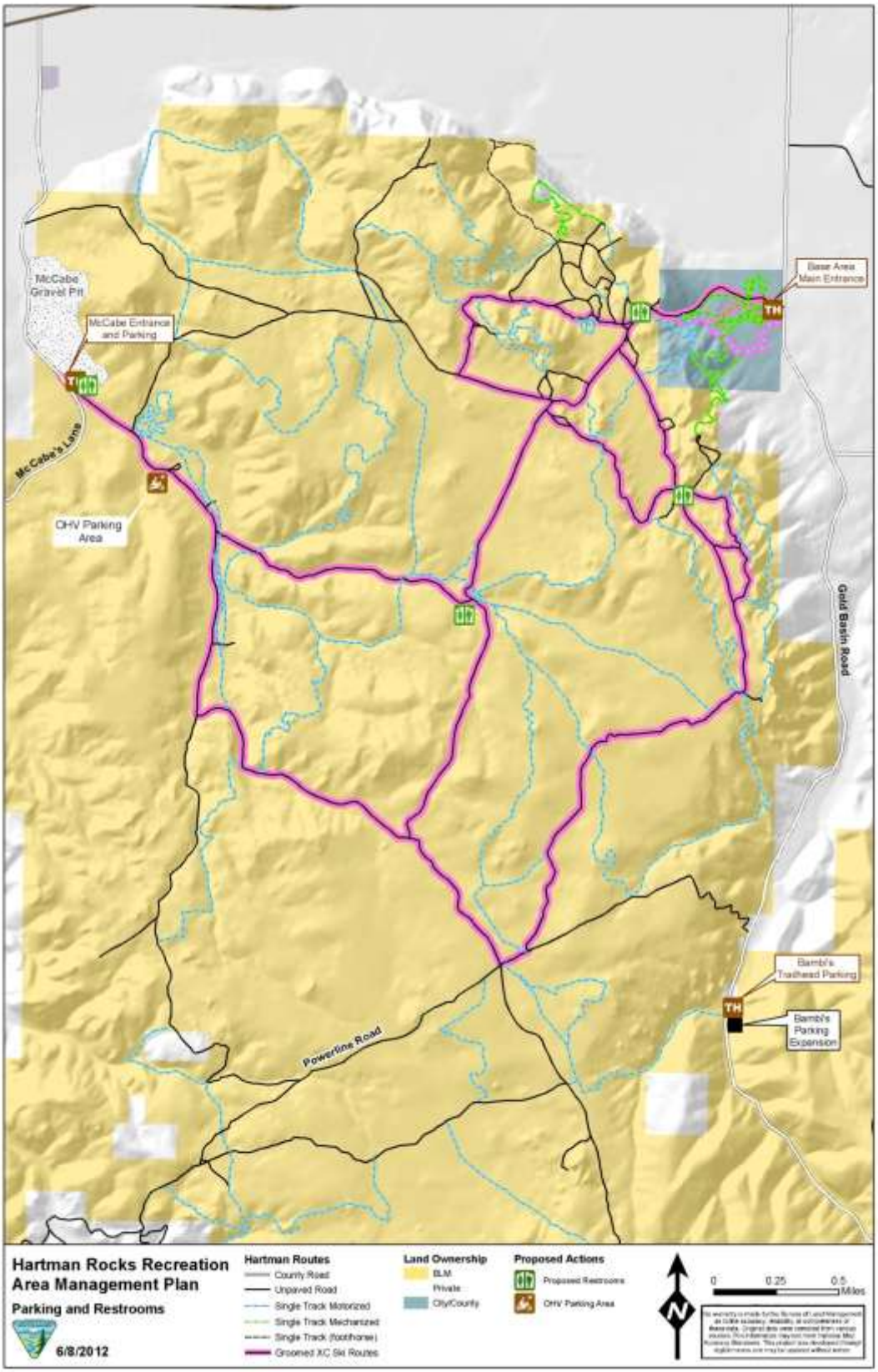
As recreation use has increased, human waste has become an issue that would require mitigation throughout Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. Restroom facilities would be installed at various locations in the Front Country Zone. Most human waste issues are associated with camping, parking and climbing areas due to concentrated visitor use in a fairly small geographic area for longer periods of time. These areas would be focus areas for restroom facility development. See Figure 2.1.6a for map of general areas that would be considered for facility development. If human waste issues arise in other areas of Hartman Rocks they would be dealt with accordingly.

2.1.7 Facilities and Signs

Facility development would be considered where appropriate to enhance recreational experiences or reduce resource impacts. Development of facilities would use the minimum footprint required to maintain ground cover and to minimize the amount of compacted surfaces. Facilities would be located at least 100 feet away from springs and streams. Adequate parking would be developed on BLM land near the trailhead for Bambi's Trail to reduce trespass problems on adjacent private land. Parking would also be developed at the intersection of BLM Roads 3550 and 3575 to facilitate use on the Aberdeen Loop. Small parking areas may be developed at various locations to reduce resource impacts from unconfined parking at campsites, climbing areas, and trail/road intersections. Signage would be employed as necessary to enhance visitor's understanding and appreciation of the area's resources, to encourage stewardship and responsible use and to inform them of the rules. Restrooms, dispersed campsites, parking and access trails may also be developed to reduce resource impacts from human use. All facility development should "fit-in" with the surrounding areas and be aesthetically pleasing. See Figure 2.1.6a for map of general areas that would be considered for facility development.

With the construction of facilities comes an increased cost to maintain those facilities. The BLM is not considering user fees at this time but could in the future, with public involvement. User fees could help with facility maintenance costs.

Figure 2.1.6a Facility Development Map



2.1.8 Winter Use

Grooming for cross country ski routes (both skate and classic) could occur on designated cross country ski routes when there is enough snow to support grooming. The BLM would work with partners such as the Gunnison Nordic Club who would do the actual grooming. Education would be used to try to reduce impacts to wintering wildlife. Tracked vehicles would be allowed only on the designated groomed ski routes. To prevent damage to the system of groomed cross country ski trails, Hartman Rocks would be closed to motorized use except tracked vehicles once grooming begins each year for ski trails. Snowshoeing is an acceptable use at Hartman Rocks and snowshoeing would primarily take place on the existing single track trail system. Winter biking would be allowed at Hartman Rocks in the Front and Middle Country Zones. Winter biking can occur on groomed cross country ski routes as long as the snow is hard packed and rutting does not occur on the groomed trails. Dog owners would be encouraged to remove dog waste from groomed trails.

In all alternatives cross country ski trails could be groomed on BLM Roads 3500, 3505, 3510, 3515, 3520, 3525, 3530, 3535, a section of 3545 between 3510 and 3505, a section of 3550 between 3665 and 3570, a section of 3555 between 3500 and 3560, 3560, 3565, and 3575.

See Figure 2.2.6a for map of cross country ski trail alternatives.

2.1.9 Other Activities

Social gatherings are an allowable use at Hartman Rocks; however, fires would be restricted to designated fire grates in the Front Country Zone. Fires would be allowed in unapproved fire rings in the Middle Country and Back Country Zones. Burning pallets would no longer be allowed at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

2.1.10 Special Events and Special Recreation Permits (SRP)

Special Recreation Permits and events would be permitted within BLM regulations and management goals for the area. Events would have to follow the procedures for permits from the BLM and from the City or County as appropriate. Depending on the activity and potential impacts of the event a maximum group size and other stipulations could be employed to minimize impacts to resources. All designated routes would be considered valid and available for use in special events. These could be used for events related to mountain biking, horseback riding, running, skiing, snowshoeing, snow biking, rock climbing and other non-motorized events. Motorized events such as motorcycle trials, poker runs and enduros could be considered as long as they would not cause unacceptable damage to the trail system or inappropriate impacts to the area's resources. The BLM would work to ensure that the routes authorized for events are appropriate for that type of use. Rock crawling events may be

considered as long as they would not cause unacceptable damage to the resource. Events at the Terrain Park may be considered under this alternative. Special events would not have exclusive use of the area and would be managed to ensure continued public access and public safety during the event and to minimize negative impacts on other visitors to the area. A future capacity study may be required for Harman Rocks Recreation Area if the BLM feels that visitor uses and Special Recreation Permit management uses are conflicting.

Vending will be considered a valid use at Hartman Rocks as long as it *directly* supports or enhances the recreation experience, and is in conformance with resource management objectives and applicable setting prescriptions. Each individual vendor must obtain a vending SRP through the Gunnison Field Office.

2.1.11 Access

The BLM has opened discussions with some adjacent landowners to assess willingness to permit public trails to cross private land. If private land owners are willing the BLM would work out details about the type of use, level of development, restrictions etc. that are appropriate for those routes and formalize them in a public access easement. No routes would be designated, developed or maintained that trespassed on private land without the owner's permission. Any trails found to be trespassing on private land would be closed as soon as practical.

Public access ways from private lands to BLM lands in and around Hartman Rocks could be considered on a case by case basis.

2.1.12 Outreach and Education

BLM and agency partners would investigate opportunities to develop and disseminate interpretive and educational messages through various media. Messages would educate the public of any new rules and regulations as well as interpret the natural resources and cultural history of the planning area. Media may include: appropriate kiosks and signage, maps, brochures, or other publications, and other interpretive or educational programming. Signs and educational materials would strongly encourage all trail users to use good trail etiquette throughout Hartman Rocks.

BLM will work with Hartman Rocks partners and local communities to determine proper promotional messages. Messages may change based on economics, resources concerns, visitation, visitor experience, trend in recreation, seasons, etc.

2.1.13 Non-recreational Area

Use of and entry into the McCabe Lane Community Pit will be limited to personnel with valid authorizations, current safety trainings (MSHA, First Aid/CPR, etc.) and proper personal protective equipment. No other uses, events or other activities will be authorized in the pit. Post reclamation use of the pit could be designed as an open off-road use area to enhance the recreation opportunities at Hartman Rocks. Post reclamation use would be after the life of the mine has been completed, anywhere between 5-20 years (depending on growth and needs for mineral materials in the valley).

2.1.14 Regulations and Enforcement

Supplemental Rules would be written to allow law enforcement personnel to enforce resource related regulations in Hartman Rocks. Proposed supplemental rules are listed below. Other supplemental rules may be added as issues arise.

a) Close Hartman Rocks Recreation Area to motorized use in winter except for tracked vehicles on designated ski trails. Cross country tracked motorized travel would not be allowed.
b) Pallet burning or possessing a pallet would not be allowed in Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.
c) Close Hartman Rocks Recreation Area to all wheeled vehicles (mountain bike and motorcycle and cars) and horses during spring mud season.
d) Close Hartman Rocks Recreation Area south of the Power Line to wheeled vehicles (mountain bike and motorcycle and cars) from March 15 – May 15.
e) In the Front Country Zone, camping would be allowed only in designated sites.
f) In the Front Country Zone, campfires would be allowed only in designated fire grates.
g) No firewood gathering would be allowed in Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

2.1.15 Cooperation and Partnership

The BLM will continue to work closely with the City of Gunnison, Gunnison County, Hartman Rocks User Group, and other interested parties to achieve management goals. Volunteerism and public land stewardship will continue to be a key management plan implementation tool at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

2.2 Alternative 2 - Proposed Action Alternative

In addition to the actions described in 2.1 of this EA, the following actions would be included in the proposed action.

Figure 2.2a Proposed Action Map

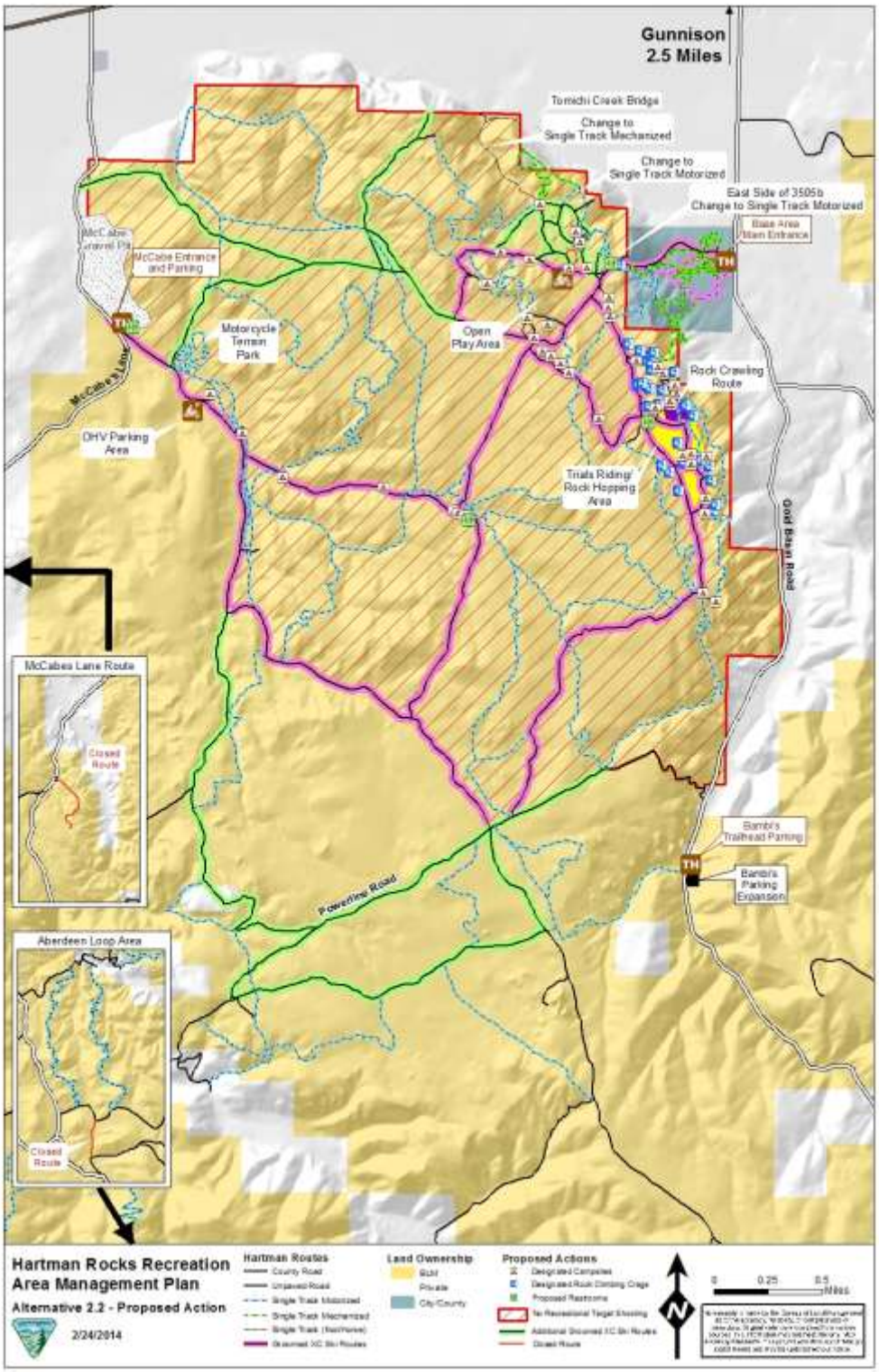
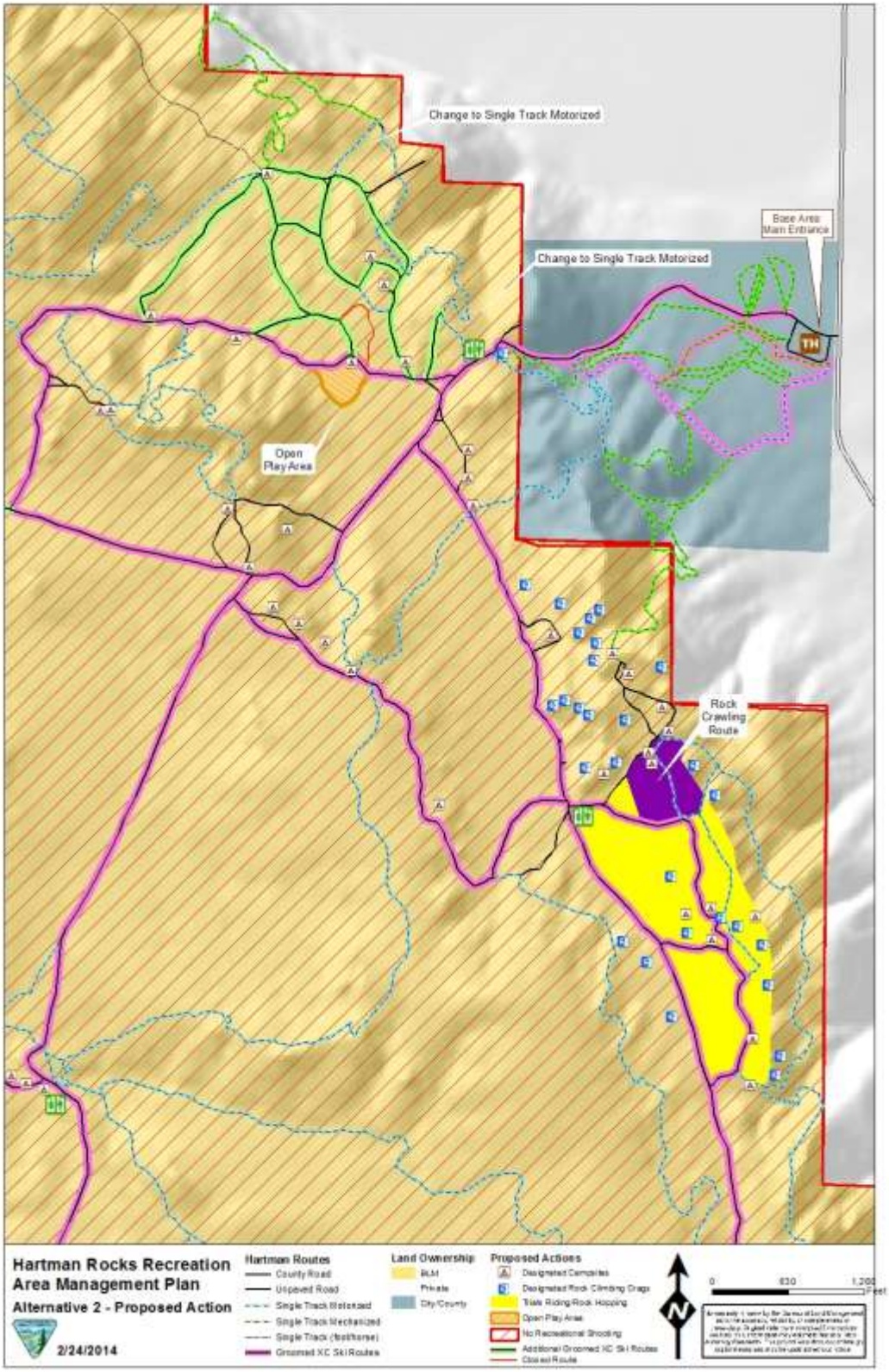


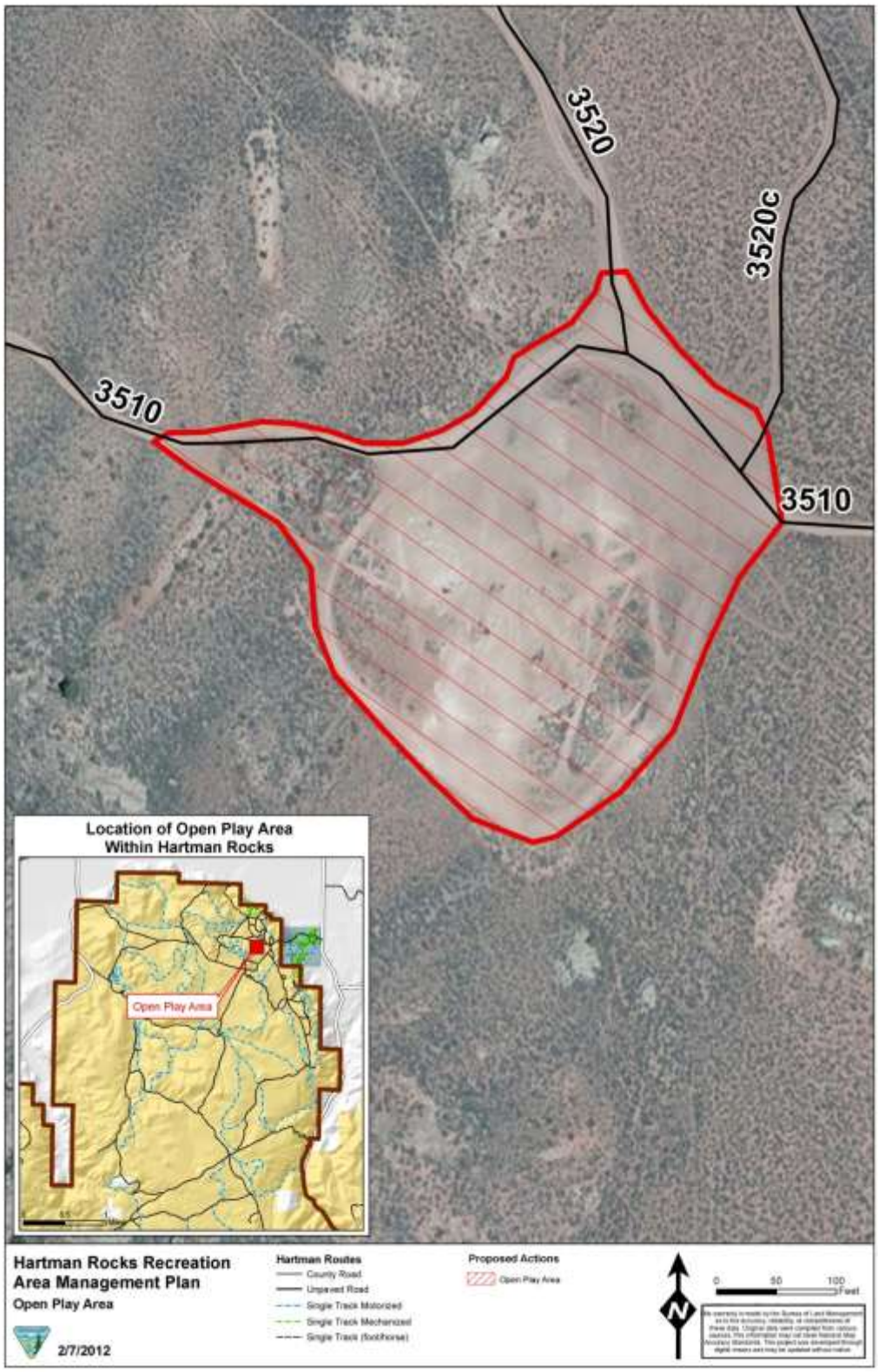
Figure 2.2b Proposed Action Map Close-up of Front County Area



2.2.1 Open Play Area

An old gravel pit at the top of Kill Hill remains as a play area for ATV's, mountain bikes and motorcycles. Although trails within this open play area were designated in 2006 as single track trails the area is being used as an open play area. It is a difficult area to manage as a single track trail system. It is growing in size with loss of vegetation around and within the 3 acre area. This plan proposes to designate the area as an open play area for motorized and mechanized vehicles. A fence or boundary would be constructed around the perimeter of the open play area to stop vegetation loss and stop the area from growing larger. A parking area would be developed within or near the open play area. See Figure 2.2.1a Map of Open Play Area.

Figure 2.2.1a Map of Open Play Area



2.2.2 Rock Crawling Route/Trail

Rock crawling (extreme 4 wheel drive) route(s) would be created in the designated area near the Ring Dike. It would be signed to let potential users know what to expect and discourage folks with inappropriate vehicles for difficult route(s). The route or route(s) would be delineated with markers. Boundary markers or a fence would be installed to warn other users coming into the immediate area. The route(s) would become designated trails in the proposed action. See Figure 2.2.4a for area map of proposed rock crawling route(s) and trials riding area.

Rock crawling routes would be closed if undesired resource or social issues arise. If no issues arise more rock crawling routes could be constructed/designated within the area designated for trials riding/rock hopping.

2.2.3 Motor-cross Track/Terrain Park

This area was developed as a terrain park in the 2006 Hartman Rocks Plan. This plan could transition the terrain park into a motor-cross track by manipulating the soil to create features that are desirable for this type of use. Prior to a motor-cross style park being constructed the BLM would enter into an agreement with a partnering organization who would then be permitted to construct, maintain and administer a motor-cross track. If a partner is not found then the area would remain as a terrain park. The Motor-Cross Track/Terrain Park would be open to motorcycle and ATV travel (less than 50 inches wide).

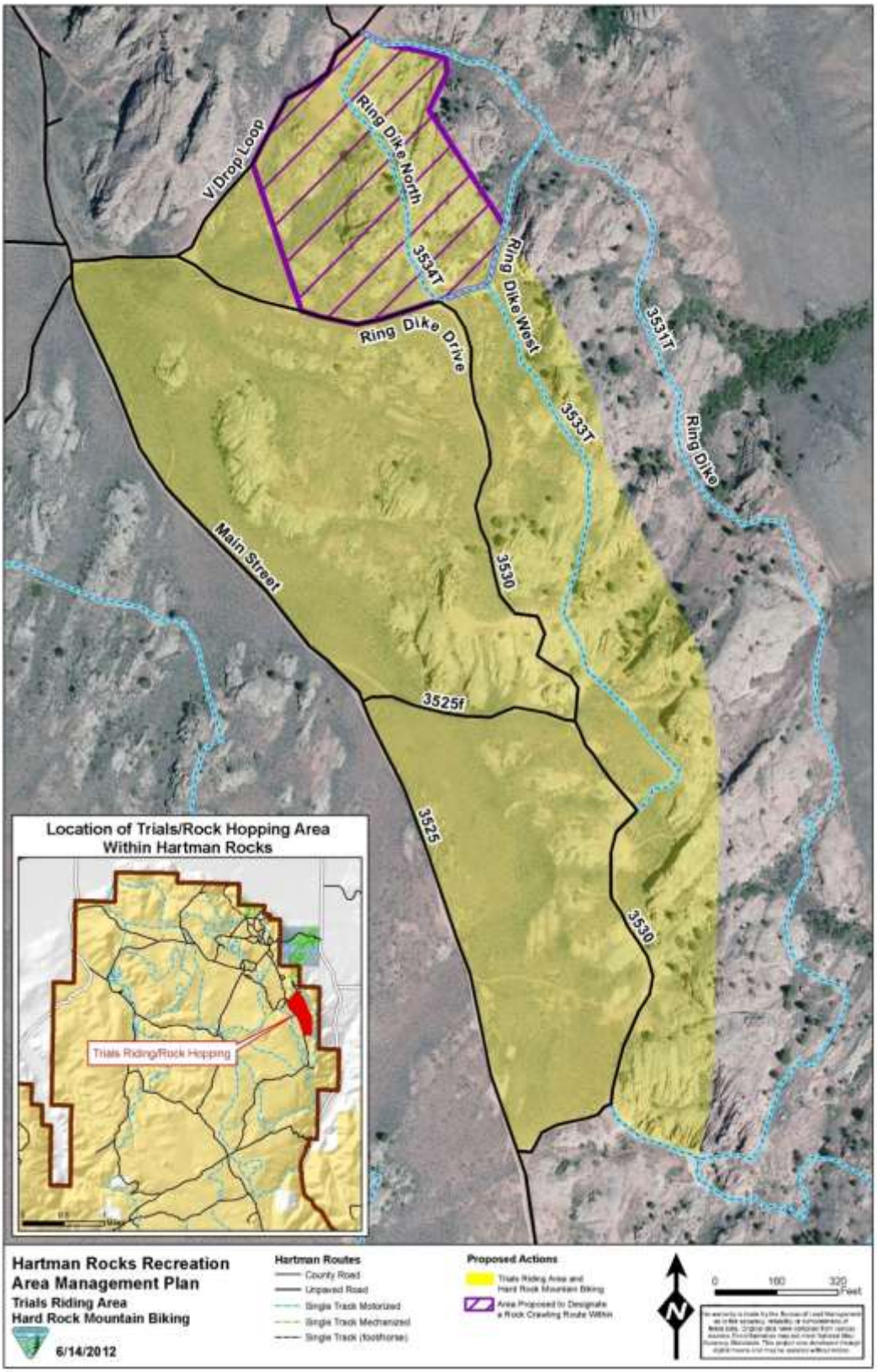
Current impacts to the resource would stay within the fenced-in park. The track is a designated route and riders would be required to stay on that route. Riding off that route would not be allowed. Additional routes outside or inside the fenced area could be allowed with proper BLM planning and authorization. Mode of travel on additional routes outside the Terrain Park would be decided with future planning. Possible areas of expansion could be on the west side of BLM Road 3540 or in and around the Sandy Wash trail, east of the Terrain Park. Once the gravel pit area is mined out of material and permitted operators are no longer using the pit, it could also be considered for motorized recreation. Any unauthorized routes would be closed as soon as practical. Adequate parking would be provided near the Motor-Cross Track/Terrain Park. See Figure 2.2 Map of Proposed Action.

2.2.4 Trials Riding Area/Hard Rock Mountain Biking

This plan would designate a trials riding area for mechanized and motorized two wheeled bikes using low pressure tires designed for such a purpose. Riders would be required to stay on hard rock surfaces and to not disturb vegetation and soil. The BLM would harden routes that tie groups of hard rock surfaces together. This would reduce vegetation disturbance by containing

it to small localized areas. The BLM may need to sign these hardened routes and designate them as trails. The open riding area for trials riding would only be designated in the Ring Dike area. The boundary of the trials riding area would be the Ring Dike Road to the west, the rock ridge to the east, the Ring Dike cut-across to the south and V-drop access road to the north. See Figure 2.2.4a Trials Riding and Rock Crawling Map. Parking would be developed in the Trials Riding Area/Rock Crawling Area to reduce impacts. If monitoring indicates unacceptable resource damage is occurring or beginning to occur from this type of use the Trials Riding Area would be closed and would no longer be available for this type of use.

Figure 2.2.4a Trials Riding and Rock Crawling Map



2.2.5 Recreational Shooting

Due to the popularity of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area and the amount of use it receives this plan proposes to no longer allow recreational shooting north in portions of Hartman Rocks. The affected area is bounded on the west by BLM roads 3500, 3555, 3560, and a portion of 3565. The southern boundary is the remaining portion of Powerline Road BLM Road 3550 to Gold Basin Road (Gunnison County Road 38). All public lands north and east of the aforementioned roads with Hartman Rocks Recreation Area will be closed to recreational shooting. See Figure 2.2a, Proposed Action Map. Hunting would continue to be allowed throughout Hartman Rocks. If unsafe recreational shooting conflicts development south of the Power Line Road the BLM may decide to reevaluate the situation and develop and new strategy related to recreational shooting at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

People can continue to enjoy dispersed target shooting behind the new OHV Parking Area. The OHV parking area is located east of the Terrain Park near the McCabe's Lane entrance to Hartman Rocks.

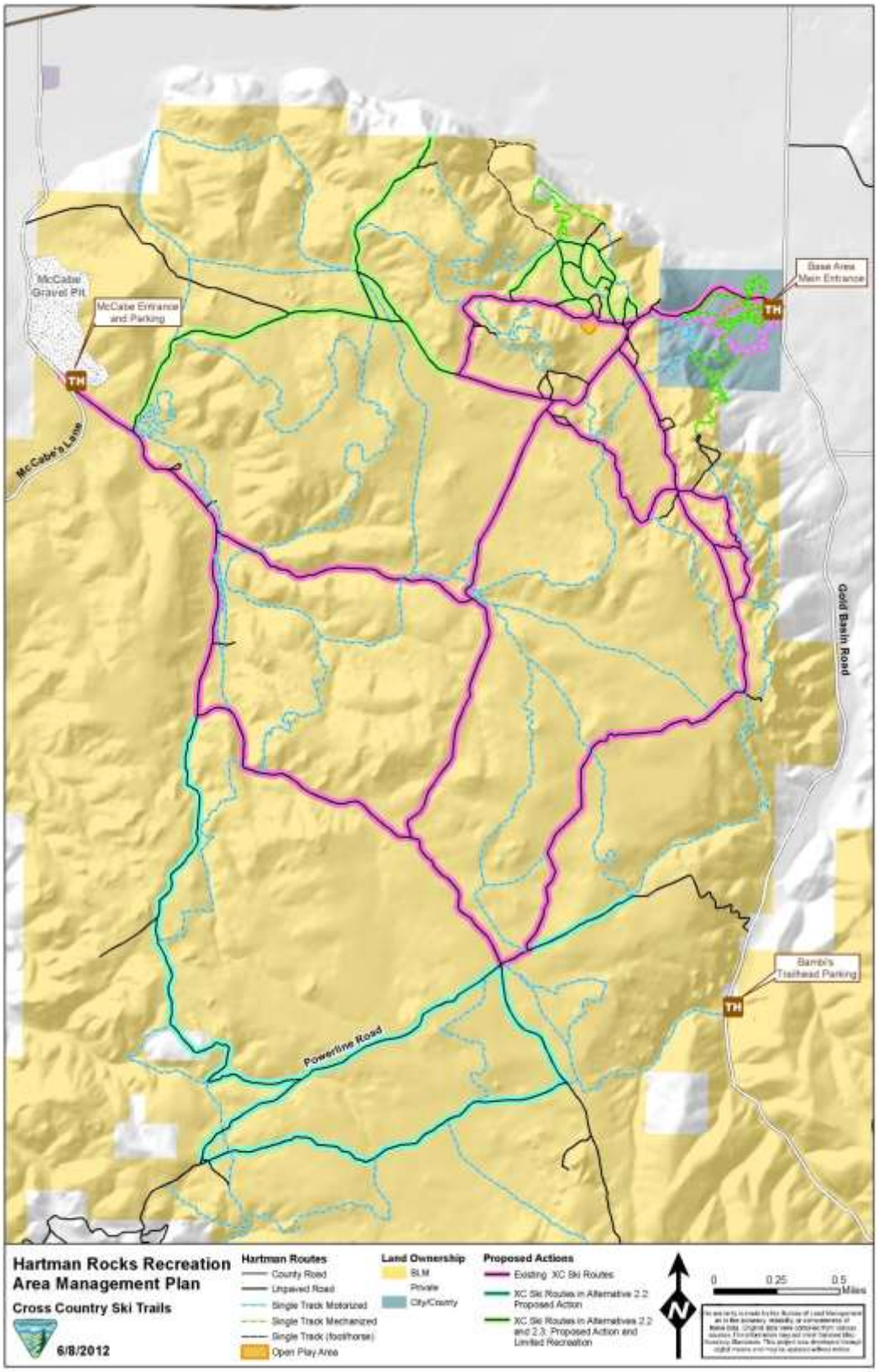
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may authorize shooting sports areas such as target ranges on public lands where they are consistent with the goals and objectives in the applicable resource management plan and would enhance public land management by improving public safety, providing recreational opportunities, providing firearms or archery safety and hunter education training for the community, or consolidating opportunities for dispersed target shooting. Currently, the methods for allocating public land for shooting sports areas and related facilities are through direct sale under Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), or through patents issued under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926 (R and PP). The preferred method is by the use of direct sales under the FLPMA. BLM has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports Roundtable to maintain and disseminate good information. Should the BLM adopt a broader policy concerning recreational target shooting the Gunnison Field Office will seek to accommodate this use, consistent with this plan, after additional analysis to ensure public safety and provide the recreation opportunity for target shooting.

Paintball activities would continue to be allowed throughout Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. Excessive paint on rocks would be considered as graffiti and would be dealt with through BLM law enforcement. Paintball participants are encouraged to clean up paint after paintball activities.

2.2.6 Winter Use

The proposed action alternative would allow grooming of additional cross-country ski trails on all system roads north of the Power Line Road (except BLM Road 3545), including BLM Road 3555, BLM Road 3550 east of the intersection of BLM Road 3575 and west of BLM Road 3570, BLM Road 3575, and BLM Road 3580 between BLM Roads 3550 and 3575. Proposals to expand from this system would require additional analysis. Two routes, BLM 3550 east of BLM 3570 and BLM 3545, are not being considered at this time due to lack of parking at the county road intersections. If parking is resolved these routes may also be considered for ski trail grooming. Some routes listed as open for grooming may not be suitable for full grooming due to steep grades or sharp turns. This is a long term plan and some roads and trails may be rerouted in the future making them more viable for winter grooming. Tracked vehicles would be allowed to use any system road that is groomed for cross-country skiing. Using tracked vehicles on ungroomed routes would not be allowed at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. If the additional routes are not well received by recreationists, the BLM partner who grooms the new routes has the option not to groom those routes.

Figure 2.2.6a - Cross Country Ski Trail Alternatives



2.2.7 Proposed Use Change on Roads:

There are two dead-end roads near the Ridge Trail. These roads provide vistas of Gunnison. The roads are steep and go straight up a hill to dead end vistas. At the end of each road is a nightlife social gathering location. Gatherers have been known to throw empty bottles and cans at the house below The Ridge Trail.

- **Road 3515b:** The proposed action would close this road to full size vehicles and keep it open for single track motorized use.

- **Road 3515C:** This road will stay open to full size vehicle traffic to allow visitors a scenic vista. If vandalism continues in this area the BLM would consider closing and obliterating this road and converting it to a single track motorized trail.

See Figure 2.2a Proposed Action Map

2.2.8 Regulations and Enforcement

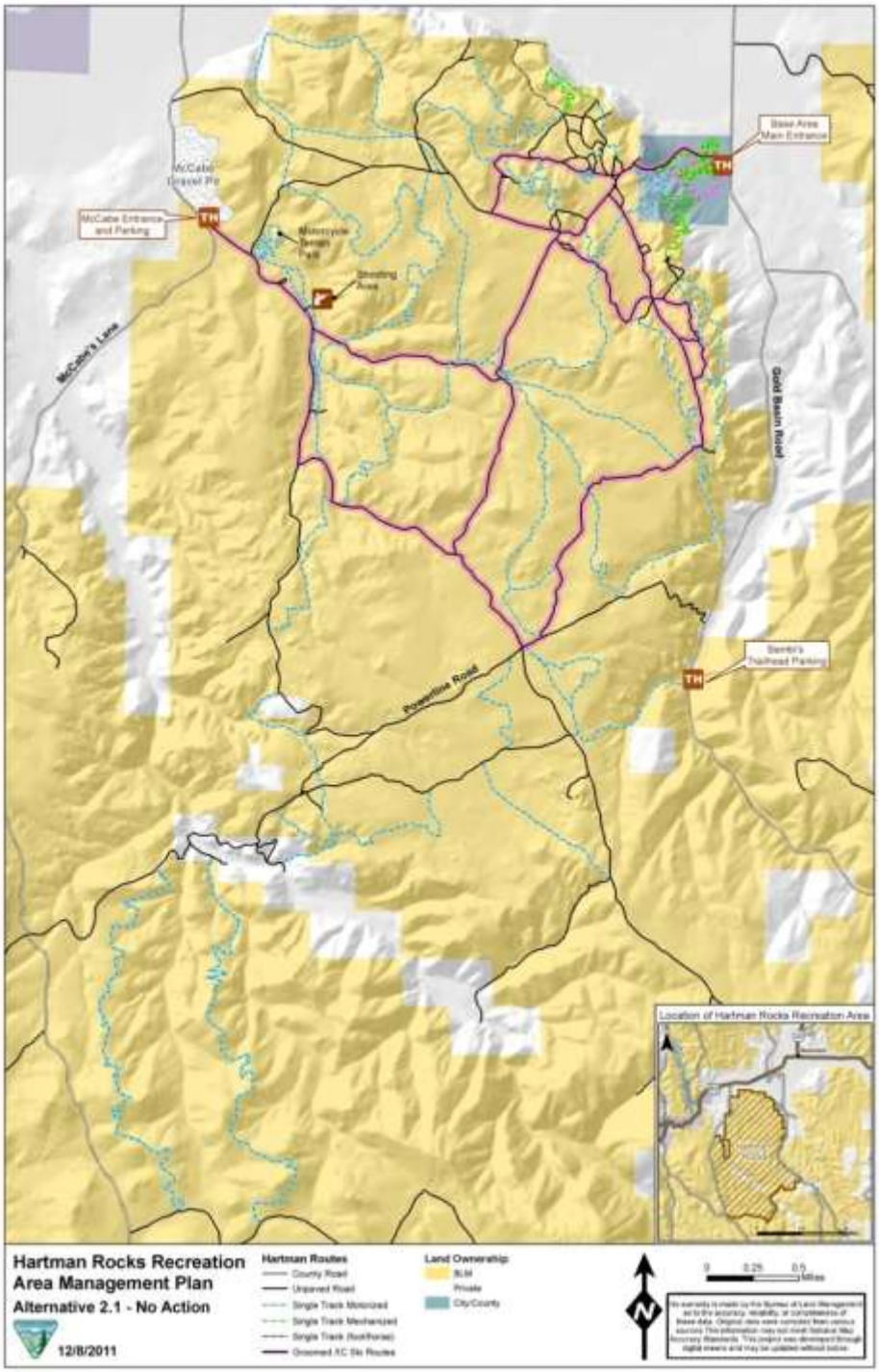
Supplemental Rules would be written to allow law enforcement to enforcement resource related issues in Hartman Rocks. This proposed action would add the following Supplemental Rules.

- To allow mountain bike riding and motorized trails riding on slick rock surfaces in the Ring Dike area as described in the attached map as long as that use does not create measurable unacceptable resource damage. Only low pressure tires designed for such use would be allowed to ride on this open slick rock area.
- To allow Open Area riding on Kill Hill gravel pit.
- No recreational shooting north of the Power Line road and East of BLM Road 3555 except in designated areas. Hunting would continue to be allowed throughout Hartman Rocks.

2.3 Alternative 1 - No Action

The No Action Alternative is to continue to manage under the direction of the 2006 Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP.)

Figure 2.3 No Action Alternative Map



2.3.1 Road and Trails

The 2006 RAMP designated system roads and trails. It also designated types of use on those trails. It instituted seasonal closures to help with Gunnison sage-grouse conservation. Off route travel with motorized and mechanized vehicles is not allowed under this alternative.

2.3.2 Rock Crawling

Two rock crawling routes were allowed under the 2006 RAMP but were never established. Stipulations were put in place that a route could be established at Site 1 and after a period of time Site 2 would be evaluated after 2 years if Site 1 did not have resource or safety concerns. No competitive events would be permitted for this type of use.

2.3.3 Terrain Park

Under the 2006 RAMP the terrain park was developed. Dirt moving to create jumps is not allowed. Competitive events would not be allowed at the Terrain Park. No opportunity for expansion of the terrain park is discussed in this alternative.

2.3.4 Open Play Area

The 2006 Ramp designated the proposed open play area as single track trails.

2.3.5 Climbing

Under the 2006 RAMP rock climbing would be managed as a valid use. It does not identify or designate specific climbing crags. The 2006 RAMP allows climbing in the Ring Dike area but does not encourage climbing in other portions of Hartman Rocks.

2.3.6 Shooting

Shooting is permitted in the area but improvements would be installed to attract shooters to the safest shooting areas to reduce conflicts and safety concerns. Target frames and backstops will be established. If measures are not effective at confining the majority of shooting activity then regulations may be established to require that shooters only use these selected areas. Hunting is allowed but not encouraged. Shooting is not allowed with-in terrain park. No competitive shooting events would be considered.

2.3.7 Winter Use

Cross country ski trails would occur on 15.7 miles of routes under this alternative. Snowmobiling can occur on the same routes as skiing. Off route snowmobiling would not be allowed at Hartman Rocks.

2.3.8 Camping

Camping would continue to be allowed under this alternative. Brochures would recommend preferred locations to avoid sensitive areas. This alternative does not designate camping sites.

2.3.9 Parking

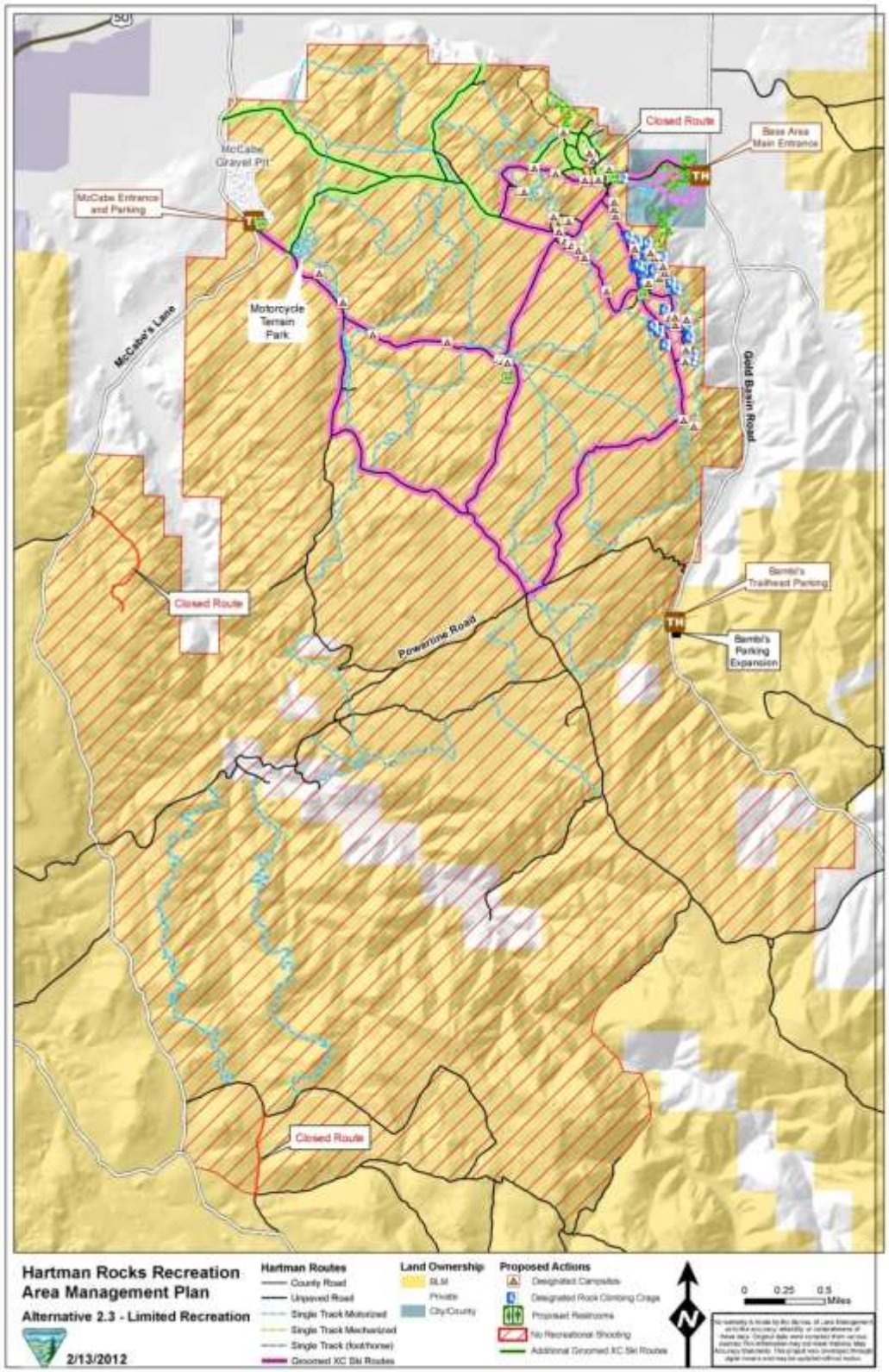
Small parking areas (8-10 vehicles) would be established at Kill Hill, Bambi's and McCabes Lane. Facility development would be considered where appropriate to enhance recreational experiences or reduce resource impacts.

2.3.10 Use Levels and Education

The 2006 RAMP states that visitor use is only from the local community. It does not address Hartman Rocks Recreation Area as a destination location for people outside the Gunnison Basin. This alternative does not allow media coverage, brochures or promotion of Hartman Rocks outside the Gunnison Basin.

2.4 Alternative 3 – Limited Recreation

Figure 2.4 – Limited Recreation Alternative



2.4.1 Open Play Area

In this alternative the old gravel pit at the top of Kill Hill would be closed to all uses, including single track trails, and the area would be restored.

2.4.2 Rock Crawling Route

Rock crawling routes/trails would not be considered within Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. Rock crawling events would not be considered under this alternative.

2.4.3 Motor-cross Track/Terrain Park

The Terrain Park would continue as a terrain park with no dirt moving to create trail riding features or jumps.

Impact to the resource would stay within the fenced in park. The track is a designated route and riders would be required to stay on that route. Riding off that route would not be allowed. The creation of additional routes within the park would not be allowed without permission of the BLM. Any unauthorized routes would be closed as soon as practical.

2.4.4 Target Shooting Area

This alternative would not provide shooting opportunities in Hartman Rocks. Target shooting would not be allowed anywhere within Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. Hunting would continue to be allowed throughout Hartman Rocks.

2.4.5 Winter Use

Cross country ski trail grooming would be allowed on all roads north of BLM Road 3550 except the portion of BLM Road 3555 south of BLM Road 3560, and BLM Road 3550 east of BLM Road 3570, and BLM Road 3550 west of BLM Road 3565. Snowmobile use would not be allowed in or around Hartman Rocks Recreation Area except for the purpose of grooming cross country ski trails.

2.4.6 Regulations and Enforcement

Supplemental Rules would be written to allow law enforcement personnel to enforcement resource related issues in Hartman Rocks. This alternative would add the following Supplemental Rules in addition to other regulations listed in section 2.1.

- Close Hartman Rocks to all recreational shooting.
- Close Hartman Rocks to snowmobile use except for permitted use related to cross-country ski trail grooming.

2.5 Alternatives Considered But Not Analyzed in Detail

An alternative considered but not studied in detail was to move the Sandy Wash Trail and Terrain Park to a new location and allow shooting to happen along the existing mountain side. This was dismissed because of the cost of the infrastructure of the terrain park. Also, shooting is allowed on 98+ % of public lands and motorized recreation is limited to existing roads and motorized trails. The BLM feels there is less resource impacts to move shooting than it is to move motorized recreation facilities.

The original proposed action was to close 5,135 acres to target shooting. The BLM had individual meetings with target shooting enthusiasts, the Gunnison County Sheriff's Office, and The Gunnison Sportman's Club. The shooting groups contacted were supportive of the closure but thought removing a 772 acre area from the proposed target shooting closure would allow for continued shooting and still provide safety for other recreationists. BLM agreed and modified the proposed action accordingly.

2.6 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES TABLE			
Issue Category	**No Action Alternative (Alternative 1)** Current Management under the 2006 Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan	**Proposed Action (Alternative 2)**	**Limited Recreation Alternative (Alternative 3)**
Recreation Management			
	No management zones.	Would divide Hartman Rocks into 3 different zones; Front Country, Middle Country and Back Country	Would divide Hartman Rocks into 3 different zones; Front Country, Middle Country and Back Country
	No direction on future development	Proposed development at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area would be in accordance with the description in these zones settings.	Proposed development at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area would be in accordance with the description in these zones settings.
	The planning area does not include the Aberdeen Loop.	Planning area includes the Aberdeen Loop.	Planning area includes the Aberdeen Loop.
	No SRMA boundary designation.	Designates 14,423 as the Hartman Rocks Special Recreation Management Area.	Designates 14,423 as the Hartman Rocks Special Recreation Management Area.
Roads and Trails			
	Motorized and mechanized travel will not occur off designated routes.	Motorized and mechanized travel will not occur off designated routes. A priority would be made to obliterate and restore closed routes prior to constructing new routes.	Motorized and mechanized travel will not occur off designated routes. A priority would be made to obliterate and restore closed routes prior to constructing new routes.
	Any proposals for new trails would be evaluated using special criteria.	Routes added to the trail and road system at Hartman Rocks through future analysis will be added to the BLM Map of Record Database for travel management. If new routes are considered	Routes added to the trail and road system at Hartman Rocks through future analysis will be added to the BLM Map of Record Database for travel management. If new routes are considered

		for analysis they should meet the criteria on page 31.	for analysis they should meet the criteria on page 31.
	Adaptive sports trails not addressed.	Adaptive sports trails will be considered when adding routes.	Adaptive sports trails will be considered when adding routes.
	33.08 miles of roads open to public use. Does not include roads in the south end of Hartman Rocks.	53 miles of roads open to public use (additional miles due to larger planning area)	53 miles of roads open to public use (additional miles due to larger planning area)
	40 miles of trail. Did not include the Aberdeen Loop reroute.	46 miles of trails (additional miles due to larger planning area)	46 miles of trails (additional miles due to larger planning area)
	No additional road closures.	Close BLM Roads 5320C, 3054a, and 3585a. Change BLM Road 3515b and 3505b (east half) from a 4x4 road to a motorized single track trail.	Close BLM Roads 5320C, 3054a, and 3585a. Change 3505b (east half) for a 4x4 road to a motorized single track trail.
Rock Crawling			
	A single rock crawling route would be created at site #1 approximately .2 miles in length. After 2 years of success a second course could be constructed at site #2.	Rock crawling (extreme 4 wheel drive) route(s) would be created in the designated area near the Ring Dike.	No Rock Crawling Routes in Hartman Rocks.
	No events	Events could be considered.	No Events
Open Play Area (old gravel pit at top of Kill Hill)			
	This area would remain as a designated single track trail system.	Contain the area with a fence or signs and allow open play within the area for all forms of motorized and non-motorized recreation.	Close the area to all forms of uses and restore the area.
Terrain Park			
	Keep natural feature terrain park with no construction of artificial jumps. It will not be a motor-cross style track.	This plan would transition the terrain park into a motor-cross track by manipulating the soil to create features that are desirable for this type of use. Prior to a motor-cross style park being constructed the BLM would enter into an agreement with a partnering organization who would then be permitted to construct,	Keep natural feature terrain park with no construction of artificial jumps. It will not be a motor-cross style track.

		maintain and administer a motor-cross track. If a partner is not found then the area would remain as a terrain park.	
	No Events.	Events may be considered.	Events may be considered.
	10 car parking lot development adjacent to access road.	Adequate car/trailer parking near motor-cross track would be developed.	No new parking at terrain park.
	No expansion of track.	Expansion of the track can be considered with proper NEPA and planning.	No expansion of track.
Shooting			
	No shooting allowed within terrain park. Shooting permitted in the rest of the area but improvements would be installed to attract shooters to the safest shooting areas to reduce conflicts and safety concerns. Target frames and backstops will be established. If measures are not effective at confining the majority of shooting activity then regulations may be established to require that shooters only use these selected areas.	Recreational target shooting would not be allowed on 4,363 acres within Hartman Rocks north of the Power Line Road.	Recreational Target shooting not allowed on all 14,432 acres.
		This alternative would encourage people to continue to enjoy dispersed target shooting behind the OHV Parking Area.	Would not provide a target shooting area in Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.
	Hunting allowed in all areas of Hartman Rocks but not encouraged.	Hunting allowed in all areas of Hartman Rocks.	Hunting allowed in all areas of Hartman Rocks.
	No competitive shooting events would be considered.	N/A	N/A
Dog Walking			
	Not addressed	Dog owners would be encouraged to walk dogs on leashes. Owners would also	Dog owners would be encouraged to walk dogs on leashes. Owners would also

		be encouraged to remove dog waste from trails. Dog related issues can be reevaluated at any time if needed and new regulations or education programs could be implemented.	be encouraged to remove dog waste from trails. Dog related issues can be reevaluated at any time if needed and new regulations or education programs could be implemented
Rock Climbing			
	Climbing is managed as a valid use primarily in the main rocks of the Ring Dike.	This proposal would designate climbing crags at Hartman Rocks.	This proposal would designate climbing crags at Hartman Rocks.
	Not addressed	Delineate parking, incorporate signage at popular crags, adopt and improve some user created access routes (where appropriate), restore and naturalize extraneous access routes, and (where appropriate) delineate and improve belay areas.	Delineate parking, incorporate signage at popular crags, adopt and improve some user created access routes (where appropriate), restore and naturalize extraneous access routes, and (where appropriate) delineate and improve belay areas.
	The BLM would not be responsible for the soundness or integrity of bolts placed by climbers.	The BLM would not be responsible for the soundness or integrity of bolts placed by climbers.	The BLM would not be responsible for the soundness or integrity of bolts placed by climbers.
	The no action would continue to authorize commercial guiding for this activity in the Ring Dike area.	The proposed action would continue to authorize commercial guiding for this activity in the area.	The proposed action would continue to authorize commercial guiding for this activity in the area.
	Climbing not encouraged in other portions of the planning area.	Climbing in sensitive portions of the planning area would be discouraged.	Climbing in sensitive portions of the planning area would be discouraged.
Camping			
	Camping allowed anywhere in Hartman Rocks but preferred locations are recommended.	Camping only in designated dispersed campsites in Front Country Area. Amenities would be added to these sites as needed such as fire grate and picnic table.	Camping only in designated dispersed campsites in Front Country Area. Amenities would be added to these sites as needed such as fire grate and picnic table.
	Not addressed	Back Country Zone and Middle Country Zone would allow dispersed camping anywhere as long as resource	Back Country Zone and Middle Country Zone would allow dispersed camping anywhere as long as resource

		impacts are minimal.	impacts are minimal.
	Not addressed	Install toilets at strategic locations throughout Hartman Rocks Recreation Area in the Front Country Zone.	Install toilets at strategic locations throughout Hartman Rocks Recreation Area in the Front Country Zone.
Parking			
	Small parking areas (8-10 vehicles) would be established at Kill Hill, Bambi's and McCabes Lane.	Enlarge Bambi's Parking	Enlarge Bambi's Parking
	Not addressed	Designate parking at strategic locations along the Ring Dike.	Designate parking at strategic locations along the Ring Dike.
	Not addressed	Provide parking spaces at dispersed campsites.	Provide parking spaces at dispersed campsites.
	Not addressed	Develop OHV parking near McCabes Lane entrance.	N/A
	Not addressed	Develop additional Parking at Motor Track/Terrain Park.	N/A
	Facility development would be considered where appropriate to enhance recreational experiences or reduce resource impacts.	Small parking areas would be developed at various locations to reduce resource impacts from unconfined parking at campsites, climbing areas, and trail/road intersections.	Small parking areas would be developed at various locations to reduce resource impacts from unconfined parking at campsites, climbing areas, and trail/road intersections.
Winter Use			
	15 miles of designated cross country ski trails. Grooming completed by partners.	28 miles of designated cross country ski trails.	21 miles of designated cross country ski trails.
	Tracked vehicles allowed on designated ski trails. No off route snowmobiling.	Tracked vehicles allowed on designated ski trails. No off route snowmobiling.	No snowmobiling allowed at Hartman Rocks.
Trials Riding / Rock Hopping			
	Not Addressed	Would designate a trials riding/ rock hopping area.	Off route use would not be allowed, precluding trials riding/rock hopping.

2.7 Conformance Review

The Proposed Action is subject to, has been reviewed for, and been found to be in conformance with, the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3). The plan conformance review included consideration of Standard Management (pgs. 2-1 to 2-19), Management Unit Prescriptions (pgs. 2-19 to 2-39), and Standards for Public Land Health (pgs. 4-7).

Name of Plan: Gunnison Resource Area Resource Management Plan (including Adoption of Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado)

Date Approved: February 1993 (amended February 1997, August 2000, December 2008, January 2009, August 2011)

Management Unit(s):
MU 8 (South Beaver Creek ACEC)
MU 13 (contains "I" category livestock grazing allotments)
MU 16 (general resource lands)

Decision Number/Page:

Standard Management Direction, pgs. 2-1 to 2-19;

Decision Language: (pg. 2-13) Recreation "management will focus on resource protection, visitor services and information, and the construction, operation and maintenance of recreation facilities. Efforts will be placed on providing a variety of recreation opportunities and experiences through visitor awareness, information, interpretation, signing, and protection. Efforts will be made to expand and strengthen cooperative partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies, the private sector and volunteers to enhance recreation opportunities and tourism."

(pg. 2-13) "Public lands not within a special recreation management area (SRMA) will make up the Gunnison Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), and will be managed for a diversity of recreation opportunities."

(pgs. 2-13 to 2-14) "The BLM will continue to recognize and respond to the need for seasonal closures in the planning area in order to prevent or mitigate potential resource damage by installing gates at key access points, for instance, to restrict spring access until roads have dried out."

Management Unit 8 Direction, pgs. 2-29 to 2-30;

Decision Language: "The unit will be managed to protect and enhance existing populations and habitat of skiff milkvetch. … Surface disturbing activities will be restricted to protect the species and potential habitat.

"To prevent accidental destruction of skiff milkvetch populations, and existing habitat, motorized vehicular traffic in the unit will be limited to designated routes…".

Management Unit 13 Direction, pgs. 2-34 to 2-36;

Decision Language: "The unit will be managed to improve or maintain ecological conditions."

Management Unit 16 Direction, pgs. 2-38 to 2-39;

Decision Language: There is no specific direction pertaining to the proposed action.

2.8 Consistency with other Authorities

Beginning in January 2010, federal land management agencies and the Gunnison Basin Sage-Grouse Strategic Committee developed a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) to promote conservation of the Gunnison Basin population of Gunnison sage-grouse. The CCA addresses three categories of threats to sage-grouse habitat on federal public lands in the Gunnison Basin, as identified in the 2010 FWS status review: development, recreation, and grazing. A conference opinion was signed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on July 30, 2013 in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act regarding the CCA and its covered actions. The proposed action in the Hartman Rocks RAMP EA is consistent with the direction provided in the CCA.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

3.1 Recreation Management

3.1.1 Affected Environment

Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is a popular urban interface recreation area about 3 miles southwest of Gunnison. Its proximity to Gunnison makes it easy to access for local residents for a quick recreation experience. It is also a destination location for mountain biking, rock climbing and single track motorized enthusiasts. The area is made up of approximately 14,423 acres and contains 53 miles of roads and 46 miles of single track trails. It is estimated that it receives about 40,000 users each year. Visitors practice a variety of recreation activities including mountain biking, motorcycling, ATV riding, 4 wheeling, rock climbing, bouldering, camping, trail running, hiking, dog walking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, snow biking, dog sledding, social gathering, target shooting, hunting and more.

Growing population puts additional pressure on recreational facilities and public lands. The changing composition of the population in terms of age and other factors further results in changing preferences and demands for recreation. According the Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the population in Gunnison County is expected to grow by 38% from 2007 to 2030.

Recreation Management Areas (RMAs) Designations - RMAs are classified as either special recreation management areas (SRMA) or extensive recreation management areas (ERMA). The RMAs are land units where Recreation and Visitor Services **(**R&VS) objectives are recognized as a primary resource management consideration and specific management is required to protect the recreation opportunities. The RMA designation is based on: recreation demand and issues, recreation setting characteristics, resolving use/user conflicts, compatibility with other resource uses, and resource protection needs.

1. Designation of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA).

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

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

where specific recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are managed and protected on a long-term basis.

2. Designation of Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA).

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

Management Focus. The ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. Management of ERMA areas is commensurate with the management of other resources and resource uses.

Roads and Trails - A variety of single track trails and roads exists within the planning area. The 2006 plan designated the current trail and road system at Hartman Rocks. Single track trails are used mainly by motorcycles, mountain bikes and foot travel. Trail difficulty level ranges from easy to very technical. Some of the trails were originally put in by users following old cow trails and erosion issues exist. Difficult trails are often used by riders that are not capable of riding them, making user created trails around difficult sections. Some trails have resource issues due to poor location and lack of maintenance. Some users feel that technical sections on trails are being lost while other trail users feel that not enough loop options and/or easy routes are provided at Hartman Rocks.

In 2010 the BLM completed a comprehensive travel plan for the Gunnison Field Office and all open routes in the approved 2006 Hartman Rocks Plan were adopted in the 2010 Travel Plan. All motorized and mechanized travel on BLM lands in the Gunnison Basin is limited to routes as defined in the 2010 Gunnison Basin Federal Lands Travel Management BLM Record of Decision. Trails and roads closed in the 2006 plan are still being used by visitors on occasion. These routes were closed for various resource reasons. Most closed routes are signed but obliteration has not been completed.

Hartman Rocks has miles of roads that are used by adaptive bicycles but trails designed for adaptive bikes have not been provided. Some people feel that BLM should consider constructing trails for adaptive bikes in Hartman Rocks. In 2013 2.7 miles of adaptive bike trails were constructed. These trails are being used by beginner motorcyclists and mountain bikers.

Vegetation loss from hang-out spots at intersections is a concern to some users. Other users are concerned about trails widening from overuse. Erosion on BLM Roads 3520c, 3054a and 3585a needs to be addressed. How will vegetation loss and erosion issues be addressed? Trail and road access across private property is an issue at some locations in Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. Public easements need to be put in place. Access and trespass from the subdivision near the Golf Course is also an issue.

Road and trail density is a factor that needs to be considered when planning new trails. According to the 2006 Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan approximately 1% of the planning area is denuded ground from roads and trails. However, a significant percent of planning area habitat is affected because of the presence of people. With human population growth people still want a high quality experience and dispersing people through trail development is important to maintain the feeling of remoteness and solitude.

Roads and Trails by Zone

	Front Country Zone	Middle Country Zone	Back Country Zone
Miles of Road	14 miles	16 miles	23 miles
Miles of Trail	14 miles	21 miles	11 miles

Shooting - Shooting is a valid recreation activity on BLM lands. However, recreational shooting at random locations within Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is causing safety concerns and user conflicts. Use levels at Hartman Rocks have increased to approximately 40,000 visits a year. Use levels estimated in the 2006 plan were estimated at 20,000 visits a year. One of the biggest concerns is increased recreational shooting in a fairly small geographic area with increased general recreation visitor use. The BLM has received verbal and written complaints from people feeling unsafe due to shooting. The majority of complaints came from people riding mountain bikes or motorcycles on trails. They hear gun shots being directed toward them or the trail they are riding on. One party even complained that bullets hit some rocks behind them. All reporting parties assume that the shooters had no idea that a single track trail exists just beyond the area they were shooting towards. The BLM has also had complaints of people shooting in the Ring Dike area where high use recreation activities happen like camping, rock climbing, hiking, running, motorcycling and mountain biking. This recreational shooting is usually pistol shooting at close range.

The 2006 Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan attempted to attract shooters to a target shooting area near the McCabe Lane entrance. This target shooting area was closed in 2013. The target shooting area had been successful in attracting people to shoot but the Target Shooting Area only offered space for one individual at a time. The demand for good shooting locations is very high at Hartman Rocks and although the Target Shooting Area had been successful it was not adequate. When the Target Shooting Area was occupied, people would find other places to shoot in Hartman Rocks and many of these locations are not safe. The Target Shooting Area did not offer shooting for more than one party at a time, the terrain would only allow for a maximum of 100 yard targets, the location of the shooting area was too

close to other recreation activities, and parking was inadequate at the target shooting area. Even though there was a large backstop at the Target Shooting Area the direction of shooting was toward the town of Gunnison. Because the Target Shooting Area only offered a maximum of 100 yard target shooting, people would set up targets west of the target shooting area so they could shoot farther distances. The direction they were shooting was toward the Terrain Park.

In November of 2013 the Gunnison Field Office temporarily closed portions of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area to dispersed target shooting due to safety concerns. The above mentioned Target Shooting Area is included in this closure. People are encouraged to dispersed target shoot at nearby locations on the fringes of the heavily used recreation area.

Prior to the closure of the Target Shooting Area Gunnison Field Office was not following agency policy, Instruction Memorandum No. 2008-074, by designating a Target Shooting Area open for public use. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may authorize shooting sports areas such as target ranges on public lands where they are consistent with the goals and objectives in the applicable resource management plan and would enhance public land management by improving public safety, providing recreational opportunities, providing firearms or archery safety and hunter education training for the community, or consolidating opportunities for dispersed target shooting.

Terrain Park/Rock Crawling/Open Play Areas/Trials Riding - Hartman Rocks Recreation Area attracts dirt bike or motorcycle users through single track trails and the Terrain Park. The Terrain Park was constructed to attempt to satisfy motor-cross needs that were no longer available at Hartman Rocks. The Terrain Park received limited use due to size of track area, lack of constructed features, beginner/kids track is too small without enough challenge, and lack of trailer parking. The Terrain Park does not contain jumps and no dirt was moved to construct features. The BLM has been approached repeatedly by this user group and asked if the BLM would consider a motor-cross style track instead of a terrain park. Local shops feel like this could increase business at the shops and economic opportunities in Gunnison.

The BLM has concerns about liability with a motor-cross style track. Currently the terrain park receives very little use. Some people say the track is too hard with too many turns. Others say that the track is not fun to use and does not contain enough jumps. Some people feel that opportunities for single track motorized use are very limited. Visitors are interested in expanding single motorized track trails off of the terrain park. Not all motorized users are wanting single track trail experience and are looking for a motor cross, hair scramble

experience. Expansion of motorized facilities off of the existing Terrain Park might concentrate motorized use near McCabe's Lane.

Some users are concerned that there is a lack of rock crawling routes at Hartman Rocks while other people feel that rock crawling is not an appropriate use at Hartman Rocks. The 2006 plan approved two locations for rock crawling routes but neither route was constructed.

An old gravel pit located between Behind the Rocks and Kill Hill serves as a play area for motorized and non-motorized recreationists. The trails in this area were designated as open to single track motorized users during the 2006 planning effort at Hartman Rocks but these trails are being used by double track vehicles as well as single track vehicles. The old gravel pit is approximately 3 acres in size and is denuded of vegetation due to the amount of use it receives. It is always busy and the area is starting to grow. People are encroaching on vegetation to park around this area. The old gravel pit is often used by families to help build motorized and non-motorized bike skills in a more controlled environment.

Trails are not provided on hard rock areas. Some mountain bikers and trials riders would like to be allowed to ride off trails on hard rock because they feel that hard rock sections would not be impacted from that type of use. Trials riding and rock hopping has been happening on hard rock surfaces with little impact. Recreationists have expressed interest in designating an area for this type of use.

Rock Climbing - Since the inception of the Hartman Rocks Plan, the popularity of climbing has grown at a level commensurate with other uses in the planning area. The "rock" of Hartman Rocks has been used by local climbers since the 1960's. Most of the early climbs at Hartman Rocks were high-ball bouldering problems or top roped climbs until a flurry of route development took place in the 1980's and early 1990's, resulting in most of the bolted routes of today. While the majority of sport and traditional use is focused in the Ring Dike area, the popularity of bouldering has increased in other areas of Hartman Rocks. Inherently, some impacts to the resource are an inevitable by-product of increased use. These impacts are typically impacts to the ground and vegetation at parking sites, user created access routes, and belay spots. Human waste is also becoming an issue in and around the rocks at Hartman Rocks.

Camping - Camping and impacts associated with camping are becoming more evident over time. Dispersed campsites are increasing in size especially at large group campsites where

vehicle use, sleeping areas and living areas are intermingling together. Vegetation loss and soil compaction are issues at campsites. Rock fire rings are littered with nails from pallet burning in dispersed campsites. Nails at dispersed campsites are causing flat tires on vehicles. Human waste at campsites is one of the biggest health hazards at Hartman Rocks. Human waste can be found around dispersed campsites. The number of campsites in the Front Country area is increasing.

Another issue with camping and other night life activities is unattended campfires. In the past, unattended campfires in Hartman Rocks have caused small wildfires to start. Currently, campfires can be started in any location. People normally build a fire ring out of rocks but some people do not, increasing the spread potential.

Hartman Rocks has very little fuel for burning in campfires. Trees are not abundant and the few trees that are in the area have been damaged by people trying to find firewood. Some people have started burning sage brush and people often bring in wood pallets to burn. Wood pallets leave behind nails.

Parking/Facilities - With growing visitation parking lots are too small. Internal parking areas for various recreation activities are not provided. Use is thereby limited and people expand areas as they fill up with vehicles. This user created expansion of parking areas is impacting vegetation and soils. Sometimes these parking impacts are in undesirable locations. Parking is also impacting camping sites where vehicles are often parked next to or in places where tents are set up. This has created a safety issue with not having barriers between vehicles parking and living spaces at dispersed campsites, especially in high use areas. How will the BLM provide for future growth and facility development?

Use Levels and Education - Currently Hartman Rocks receives approximately 40,000 visits annually. Kiosks maps with limited education messages and rules are posted at key intersections at Harman Rocks. A brochure developed by partners of Hartman Rocks along with BLM is distributed throughout the community and at the Hartman Rocks Base Area.

Special Recreation Permits and Events - An increase in Special Recreation Permits and events has been noticed by the BLM permit administrator. Concerns that events and outfitters could displace visitors could be an issue. Some people have commented that they feel like motorized events are not welcome at Hartman Rocks. Others are concerned that some motorized events could have a negative impact on trails and roads.

Law Enforcement - High visitor use levels require extra efforts in law enforcement. Shooting issues, social gathering, extended camping and residency issues, and trail poaching all need constant attention at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

Winter Recreation - Some recreationists have expressed a need for longer distance groomed ski trails at Hartman Rocks. People have also expressed the need for some shorter loop options. Mixed use issues do exist between the different uses. Groomed cross country ski routes are often impacted by foot and dog traffic. Winter "fat tire" biking can also impact groomed ski trails when warm conditions make the snow soft, leaving bike tire ruts in the snow. Fat tire bikers ride on groomed or packed trails and usually stay within a 1-3 mile radius of the trailhead.

3.1.2 Environmental Effects/Mitigation

3.1.2.1 Actions Common to All Alternative Except the No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

The action alternatives divide Hartman Rocks into three recreation management units, Front Country, Middle Country and Back Country. This assists in future recreation development and expansion at Hartman Rocks.

Recreation Management Areas (RMAs) Designations – The action alternatives designate 14,423 acres as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Hartman Rocks has been managed for recreation outcomes for the past 15+ years. The area has unique value and provides important benefits to recreationists and the local community. There is no other area like Hartman Rocks in the Gunnison Basin. Recreation and visitor services are recognized as the predominant Land Use Planning focus within Hartman Rocks. In the action alternatives, Hartman Rocks has been subdivided into recreation management zones to further delineate specific recreation opportunities. Designation of the SRMA is designed to manage and protect recreation setting characteristics on a long term basis. The main focus of management at Hartman Rocks is recreation and is not commensurate with most other resource management objectives therefore the Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) designation does not fit with the management of Hartman Rocks.

Roads and Trails – The action alternatives would allow the BLM to obliterate closed routes as necessary to reduce soil compaction, erosion, and address negative visual impacts. However some of the routes proposed for obliteration are used by hikers/runners and completing full

obliteration of these routes could displace runners and hikers. The action alternatives also allows for trail expansion and technical hard rock riding for both motorized and non-motorized users. The action alternatives give direction as to where the expansion of trails and roads would be preferred. The action alternatives also allow for Hartman Rocks to open earlier in the spring to alleviate recreation pressure in areas with Gunnison sage-grouse leks.

Opportunities for trail and road users would continue in most locations except that four roads currently designated as open in the Gunnison Basin Federal Lands Travel Management Plan would be closed or change designation.

- BLM road 3520c, located just north of the open play area, is proposed to be closed due to erosion issues. This road is a parallel route and closing this road will not stop reasonable access to that area of Hartman Rocks. Therefor the consequence of closing this route will have little impact to the recreating public.

- BLM Road 3054a is proposed to be closed due to accelerated erosion. This road is located off of McCabes and has no other access or exit points. It is unknown at to the exact recreation benefit visitors receive from this route. It is more than likely used by 4x4 vehicles exploring the area. BLM Road 3054s is disconnected from the majority of recreation activities at Hartman Rocks and will have little effect on the majority of recreation users. However, closing this route could displace a minor number of recreation users.

- The BLM would close BLM Road **3585a,** which is a cut-across route between 3585 and 3557. The route is rarely used, it has caused soil erosion and does not meet land health standards. The route is a cut across route just south of the Aberdeen Loop. Because it receives little use the closure would have little effect on the recreating public.

- East half **3505b** is a redundant route and has some resource issues. This road would become a single track motorized trail. Closing this road to full sized vehicles might frustrate visitors as to how to get to the Tailpipe Parking Area.

The action alternatives would close a total of 1.9 miles of roads within Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. 1.75 miles are located in the Backcountry Zone and .15 is located in the front country zone. This would reduce total road miles to 51.1 miles within Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

<u>Rock Climbing</u> – Designating climbing routes in the action alternatives has no impact on current recreation use at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. However, if future BLM management actions

put bolting moratoriums in place or close climbing routes this could have an impact on the climbing community. Depending on factors such as number of routes closed and the area a bolting moratorium would encompass, the BLM may need to reassess how to meet the needs of the climbing community through a separate climbing plan. The action alternatives will attempt to minimize route proliferation, soil compaction and vegetation loss in access and belay locations. These actions should have minimal impact on climbers. Human waste around climbing crags is being addressed in this plan through facility development and would be a positive impact to climbers for health and safety reasons.

Camping/Campfires – The action alternatives would stop the number of campsites from increasing and stop campsites from developing in undesirable locations. The plan leaves discretion for BLM managers to close campsites or develop new campsites based on changing conditions. This is a positive action for visitors as managers can attempt to meet the needs of visitors yet provide some form of resource protection. Designating campsites may help visitors find adequate campsites though information and signing. However , it may make some visitors feel too regulated at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area and those individuals may decide to move to other areas outside Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. The action alternatives would slow vegetation encroachment around campsites by delineating campsites. It also addresses safety issues with living spaces and vehicles. Campfires being contained to improved firegrates will reduce wildfire risks in the urban interface. Not allowing firewood gathering would reduce tree and vegetation loss throughout Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. The action alternatives addresses human waste issues related to camping. This should improve health and safety.

Not allowing pallet burning at Hartman Rocks may impact some users financially and benefit others. When people burn pallets as campfire wood they leave behind the nails. The nails are then often a source of flat tires. They can also become a hazard to people with no shoes or thin soled shoes. Purchasing firewood from local stores or gathering firewood in advance of a camping trip may be a financial burden and an inconvenience for some users. Others would benefit from the safety aspect and the financial aspect of not having tires repaired. This proposal would eventually decrease maintenance costs at Hartman Rocks. Seasonal crews and volunteers spend countless hours cleaning up nails around fire rings. Maintenance time will be reduced with the proposed action.

Parking/Facilities - With growing population parking areas are too small and the action alternatives will benefit visitors with adequate parking. It is anticipated that the Field Office will increase maintenance costs to pump toilets by approximately $4000 annually. The BLM is already cleaning campsites and that maintenance work load will not change with the action alternatives compared to what is happening now.

Use Levels and Education – The action alternatives address use levels through facility development. As visitation increases at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area the BLM will be able to manage that use through facility development to minimize resource impacts and trail construction to disperse users. Most recreationists want a certain amount of isolation and solitude and the proposed action tries to continue to provide that for most visitors. However, visitation continues to trend upward and the action alternatives do not guarantee isolation and solitude for every visitor. The alternatives encourage BLM to develop and increase interpretive and education programs which will help reduce visitor resource impacts. However, this may be too regulatory for some visitors and they may choose another area away from Hartman Rocks to enjoy recreation activities.

Special Recreation Permits and Events – SRPs and events can sometimes displace users that intend to recreate at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area and this can sometimes have a short term negative affect on the visitor. People sometimes feel intimidated by the size of the event and don't feel welcome even though events and SRPs are not allowed exclusive use. SRPs and Special Events often have an economic benefit to the local community.

Law Enforcement and Regulations – These action alternatives would implement supplemental rules that would allow Law Enforcement Officers to enforce regulations that would be put into place for Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. These regulations will help resource protection on BLM lands but may make people feel over regulated and they may choose an area away from Hartman Rock to enjoy their recreation activities.

Winter Recreation

Groomed cross country ski trails would not expand in the Common to All Alternative. Skiers would not have the option of longer or new shorter loops being groomed.

Snowmobile use is not popular in rocky lower elevations in the Gunnison Basin due to poor snow conditions and the possibility of hitting rocks while riding. Groomed ski trails at Hartman Rocks are open to snowmobile use and Hartman Rocks sees less than 5 recreational snowmobile visits on groomed ski trails each season. The action alternatives do not allow cross country travel on the 14,423 acres in Hartman Rocks; that leaves the remaining 570,000 acres of the Gunnison Field Office for cross country winter travel.

Cumulative Effects:
Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and the action alternatives develop the framework to deal with increased visitor use by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. The action alternatives would mitigate the effects of human use impacts from increased recreation use. Hartman Rocks is the only open area for people to recreate during severe winters and every spring due to sage-grouse conservation closures. Hartman Rocks Recreation Area takes recreation pressure off of other areas of the field office during these closures.

3.1.2.2 Alternative 2 - Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects
The proposed action provides opportunity for facility growth and other management actions to minimize impacts and so to facilitate visitor use increases.

The tourism and outdoor recreation economies in Gunnison County benefit from a balanced year-round visitor base. The Proposed Action Alternative offers year round recreation thus helping the local economy.

Roads and Trails - The road proposed to be closed to full-size vehicles will help prevent littering and vandalism on the adjacent private property. This closure may have an effect on people looking for an easy to drive to vista of the Gunnison Basin. Three other known vistas exist in the nearby area and people that enjoyed that vista will be directed to those other areas. The social gathering spot at the end of BLM Road 3515b will not become a designated campsite. Nightlife social gathering will be directed to campsites that contain approved fire grates.

Shooting – The proposed target shooting closure would impact 4,363 acres of public land in the existing 585,000 acre Gunnison Field Office. This represents less than 1% of available target shooting in the Field Office. There are 40,000 visits annually within the 14,423 acre Hartman Rocks Recreation Area, and it is estimated that 90% of the 40,000 visits happen with the 4,363 acre proposed target shooting closure. Approximately 2,752 acres of the proposed target shooting closure are located in the Middle Country Zone which contains 21 miles of single track trail and 16 miles of road. Approximately 1,611 acres of the proposed target shooting closure is located in the Front Country Zone which contains 14 miles of single track trail, 14 miles of roads, 43 dispersed campsites, 24 climbing crags, dispersed bouldering routes, 5 kiosk parking areas, 1 terrain park, 1 open play area, and 1 rock crawling area. The loss of less than 1% of the Gunnison Field Office would leave 99% available for target shooting. Closing 4,363 acres to recreational target shooting would improve safety, consistent with BLMs shooting policy, and improve safety in an area with the highest concentration of recreation visits.

The original proposal was to close 5,135 acres to target shooting and after individual meetings with target shooting enthusiasts, Gunnison County Sheriff Office, and The Gunnison Sportman's Club the shooting groups contacted were supportive of the closure but thought removing a 772 acre area from the proposed target shooting closure would allow for continued shooting and still provide safety to other recreationists. The BLM agreed and modified the proposed action accordingly.

The proposed action allows for dispersed recreational target shooting yet minimizes recreational shooting and trail use conflicts in Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. People can continue to enjoy dispersed target shooting behind the new OHV Parking Area. The OHV parking area is located east of the Terrain Park near the McCabe's Lane entrance to Hartman Rocks. The proposed action may result in the displacement of recreational target shooters to undesirable locations. South of the Power Line is open to recreational target shooting and single track trails exist south of the Power Line. If people shoot towards trails south of the Power Line, use conflicts and potential safety hazards will still exist. People will hear gunshots just as they did at the existing Target Shooting Area.

Hunting would continue to be allowed at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. There would be no effect to people hunting.

<u>Terrain Park/Rock Crawling/Open Play Area/Trials Riding</u>

The Proposed Action Alternative allows for the expansion of the Terrain Park and identifies potential locations of the expansion if desired. The proposed action allows for a motor-cross track to be constructed if a partner is found who would maintain and administer the motor-cross track. The motor-cross track may alleviate over-crowding on single track trails during heavy use times by drawing more motorcycles to the track that would rather have the track experience instead of the trail experience. This was part of the reasoning to construct the Terrain Park after the 2006 Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan was complete. The Terrain Park receives low use. It is not certain as to why the use has not increased. Some users feel that a motor-cross track would provide what is desired by this user group. Some people say the track is too hard with too many turns. Others say that the track is not fun to use and does not contain enough jumps. The proposed action attempts to provide the direction for the motor-cross track option.

The 3-acre Open Play Area is growing in size and the proposed action addresses this by installing a barrier around this area. This would contain use within a boundary that currently

does not exist. The open play area was designated as single track trails but the area is being used as a playground for all kinds of vehicles. This alternative allows all uses in the Open Play Area. The proposed open play area is constantly being used by people recreating, and keeping this site for motorized use will assist the BLM in meeting the demand for this type of use. Noise around the site could be an issue for private land owners below. However, BLM has not received any complaints from private home owners that the current noise levels are an issue. The BLM does not foresee a dramatic change in how this area will be used in the future because the area will be contained to a limited size and will not accommodate large numbers of recreationists.

The Proposed Action alternative allows for the development of a Rock Crawling Trail. This could alleviate pressure to other areas of the Field Office that are seeing resource impacts from rock crawling. There are several people that own rock crawlers in the Gunnison Basin and those people travel far distances just to use their vehicles. The proposed rock crawling trail is not intended to be a destination location for visitors but a location for local citizens to benefit from this experience. One impact from this proposal is the potential for mountain bike/motorcycle conflict because the location of the rock crawling trail goes through a disconnected section of the Ring Dike Trail.

The opportunity is available to develop a trials riding/rock hopping area in the ring dike. This provides an experience and an acceptable place to ride for people who trials ride. This proposal allows for trials riding competitions which could economically benefit the local community by bringing people into Gunnison for the event.

Winter Recreation – The increase in ski trail grooming will help disperse people as population increases maintaining options for more solitude and a wide range of experiences. Although use is not currently at an overwhelming level it is projected to increase in the next 30 years. Longer trail loop options will benefit the public looking for varying trail lengths. The loop options near Kill Hill will also satisfy the desire for shorter trails with less intensity. This has been a desire for families and youth. All cross country ski trail grooming will be completed by partners and the current partner has indicated that they have the capability and desire to groom more trails for cross country skiing.

Providing groomed ski trails in a concentrated area provides needed recreation facilities as use increases at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. Increased ski trails in Hartman helps concentrate use to this specific recreation area and may reduce dispersed winter recreation in other areas of the field office.

Cumulative Effects

Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and the proposed action develops the framework to deal with increased visitor use by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. The proposed action including: installing toilets; designating campsites; concentrating specific uses to small geographic areas; designating climbing access routes; imposing firewood regulations; and pallet burning regulations would mitigate the effects of human use impacts from increased recreation use. Hartman Rocks is the only open area for people to recreate during severe winters and every spring due to sage-grouse conservation closures. Hartman Rocks Recreation Area takes recreation pressure off of other areas of the field office during these closures. The construction and use of a motor-cross track and building more motorized opportunities may alleviate single track motorized use in other areas of the field office during the snow free season. Recreational target shooters will be displaced and have to find other shooting opportunities inside and outside the planning area. Providing groomed ski trails in a concentrated area provides needed recreation facilities as use increases at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. Increased ski trails in Hartman helps concentrate use to this specific area and may reduce dispersed winter recreation in other areas of the field office.

3.1.2.3. Alternative 1 - No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects

The No Action Alternative is to continue to manage under the direction of the 2006 Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP.) The 2006 Plan has some good direction and most of the projects in that plan have been completed. Increased visitor use and human use issues have led us to the point of updating the 2006 plan to help guide us into the future, thus a new plan. The no action alternative does not specifically address visitor use increases and human use impacts. It does not give specific direction for current shooting conflicts, camping impacts, climbing impacts or route restoration.

Under the No Action Alternative visitor health and safety could be jeopardized because shooting conflicts are not clearly addressed and conditions have changed since the 2006 plan. Selecting this alternative has the potential to have a negative impact on human health and safety.

This alternative does not give clear direction on camping or climbing at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area and these activities would continue to have visitor use impacts that are not contained or planned. This would eventually negatively affect the recreation resource.

The 2006 RAMP designated open routes and all other routes were closed but the RAMP did not specify how those routes would be closed. This has a negative impact on the resource in general because routes have been closed with signs but the scars on the ground were not been addressed in the 2006 RAMP. This alternative would result in a continued negative visual effect on the recreation resource.

Cumulative Effects

The No Action alternative does not mitigate the effects of increased recreation use and human use impacts associated with increased visitation at Hartman Rocks. Selecting this alternative has the potential to have a negative impact on human health and safety. Not addressing issues would eventually negatively affect the recreation resource.

3.1.2.4. Alternative 3 - Limited Recreation Action

Direct and Indirect Effects - The Limited Recreation Action Alternative addresses many issues at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area by placing limits on development.

Open Play Area, Rock Crawling, Trials Riding - It eliminates the Open Play area and restores the old gravel pit to a natural condition. This would negatively affect the people currently using the old gravel pit area by displacing them and not providing them a place or facility to recreate.

The Rock Crawling Route would not be constructed in this alternative. The closest rock crawling trails to Gunnison are located in Montrose. People are currently using hard rock features at Hartman Rocks for very limited rock crawling. Not providing rock crawlers a place to recreate could cause more resource damage in Hartman Rocks and around the Field Office because users would go elsewhere to pursue this activity in areas that are more sensitive than Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

Trials riding would not be allowed at Hartman Rocks under this alternative. Not giving this type of rider a place for their experience could result in resource damage in other places at Hartman Rocks.

Shooting - This alternative would close all of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area to Recreational Target Shooting. The Target Shooting Area would be closed in this alternative. Although this may reduce conflicts between users it would displace many shooters and not give them a place to go. This could increase conflicts in other areas of the field office.

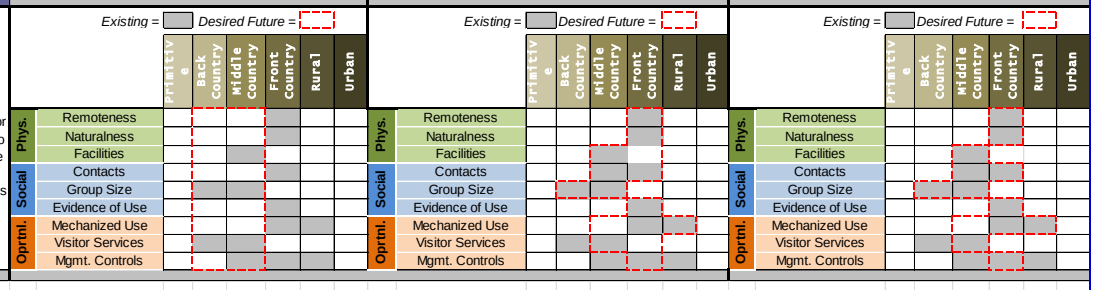
Winter Recreation - The cross country ski trail system would expand slightly under this alternative but not as much as the proposed action. This alternative does not give options for the future expansion and visitor use increase.

Cumulative Effects

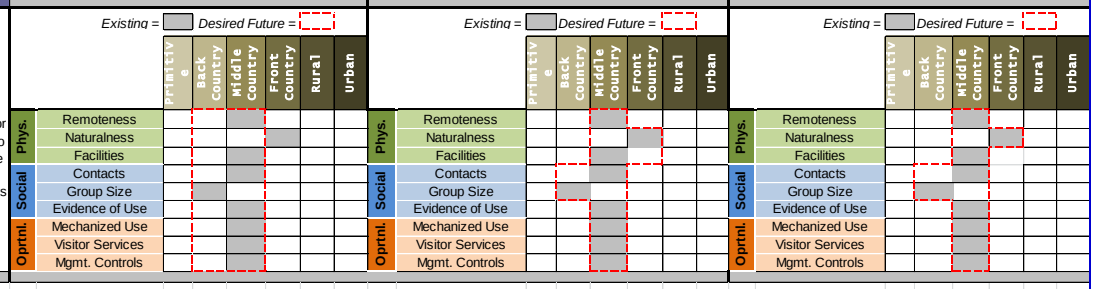
This alternative does not mitigate the effects of increased recreation use at Hartman Rocks. It does not allow shooting, the construction of a rock crawling route, or the designation of the open play area. This alternative does not address where these people will go to recreate after they are displaced and could force people to go elsewhere to pursue recreation activities in areas that are more sensitive than Hartman Rocks Recreation Area

Recreation Setting Classification Matrix by Alternative

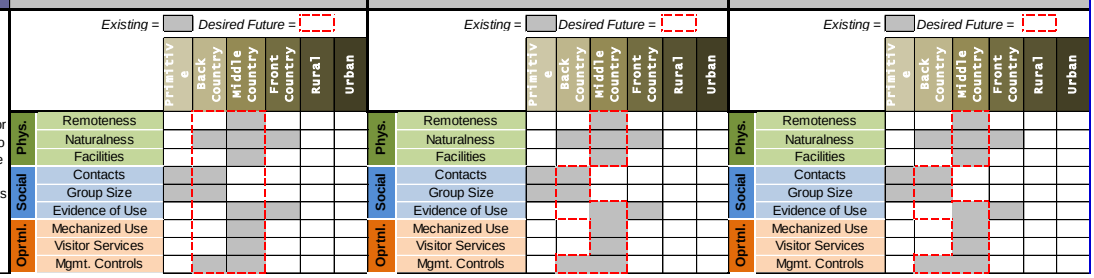
RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE: Front Country	Alternative 1 -- No Action Goal: Continues current management direction and prevailing conditions derived from existing planning documents.	Alternative 2 -- Proposed Action	Alternative 3 -- Limited Recreation
Essential Setting Character Conditons: setting class conditions for setting attributes needed to produce targeted outcome opportunities and associated activities/outings	Existing = Desired Future =	Existing = Desired Future =	Existing = Desired Future =



RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE: Middle Country	Alternative 1 -- No Action Goal: Continues current management direction and prevailing conditions derived from existing planning documents.	Alternative 2 -- Proposed Action	Alternative 3 -- Limited Recreation
Essential Setting Character Conditons: setting class conditions for setting attributes needed to produce targeted outcome opportunities and associated activities/outings	Existing = Desired Future =	Existing = Desired Future =	Existing = Desired Future =



RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE: Back Country	Alternative 1 -- No Action Goal: Continues current management direction and prevailing conditions derived from existing planning documents.	Alternative 2 -- Proposed Action	Alternative 3 -- Limited Recreation
Essential Setting Character Conditons: setting class conditions for setting attributes needed to produce targeted outcome opportunities and associated activities/outings	Existing = Desired Future =	Existing = Desired Future =	Existing = Desired Future =



3.2. Migratory Birds

3.2.1. Affected Environment

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 was passed to regulate the taking of native birds. In 2001, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13186 (66 FR 3853), which directs federal agencies to further implement the MBTA by considering the effects of projects and actions on migratory birds. Pursuant to this Executive Order, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), BLM and Forest Service are developing a Memorandum of Understanding which requires agencies to review the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list for species that may breed within a project area. When reviewing the effects of projects and actions on migratory birds, species on the BCC list should be emphasized. Birds on the list for the Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau region which may breed within Hartman Rocks recreation area are the golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), prairie falcon (Falco mexicanus), Lewis woodpecker (Melanerpes lewis), and sage sparrow (Amphispiza belli).

Golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and prairie falcons all nest on cliffs such as those found in the Hartman Rocks area. Lewis woodpeckers breed primarily in riparian habitats where they nest in mature cottonwoods (Kuenning 1998). They typically choose snags, trees weakened by fire, and natural cavities for nesting sites. Sage sparrows nest within sizable (>30 acres), low-elevation (<8400 ft) stands of big sagebrush or mixed big sagebrush and greasewood. They construct cup nests, usually at mid-bush level with sufficient foliage above to conceal the nest (Lambeth 1998).

3.2.2. Environmental Effects/Mitigation

3.2.2.1. Proposed Action and Actions Common to All Alternative Except the No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

The proposed action protects areas where rock-climbing may adversely impact cliff-nesting birds, including eagles and falcons, by instituting rock-climbing closures around their nests during the breeding season (May 15 through July 15). Designated climbing crags will be monitored each spring to determine if there are active nests in the area. These mitigation measures should eliminate the risk of taking cliff nesting birds or their nests.

To avoid take of migratory birds or their nests, construction of trails, parking lots, and other infrastructure where vegetation will be cleared should occur outside the passerine breeding season of May 15 through July 15. If done within this time period, nest surveys will be conducted before work is initiated.

Cumulative Effects:
Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and this plan develops the framework to deal with the increased amount of recreation in this area by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks. Although there will be a small increase in the total amount of roads and trails in the region, the proposed action will help decrease impacts from increased use and define where these actions need to take place to lower threats across the region. By focusing on recreation in this area, surrounding areas may receive less impact from recreation and therefore a lower impact on migratory birds overall.

3.2.2.2. No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects
The no action alternative currently protects cliff-nesting birds, including eagles and falcons, by instituting rock-climbing closures around their nests during the breeding season (May through July 15). Designated climbing crags will be monitored each spring to determine if there are active nests in the area. Under this alternative rock climbing closures will eliminate the risk of taking cliff nesting birds or their nests

Under this alternative timing restrictions occur only on building new trails within the terrain park and jeep course. This will prevent harassment of these birds.

Cumulative Effects

By not specifically defining the future of recreation in the Hartman Rocks area by providing for the needs of increased recreation, activities such as camping in undesignated spots, trampling vegetation with parking, and other impacts associated with recreation will have a greater impact to migratory birds in the region. It may also push recreation into areas outside the recreation area which will have a greater impact on migratory birds.

3.2.2.3. Alternative 3 – Limited Recreation Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects
Effects will be similar to the no action alternative as there will be no construction of a motocross park. Less of an area will be cleared of vegetation but construction conducted outside of migratory nesting periods would mitigate this issue.

Cumulative Effects
Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and this plan develops the framework to deal with the increased amount of recreation in this area by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks. Although there may be a small increase in the total amount of roads and trails in the region, the proposed action will help decrease impacts from increased use and

define where these actions need to take place to lower threats across the region. By focusing on recreation in this area, surrounding areas may receive less impact from recreation and therefore a lower impact on migratory birds overall.

3.3. Wildlife

3.3.1. Affected Environment

All of the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area has been identified by the Colorado Dept. of Parks and Wildlife as critical winter range for big game. In the winter, food plants for these species are scarce and the nutritional value of the plants is reduced. As snow covers the vegetation at higher elevations big game herds migrate down to lower elevations to try to find food plants that haven't been covered by snow. The deeper the snow the less land is available as winter range and big game herds are concentrated on smaller patches of critical winter range. These areas are particularly critical during heavy snow years (perhaps 1 in 10 years) because more animals are trying to feed on very limited habitat in the lower elevations. This means that the vegetation needs to be managed to maintain the forage that animals rely on. If there is human use on these areas of winter range the animals may feel threatened and may have to expend extra energy to escape. Winter recreation activities by people and their pets should be managed in a way to allow some safe areas for wildlife to occupy without being disturbed. In rare years when snowfall is heavy enough it could be necessary to restrict all human use to allow animals to make use of the critical winter range without disturbance. In the past during years of high snowfall, land management agencies closed all public lands in lower elevations to human use except Hartman Rocks Recreation Area to help deer and elk and concentrate recreation use.

The Hartman Rocks Recreation Area has a variety of habitat types including sagebrush shrublands, gravelly slopes with dry site vegetation including juniper and yucca, perennial and intermittent streams with associated riparian areas, and rock outcrops with cliffs, ledges, and talus slopes. These varied habitats support a diversity of wildlife including deer, elk, pronghorn, cottontails, white-tailed jackrabbits, coyotes, bobcats, a variety of small mammals, raptors, and migratory birds. Deer are found in the analysis area throughout the year. The entire recreation area is within elk and mule deer winter range and includes severe winter range in the northern part of the analysis area. Deer are found in large concentration during winter in the area, while elk tend to use it in severe winters. The majority of wintering deer in the analysis area are found near the flats along South Beaver Creek and south of the powerline.

3.3.2. Environmental Effects/Mitigation

3.3.2.1. Proposed Action and Actions Common to All Alternative Except the No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

Recreation has been occurring in the Hartman Rocks area for many years, with most trails designated under this Proposed Action already established. Generally, wildlife will be maintained and benefit from the more defined management goals in this proposed action based from the increased management and monitoring of recreational activity in the Hartman Rocks area. By continuing the designation of specific routes that are open to recreationists and closing any unauthorized trails that are created, existing wildlife habitat will be maintained and disturbances will not extend into areas without designated trails. With designated routes, recreational use can be more predictable, allowing wildlife to find secure areas where recreationists are less likely to intrude.

Winter recreation is a concern to big game in the area. The expansion of ski trails to the west of existing trails and south of the power line, under the Proposed Action, will continue to push wintering game out of the area. Currently, there is a buffer between heavy winter use and where the concentration of game is along South Beaver Creek and south of the powerline. The new trails will decrease the buffer and cause disturbance to animals already at low body reserves and will displace animals to other areas.

Cumulative Effects:

Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and this plan develops the framework to deal with the increased amount of recreation in this area by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks. Although there may be a small increase in the total amount of roads and trails in the region, the proposed action will help decrease impacts from increased use and define where these actions need to take place to lower threats across the region. By focusing on recreation in this area, surrounding areas may receive less impact from recreation and therefore a lower impact on wildlife overall.

3.3.2.2. No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

With this alternative, wildlife will not benefit from the priority to obliterate and restore closed trails. Fragmentation is high in the project area with current management under the existing plan, fragmentation is not addressed to the level that is necessary to ensure habitat continues to provide the necessary functions for wildlife.

This alternative does offer the needed protection of wintering habitat since there are no additional miles of groomed ski routes in winter/ severe winter habitat offering big game the higher value winter habitat.

Cumulative Effects

By not specifically defining the future of recreation in the Hartman Rocks area by providing for the needs of increased recreation, activities such as camping in undesignated spots, trampling vegetation with parking, and other impacts associated with recreation will have a greater impact to wildlife in the region. It may also push recreation into areas outside the recreation area which will have a greater impact on wildlife.

3.3.2.3 Alternative 3 – Limited Recreation

Direct and Indirect Effects

Recreation has been occurring in the Hartman Rocks area for many years, with most trails designated under this alternative already established. Generally, wildlife will be maintained and benefit from the more defined management goals in this alternative based from the increased management and monitoring of recreational activity in the Hartman Rocks area. By continuing the designation of specific routes that are open to recreationists and closing any unauthorized trails that are created, existing wildlife habitat will be maintained and disturbances will not extend into areas without designated trails. With designated routes, recreational use can be more predictable, allowing wildlife to find secure areas where recreationists are less likely to intrude.

Winter recreation is a concern to big game in the area. The expansion of ski trails to the west of existing trails under this action will continue to push wintering game out of the area. Currently, there is a buffer between heavy winter use and where the concentration of game is along South Beaver Creek. The new trails will decrease the buffer and cause disturbance to animals already at low body reserves and will displace animals to other areas.

Cumulative Effects

Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and this plan develops the framework to deal with the increased amount of recreation in this area by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks. Although there will be a small increase in the total amount of roads and trails in the region, the proposed action will help decrease impacts from increased use and define where these actions need to take place to lower threats across the region. By focusing on recreation in this area, surrounding areas may receive less impact from recreation and therefore a lower impact on wildlife overall in the region.

3.4. Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

3.4.1. Affected Environment

Of the plant and animal species occupying the Gunnison Field Office area that are federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species, or BLM sensitive species, those that warrant discussion under this Environmental Analysis are the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), Gunnison Sage-grouse (Centrocercus minimus), Gunnison's prairie dog (Cynomys gunnisoni), skiff milkvetch (Astragalus microcymbus), Gunnison milkvetch (Astragalus anisus), and Crandall's rock-cress (Boechera crandallii). The Gunnison Sage-grouse, Gunnison's prairie dog, and skiff milkvetch are candidate species for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act; the bald eagle and Crandall's rockcress are BLM sensitive species.

Bald eagles occupy the Gunnison Basin during the winter. The northern 20% or so of the Hartman Rocks recreation area is within a bald eagle winter concentration area as designated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (http://www.ndis.nrel.colostate.edu). This portion of the Hartman Rocks recreation area is just south of and above the Gunnison River. In the winter, eagles may venture to this area to roost and hunt. Although they are primarily fish eaters, bald eagles will also feed upon carrion and small mammals, especially rabbits which are common in the Hartman Rocks area.

In 2000 the Gunnison sage-grouse was recognized as a distinct species from the greater sage-grouse that occurs in scattered populations in the western U.S. Both species are declining but the Gunnison sage-grouse has a much smaller range limited to southwest Colorado and a small portion of southeast Utah. This range has been shrinking over the years and the population of the bird in the remaining habitat has also been declining. The Gunnison Basin has the largest remaining population of this sensitive species. The Gunnison sage-grouse is classified as a candidate species under the Federal Endangered Species Act and it is proposed for listing. Hartman Rocks Recreation Area includes habitat for this scarce species. Current levels of recreation use here have probably pushed the bird out of some suitable habitat. The entire Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is within Gunnison Sage-grouse (GUSG) occupied habitat. There are two active sage grouse leks within the recreation area and one active lek exists within about two miles of its boundary; another 3 inactive leks are about two miles from the recreation area. The Gunnison Sage-Grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan [RCP] (Gunnison Sage-Grouse Rangewide Steering Committee 2005) designates areas within a 4-mile radius of a lek as non-lek breeding habitat and summer-fall habitat. This is based upon studies of GUSG which indicate that 85% of all GUSG nests and 81% of all GUSG breeding and summer-fall seasonal locations are within four miles of the lek of capture. Almost the entire Hartman Rocks recreation area is within 4 miles of a lek, and therefore within non-lek breeding habitat and

summer-fall habitat. The recreation area includes nesting/early brood-rearing habitat and winter habitat within stands of sagebrush, and brood-rearing habitat along riparian areas.

Gunnison's prairie dogs have established some new colonies along McCabe's Lane on the northern boundary of the recreation area. Prairie dogs are found in colonies throughout the Gunnison Basin. Plague has had a recent effect on several of the populations. Most of the sites that prairie dogs inhabit are sagebrush/grass montane habitats. Prairie dogs are often referred as a keystone species benefitting a multitude of wildlife species.

Skiff milkvetch (*Astragalus microcymbus*) is a BLM sensitive and Candidate plant species ranked as G1S1, globally critically imperiled (CNHP 2014), that occurs in the Hartman Rocks Plan area within the South Beaver Creek watershed southwest of Gunnison. Soil compaction from motorized and mechanized use can negatively affect this plant species. Noxious and invasive weeds may impact populations of skiff milkvetch and can be spread from the tires of vehicles or bicycles along trails and roads. Other vectors for transportation of noxious weed seed also include people's clothing, dogs, wildlife, livestock, wind, and water.

The South Beaver Creek ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) was created to protect the skiff milkvetch population in 1993 when the Resource Management Plan was developed for the Gunnison Field Office. The Recreation Area overlaps the ACEC. Most closed routes within the ACEC have been signed closed and some work has been made to obliterate these routes and restore natural habitat. Additional route obliteration work would assist with the conservation of the skiff milkvetch.

The species occurs as small, scattered colonies throughout the ACEC and surrounding areas. The plant grows in dry, sandy to gravelly soils in open sagebrush or juniper-sagebrush dominated communities on relatively steep slopes and at elevations between 7,600 and 8,400 feet (Denver Botanic Gardens 2004). Colonies are typically on SE to SW exposures, although surveys from the past several years have found them on flats near existing colonies.

Although also an endemic to the Gunnison Basin, Gunnison milkvetch is relatively widespread and common in the sagebrush steppe community. During surveys conducted in the Gunnison Basin, four populations of Gunnison milkvetch were identified in the Hartman Rocks recreation area (Wasson 1998). This was not a comprehensive survey of the area, so other populations may exist. The species prefers dry habitat with south to southwestern aspects on slopes of 2 to 20 degrees and at elevations between 7500 and 9400 feet (Wasson 1998, Spackman 1997).

Although there are no known populations of Crandall Rockcress in the Hartman Rocks recreation area, the habitat in the area is suitable. This species prefers rocky sagebrush areas, rock outcrops, cliffs, and talus slopes.

3.4.2. Environmental Effects/Mitigation

3.4.2.1. Proposed Action and Actions Common to All Alternative Except the No Action Alternative:

Direct and Indirect Effects

Bald Eagle: Currently, there are no ski trails in the northern part of Hartman Rocks within the mapped bald eagle winter concentration area. The proposed action identifies groomed trails within this mapped area. Winter habitat is classified as mature cottonwoods and other trees near the stream offering perch sites for eagles. Surveys would be conducted to ensure these trails located within winter concentration did not offer proper habitat for bald eagles.

Gunnison Sage-grouse: As stated in the previous plan, this area offers habitat for all lifestages for the grouse but years of heavy use has probably displaced grouse in the area.

Lekking: Timing limitations (March 15-May 15th) already in place south of the powerline will continue to help to reduce disturbance to lekking grouse in the area.

Nesting/Brood Rearing Habitat: By reclaiming closed trails and roads, and continuing to carefully plan where future activities will occur, effects to nesting/brood rearing habitat should not increase under this proposed action.

Winter: Currently, with limited winter recreation in the area, the Hartman Rocks area provides quality winter habitat with little disturbance. Under this alternative, ski trails in the area will increase by 13 miles and may have increased impacts on wintering grouse, especially along the South Beaver drainage and along/south of the powerline road. Impacts include increased disturbance from grooming, use of the trails and impacts associated from recreation such as pets, increased noise, and direct disturbance.

Gunnison's Prairie Dog: Currently there is one prairie dog colony within the Hartman Rocks planning area. There are currently no roads or trails planned under the proposed action in the area of the colony and there is no perceived disturbance from the actions on prairie dogs.

Skiff Milkvetch: Currently, fragmentation from recreation is a significant threat to skiff milkvetch in the Hartman Rocks planning area (USFWS 2010). Under the proposed action,

closed trails will be revegetated to ensure use on them does not continue. Future routes and re-alignments will require full field clearances to ensure trails, parking lots, and other recreation infrastructure will not impact known populations and suitable habitat within the planning area.

Gunnison Milkvetch: Although Gunnison milkvetch is endemic to the Gunnison Basin, it is fairly common and widespread. Colonies and potential habitat of this plant will be protected by continuing to limit motorbikes and mountain bikes to designated routes, and closing unauthorized routes that are created.

Crandall Rockcress: If Crandall rockcress exists within the recreation area, it would also be protected by these actions. Because of the habitat this plant tends to occupy, it may be less susceptible to disturbance from recreationists than the other sensitive plants in the area. Future actions would be surveyed for Crandall rockcress prior to approval.

Cumulative Effects

Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and this plan develops the framework to deal with the increased amount of recreation in this area by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks. Although there will be a small increase in the total amount of roads and trails in the region, this alternative will help decrease impacts from increased use and define where these actions need to take place to lower threats across the region. By focusing on recreation in this area, surrounding areas may receive less impact from recreation and therefore a lower impact on these species overall.

3.4.2.2. No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

Bald Eagle: Currently, there are no ski trails in the northern part of Hartman Rocks within the mapped bald eagle winter concentration area therefore under this alternative there will be no effects on bald eagles.

Gunnison Sage-grouse: As stated in the previous plan, this area offers habitat for all lifestages for the grouse but years of heavy use has probably displaced grouse in the area.

Lekking: Timing limitations (March 15-May 15th) already in place south of the powerline will continue to help to reduce disturbance to lekking grouse in the area.

Nesting/Brood Rearing Habitat: Under this alternative, it is not a priority to obliterate and restore closed routes prior to constructing new ones so increased fragmentation will occur to nesting/brood rearing habitat under this alternative.

Winter: With limited winter recreation in the area, the Hartman Rocks area provides quality winter habitat with little disturbance. Under this alternative, Hartman Rocks will continue to offer quality sage grouse winter habitat with minimal disturbance from winter recreation.

Gunnison's Prairie Dog: Currently there is one colony of prairie dogs within the Hartman Rocks planning area. There currently are no roads or trails planned and there is no perceived disturbance from the current actions on prairie dogs.

Skiff Milkvetch: Currently, fragmentation from recreation is a significant threat to skiff milkvetch in the Hartman Rocks planning area (USFWS 2010). Under this alternative, priorities do not include the need to obliterate and restore closed routes and fragmentation will continue to threat current populations of skiff milkvetch.

Gunnison Milkvetch: Although Gunnison milkvetch is endemic to the Gunnison Basin, it is fairly common and widespread. Colonies and potential habitat of this plant will be protected by continuing to limit motorbikes and mountain bikes to designated routes, and closing unauthorized routes that are created.

Crandall Rockcress: If Crandall rockcress exists within the recreation area, it would also be protected by these actions. Because of the habitat this plant tends to occupy, it may be less susceptible to disturbance from recreationists than the other sensitive plants in the area. Future actions would be surveyed for Crandall rockcress prior to approval.

Cumulative Effects

By not specifically defining the future of recreation in the Hartman Rocks area by providing for the needs of increased recreation, activities such as camping in undesignated spots, trampling vegetation with parking, and other impacts associated with recreation will have a greater impact to threatened/endangered/sensitive species in the region. It may also push recreation into areas outside the recreation area which will have a greater impact on these species.

3.4.2.3. Alternative 3 – Limited Recreation

Direct and Indirect Effects

Bald Eagle: Currently, there are no ski trails in the northern part of Hartman Rocks within the mapped bald eagle winter concentration area. This alternative identifies groomed trails within this mapped area. Winter habitat is classified as mature cottonwoods and other trees near the stream offering perch sites for eagles. Surveys would be conducted to ensure these trails located within winter concentration did not offer proper habitat for bald eagles.

Gunnison Sage-grouse: As stated in the previous plan, this area offers habitat for all lifestages for the grouse but years of heavy use has probably displaced grouse in the area.

Lekking: Timing limitations (March 15-May 15th) already in place south of the powerline will continue to help to reduce disturbance to lekking grouse in the area.

Nesting/Brood Rearing Habitat: By reclaiming closed trails and roads, and continuing to carefully plan where future activities will occur, effects to nesting/brood rearing habitat should not increase under this proposed action.

Winter: With limited winter recreation in the area, the Hartman Rocks area provides quality winter habitat with little disturbance. Under this alternative, ski trails in the area will increase by 6 miles but the concentration of trails are found in the northeast part of Hartman Rocks which is lower quality winter habitat than along South Beaver or south of the powerline. Impacts could include increased disturbance from grooming, use of the trails and impacts associated from recreation such as pets, increased noise, and direct disturbance.

Gunnison's Prairie Dog: Currently there is one colony of prairie dogs within the Hartman Rocks planning area. There are currently no roads or trails planned under this alternative in the area of the colony and there is no perceived disturbance from the actions on prairie dogs.

Skiff Milkvetch: Currently, fragmentation from recreation is a significant threat to skiff milkvetch in the Hartman Rocks planning area (USFWS 2010). Under this alternative, closed trails will be revegetated to ensure use on them does not continue. Future routes and re-alignments will require full field clearances to ensure trails, parking lots, and other recreation infrastructure will not significantly impact known populations and suitable habitat within the planning area.

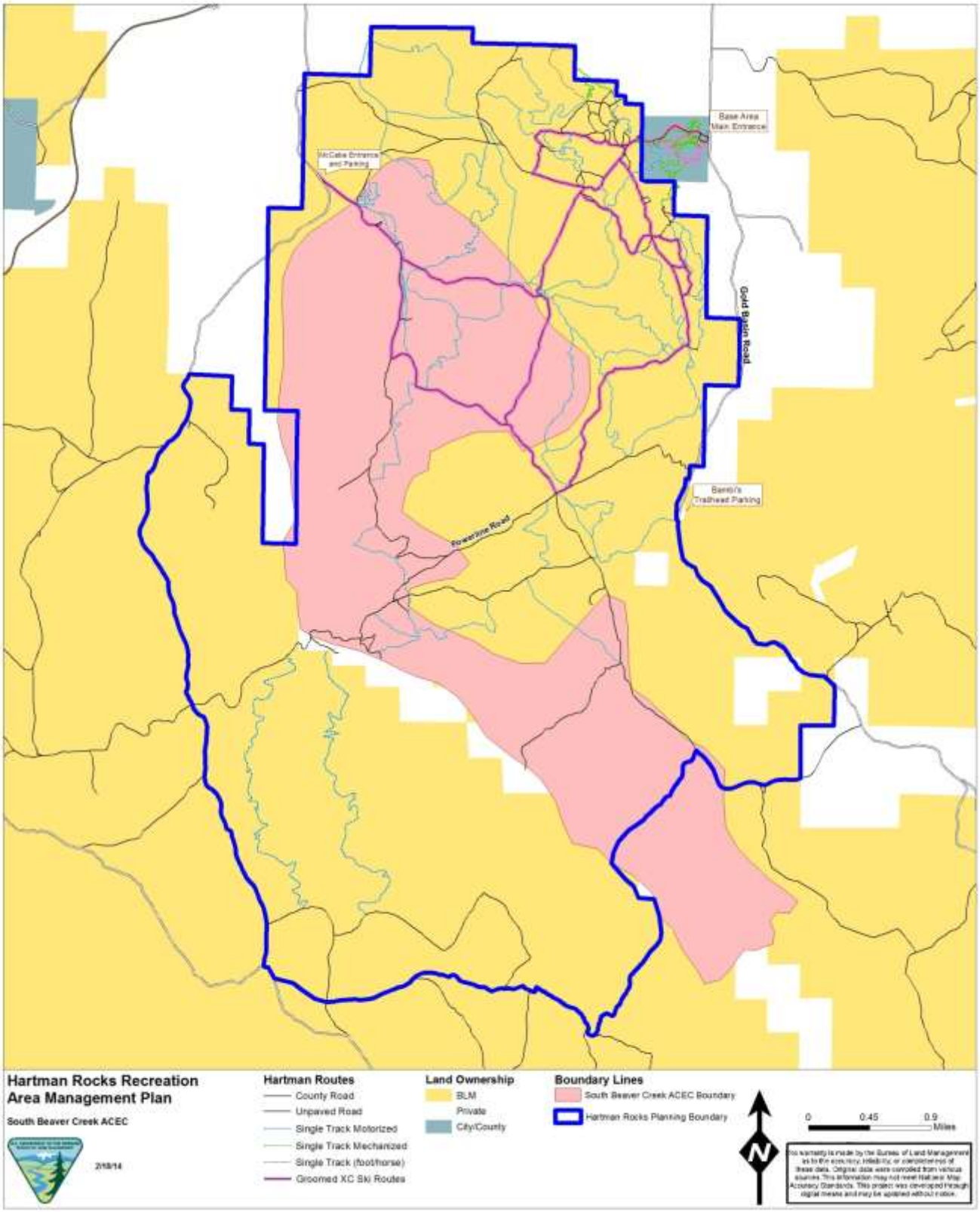
Gunnison Milkvetch: Although Gunnison milkvetch is endemic to the Gunnison Basin, it is fairly common and widespread. Colonies and potential habitat of this plant will be protected by continuing to limit motorbikes and mountain bikes to designated routes, and closing unauthorized routes that are created.

Crandall Rockcress: If Crandall rockcress exists within the recreation area, it would also be protected by these actions. Because of the habitat this plant tends to occupy, it may be less susceptible to disturbance from recreationists than the other sensitive plants in the area. Future actions would be surveyed for Crandall rockcress prior to approval.

Cumulative Effects

Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and this plan develops the framework to deal with the increased amount of recreation in this area by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks. Although there will be a small increase in the total amount of roads and trails in the region, this alternative will help decrease impacts from increased use and define where these actions need to take place to lower threats across the region. By focusing on recreation in this area, surrounding areas may receive less impact from recreation and therefore a lower impact on these species overall.

South Beaver Creek ACEC Boundary Map



3.5. Rangeland Management

3.5.1. Affected Environment

There are three cattle grazing permittees authorized to use the lands within the Hartman Rocks area. Grazing practices specific to the area are prescribed in the grazing permits for the Gold Basin Allotment and the Iola Allotment.

Dispersed recreational activities have been occurring at elevated levels in the Hartman Rocks area for more than 20 years. These activities have been steadily expanding in area and increasing in intensity, variety, and seasonal use. Dispersed recreation has an impact on livestock grazing operations; in general, the more human activity that occurs, the greater is the impact on livestock operations. Regardless of the alternative implemented, recreation will continue to occur, to increase, and to have an increasing impact on livestock grazing operations in the Hartman Rocks area. The analysis below will display how well each of the alternatives can minimize, control, and/or allow successful resolution of conflicts between recreation and livestock grazing.

3.5.2. Environmental Consequences/Mitigation

3.5.2.1. Proposed Action and Actions Common to All Alternative Except the No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

The action alternatives would have the effect of focusing recreation development (camping facilities, parking areas, interpretation) in the Front Country. This focus on the Front Country may reduce or slow the increase in the amount of human activity in the Middle and Back Country areas. This would be beneficial to livestock operations because it would leave a larger area of less activity to distribute livestock than would be left under the No Action Alternative.

The Proposed Action would also allow additional, more controlled development and improvement of “single use” areas (such as the rock crawling route, open play area, and trial bike areas), and it would allow/encourage public events. These opportunities may attract additional “destination” recreational users, which would increase overall use and have a negative impact on livestock operations. However, these special use areas may also have the effect of drawing more dispersed users into the smaller Front Country areas, which would be beneficial to livestock operations.

3.5.2.2. No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

The No Action Alternative would continue to allow relatively uncontrolled expansion of both dispersed and developed recreational activities at Hartman Rocks. Annual instability in where these activities occur would complicate the livestock management system in the Gold Basin and Iola Allotments, particularly where these uses occur in the Middle and Back Country areas.

3.5.2.3. Limit Recreation Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

The Limited Recreation Alternative would be the most beneficial for livestock grazing in the short term because it would discourage a number of recreational uses that may attract "destination" users to the Hartman Rocks area wide. There would be no rock crawling area, play area, extreme motocross area, target shooting area wide, or trials riding/rock hopping area. However, in the long-term, recreationists interested in these special uses will find places to enjoy these activities within or near the Hartman Rocks area. Without a plan to focus these activities, users will decide where to establish these sites; this may result in more activities in Back Country areas which will have more negative impacts on livestock grazing operations in the area.

3.5.2.4 Cumulative Effects of All Alternatives

As the overall population increases, and rural home development in the Gunnison Basin increases, dispersed and concentrated recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and in the Hartman Rocks area. Incremental costs that can result from increased recreational use include: materials and labor to repair damaged fences and water developments, labor to gather and return livestock to their prescribed use areas, weight loss on livestock that are forced to travel more or that become separated from calves, direct loss of livestock due to theft, vehicle collisions, or intentional destruction, and operator time to meet with agencies and user groups to minimize conflicts with users and resources. The cumulative impact of these incremental costs to livestock operations will occur, regardless of the alternative chosen. The action alternatives may slow the increase in costs and allow more mechanisms for the livestock operations to determine where the highest impacts occur; however, there will be no overall cumulative effects on livestock grazing in the Gunnison Basin as a result of this plan, regardless of the alternative chosen.

3.6. Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Gunnison Field Office Resource Management Plan includes stipulations that address protection of cultural and paleontological resources, including sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), traditional cultural properties, and Native American sacred sites. Specific concerns include:

- Potential impacts to cultural and paleontological resources.

3.6.1. Affected Environment:

The Area of Potential Effect (APE), as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) considers both direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources. It includes the actual lands within the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan and broadens out to include the surrounding landscape where archaeological sites that have visual characteristics may encourage recreation users to leave the Recreation Area boundaries to explore. These include rock art sites, overhangs, alcoves, caves, and standing stone walls or structures.

The known cultural resources within the analysis area include a diverse array of prehistoric archaeological sites that make up a unique cultural landscape. Prehistoric site types include open lithic, open camp, and rock art sites. Historic site types are few but include the Aberdeen Quarry where granite was quarried for use in the Colorado State Capitol as well as small homesteads, prospecting/mining pits, and historic roads and trails. Currently there are no known paleontological resources in the analysis area. The potential for paleontological sites within the analysis area is low, but does exist. The cultural site density is high within the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area, which includes a diversity of plant and animal species desirable in ancient and historic subsistence regimes. Within the analysis area, there are a high number of sites eligible to the NRHP. Cultural resource information was reviewed and analyzed for the APE. To date 1,885 acres of the total 14,423 acres in the analysis area have been surveyed at the Class III (most intensive) level. Based on the results of previous cultural resource inventories, the potential for locating additional cultural resources within the APE is high. Only eligible sites within the APE are brought forward for more detailed discussion of setting, management recommendations, and consideration of effect. If significant resources are within the APE, the BLM will require modification to the project proposal to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated. The project inventory and evaluation is in compliance with the NHPA, the Colorado State Protocol Agreement, and other federal laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines regarding cultural resources.

3.6.1.1 Native American Concerns

American Indian religious concerns are legislatively considered under several acts and Executive Orders, namely the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites). In summary these require, in concert with other provisions such as those found in the NHPA and ARPA, that the federal government carefully and proactively take into consideration traditional and religious Native American cultural and life and ensure, to the degree possible, that access to sacred sites, the treatment of human remains, the possession of sacred items, the conduct of

traditional religious practices, and the preservation of important cultural properties are considered and not unduly infringed upon. In some cases, these concerns are directly related to historic properties and archaeological resources; and elements of the landscape without archaeological remains may also be involved. Identification of these concerns is normally completed during the land use planning efforts, reference to existing studies, or via direct consultation. The following tribes were notified of the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan via certified letter and map package in March of 2011: the Ute Indian Tribe, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe. They were asked to identify traditional cultural places or any other areas of traditional cultural importance that need to be considered within the area of potential effect. The BLM did not receive any comments or concerns from the three tribes.

3.6.2. Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

3.6.2.1. Actions Common to all Alternatives

Direct and Indirect Effects

The activities proposed in the analysis area can have severe impacts on the Gunnison Basin's prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Surface and subsurface disturbances of cultural resources can occur in a number of ways:

The act of creating new trails (authorized and unauthorized), the continued use of existing trails, and obliterating closed routes can impact cultural resources in a variety of ways. The creation of trails through archaeological sites can accelerate erosion. Use of trails can lead to the collecting of artifacts, such as cans, bottles and projectile points. New access to previously inaccessible sites by the creation of new trails can also lead to increased vandalism. Although lithic debitage (generated from the production of stone tools) and tools that are manufactured may seem indestructible, they usually comprise only a part of an archaeological site. Other, more obscure components of the site can contain the more fragile pieces of the puzzle. Hearths (unlined or lined with clay or rocks), postholes, pieces of waddle and daub, and pit shaped depressions are susceptible to being unknowingly disturbed. Recreation uses in areas containing archaeological resources can inadvertently damage or destroy these types of features. Redundant use of campsites, trails, and staging and parking areas are common ways that these features can be destroyed. Constant use of trails can also remove soil and lead to accelerated erosion that can unearth fragile features.

All ground disturbing activities are subject to Section 106 of the NHPA. Under the provision of Section 106 and its implementing regulations (36CFR800), the BLM is required to identify, evaluate, and mitigate effects to historic and prehistoric properties within the APE for any

undertaking. An intensive cultural inventory will be conducted over all ground disturbing project areas within the proposed analysis area. Results will be evaluated and mitigated so that effects and impacts of the undertaking will be minimized.

3.6.2.2. Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects

The projects proposed in the Proposed Action Alternative have the highest potential for direct and indirect effects to cultural and paleontological resources given the increased number of acres and proposed project activities in the analysis area. Cultural and paleontological resources can be negatively impacted by all proposed projects within this alternative. The highest potential for negative direct and indirect effects would occur through any use of heavy equipment to maintain or close existing routes and to install toilet facilities.

Site-specific inventory before project implementation and a close adherence to Section 106 of the NHPA and the BLM's protocol with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) can easily mitigate any undue impacts to these resources through avoidance or documentation and/or data recovery. With site avoidance, many of the proposed projects will have positive direct and indirect effects to cultural resources. This includes:

- eliminating off road travel
- designating campsites to reduce the creation of new user created campsites
- creating an open play area that attracts motorized and non-motorized users to a large single area
- designating rock climbing areas that avoid fragile rock art

By implementing many of the proposed projects the cultural landscape of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area could be better preserved.

3.6.2.3. No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

Under the No Action Alternative the negative direct effects would be reduced compared to that of the Proposed Action. Under this alternative, fewer ground disturbing projects are proposed and therefore fewer cultural resources overall would be impacted. Ground disturbing impacts created by route creation and obliteration would be minimized as these activities are not included in this alternative. In addition, impacts from the creation of campsites, toilet facilities, designation of climbing routes, enhancement of the terrain park, and increasing parking areas would not occur which would further lessen the impacts to cultural resources. However, the long term indirect effects of this alternative may be more than that of the Proposed Alternative based on the lack of management of the increased use of Hartman Rocks. Continued

management under this alternative does not provide guidance toward managing recreation in a way that protects the cultural and paleontological resources of Hartman Rocks.

3.6.2.4. Limited Recreation -Alternative 3

Direct and Indirect Effects

Fewer specific projects are proposed in the Limited Action Alternative resulting in a lower potential for direct and indirect effects to cultural and paleontological resources compared with the Proposed Action. However, this alternative does not provide for all types of recreation activities which in the long term may negatively impact cultural resources as recreation increases without management guidance.

3.6.2.5. Cumulative Effects of all Alternatives

Any loss that might occur as a result of project implementation would result in an irreversible and irretrievable loss of cumulative data for the regional archaeological database. The loss might be limited to the currently known extent of resources present but, the data loss is cumulative in nature. While it is hard to determine cumulative effects on unidentified archaeological sites, proposed specific projects for all alternatives should not increase the potential for cumulative effects within the analysis area if a site-specific cultural inventory is implemented and significant resources are avoided.

In addition, the following stipulations would protect any unknown cultural resources in the project area:

- Inadvertent Discovery: The NHPA, as amended, requires that if newly discovered historic or archaeological materials or other cultural resources are identified during the Proposed Action implementation, work in that area must stop and the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) must be notified immediately. Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in place preservation is not necessary) (36 CFR 800.13).
- The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires that if inadvertent discovery of Native American Remains or Objects occurs, any activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice be made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)).
- A standard Education/Discovery stipulation for cultural resource protection should be attached to the FONSI. The BLM project proponent is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to

prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.

- Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the BLM project proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh).

3.7. Soils

3.7.1. Affected Environment

The Hartman Rocks planning area contains 12 soil map units, with 87% comprised of Kezar-Cathedral gravelly sandy loams, Lucky-Cheadle gravelly sandy loams, and Stony rock land (Table 1). Soil textures of the soils within the analysis area are gravelly sandy loam and unweathered bedrock. Aside from bedrock, most of the soils fall within soil hydrologic group C. These soils tend to have low rates of infiltration. Alluvial land which falls within soil hydrologic group A, has high rates of infiltration. Discussions of soil resources will be about soil productivity or soil erosion and soil quality.

Table 1. Soil map units within Hartman Rocks Planning Area.

Soil Map Unit	Surface Texture	Hydrologic Soil Group	Acres	Percent of Area
Alluvial land (Ad)	Loam	A	625	4.2
Alluvial land, wet (Ao)	Loam	D	69	0.5
Dewville loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes (DeB)	Gravelly sandy loam	B	24	0.2
Duffson-Corpening loams, 5 to 35 percent slopes (DrE)	Loam	B	6	0.0
Duffson-Spring creek stony loams, 5 to 40 percent slopes (DsE)	Loam	B	64	0.4
Gas Creek sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes (GaA)	Sandy Loam	D	2	0.0
Kezar-Cathedral gravelly sandy loams, 5 to 35 percent slopes (KcE)	Gravelly sandy loam	C	3,477	23.1
Lucky-Cheadle gravelly sandy loams, 5 to 45 percent slopes (LhF)	Gravelly sandy loam	C	5,509	36.6
Parlin-Hopkins channery loams, 5 to 45 percent slopes (PhF)	Channery loam	C	782	5.2
Parlin-Mergel gravelly loams. 5 to 45 percent slopes (PmF)	Gravelly loam	C	50	0.3
Rock outcrop (Ro)	Unweathered	D	413	2.7

	bedrock			
Stony rock land (St)	Unweathered bedrock	D	4,031	26.8

Source: USDA NRCS, 2012.

Soil Productivity. Soil productivity is primarily addressed by soil erosion, such as rilling, gullying, and head cuts. To replace soils lost from erosion, it could take between 300 and 1,000 years to form one inch of top soil (Johnson, 1987). Ways to reduce soil erosion are by maintaining ground cover (vegetation), increasing infiltration, and reducing runoff velocities (Brooks et al., 1991).

Table 2 summarizes erosion properties of these soils. Three erosion hazard ratings for soils within the project area discussed and include erosion hazard (off road, off trail; on roads and trails; and erosion factor Kw). Most of the lands within the Hartman Rocks area have a moderate erosion hazard off roads and trails, given that Kezar-Cathedral gravely sandy loams and Lucky-Cheadle gravelly sandy loams are the predominant soil map units. Moderate erosion hazard indicates that erosion is likely and that some erosion control structures may be required. Stony rock land has a very severe erosion hazard rating and erosion off roads and trails is likely and soil productivity will be lost. That the previously discussed soil map units comprise 87% of the Hartman Rocks planning area, erosion hazard on roads and trails is severe. For trails and roads on these soil map units, frequent maintenance will be required to control erosion. Erosion factor Kw indicates susceptibility to rill and sheet erosion. Values range between 0 and 69, with values at the higher end having a higher likelihood for erosion. Within Hartman Rocks, values generally fall around 0.15, which indicates soils have low susceptibility to sheet and rill erosion.

Table 2. Erosion properties of Soil Map Units within Hartman Rocks Planning Area.

Soil Map Unit	**Erosion Hazard (Off Road, Off Trail)**	**Erosion Hazard (Road, Trail)**	**Erosion factor (Kw)**
Alluvial land	slight	moderate	0.28
Alluvial land, wet			
Dewville loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes	moderate	Severe	
Duffson-Corpening loams, 5 to 35 percent slopes	moderate	Severe	0.15
Duffson-Spring creek stony loams, 5 to 40 percent slopes	moderate	Severe	0.15
Gas Creek sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	slight	Slight	

Kezar-Cathedral gravelly sandy loams, 5 to 35 percent slopes	moderate	Severe	0.15
Lucky-Cheadle gravelly sandy loams, 5 to 45 percent slopes	moderate	Severe	0.10
Parlin-Hopkins channery loams, 5 to 45 percent slopes	moderate	moderate	0.15
Parlin-Mergel gravelly loams. 5 to 45 percent slopes	moderate	moderate	0.15
Rock outcrop	very severe	Severe	
Stony rock land	very severe	Severe	

Source: USDA NRCS, 2012.

Erosion occurs naturally but is also exacerbated by changes to the land such as construction of a road, campsite, or trailing by cattle. Because of roads and trails, this area doesn't meet land health standard 1 because of headcuts and gully erosion. Within the Hartman Rocks planning area, which is 15,085 acres in area, are 128.7 miles of roads and trails (open and closed). This mileage represents less than 1% of the total area in Hartman Rocks (refer to methodology). Three areas are discussed where roads and close routes have caused accelerated erosion in the form of gullies and headcuts. Hartman Rocks has other areas of erosion, but this section only highlights three of those areas.

Within a 241acre watershed by the play area by Kill Hill, 7.2 miles of roads and trails comprise 3.1 % of this watershed. Because of the high percentage of compacted surfaces, more water flows off the landscape instead of infiltrating into the ground. This increased surface runoff leaves the watershed at the intersection of BLM road 3510 and 3515 onto HRR 13, a closed route that still remains on the landscape. These compacted surfaces include the Kill Hill play area, closed but not rehabilitated routes, and BLM roads. Consequently, a gully system has formed within soil map units Kezar-Cathedral, rock outcrop, and stony rock land. These map units require erosion control structures for controlling erosion off roads and trails (USDA NRCS, 2012). Within this gully system are 9 active headcuts, which have an associated erosion of 140 cubic yards of soil. Maximum depth of these headcuts ranges between 2 and 7 feet, while maximum width ranges between 4 and 28 feet. The gully system has length of approximately 0.20 miles and is up to 35 feet wide and 7 feet deep (Figure 2). Based on Johnson (1987), it could take at least 25,000 years under ideal conditions to restore these lost soils.

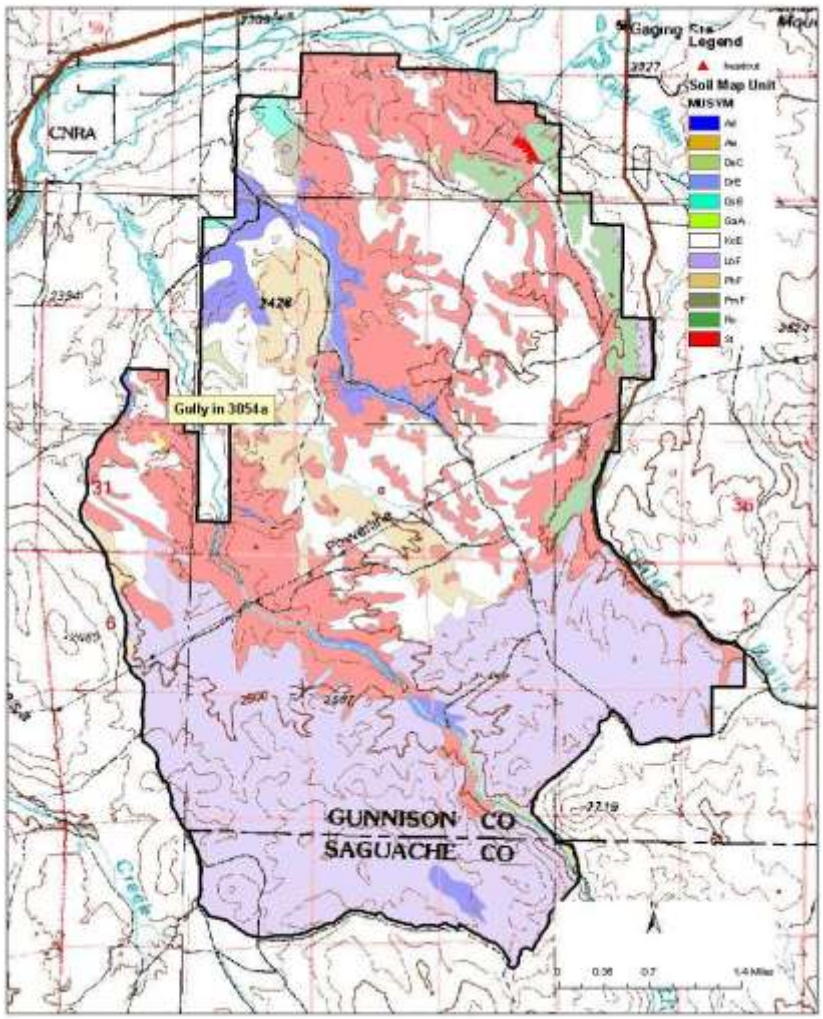


Figure 1. Soil map units within Hartman Rocks Recreational Area

A second area with accelerated erosion is associated with BLM road 3054a, which lies on soil map units Kezar-Cathedral and stony rocky land. Both soil map units have severe erosion hazards on roads and trails. According to NRCS (2012), frequent road maintenance is required for severe erosion hazard ratings for roads and trails (Figure 3a). Within a 0.12 mile segment of the road, a gully between 2 to 3 feet deep has eroded to bedrock. The road travels the lowest spot in the drainage; consequently water runs down the road causing accelerated erosion. There is no way to effectively control runoff on the road and off this segment road. Maintaining this road could be cost prohibitive and this road doesn't access any trail heads, range improvements, or other facilities.

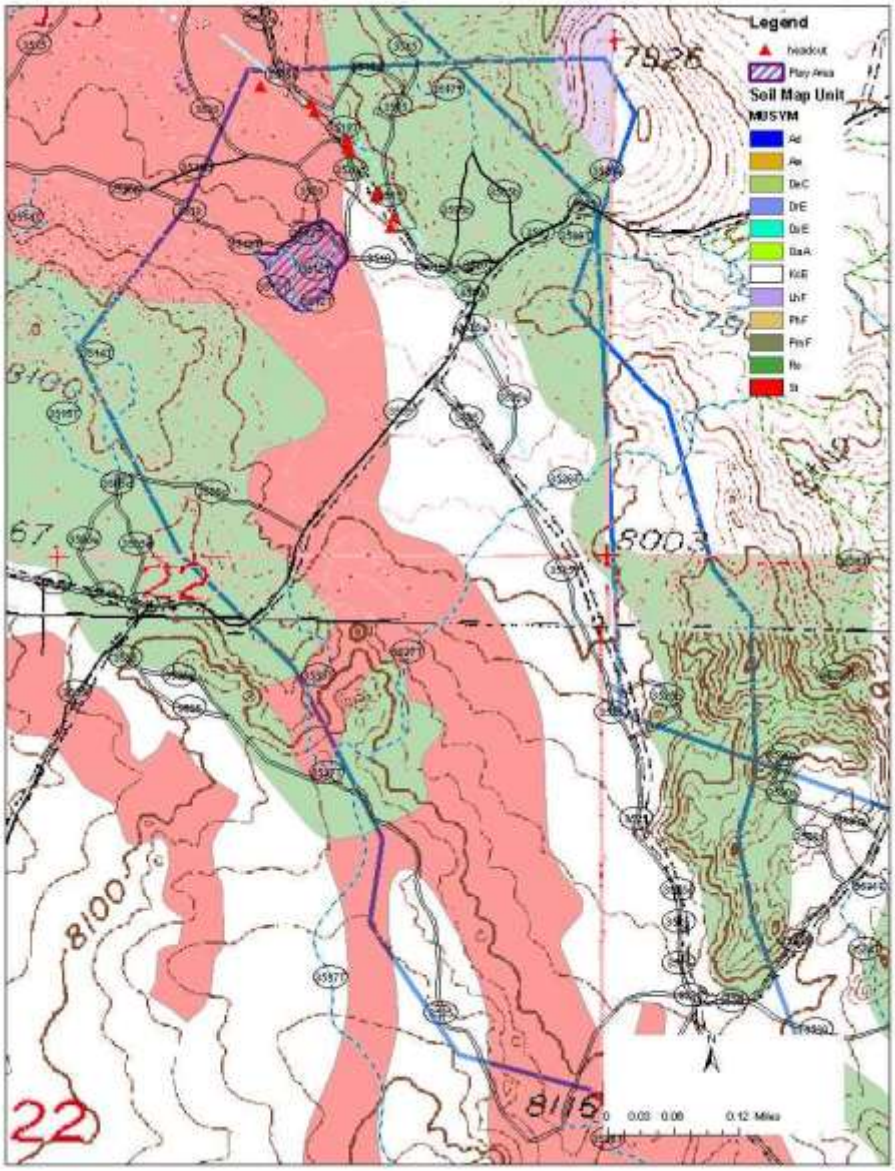
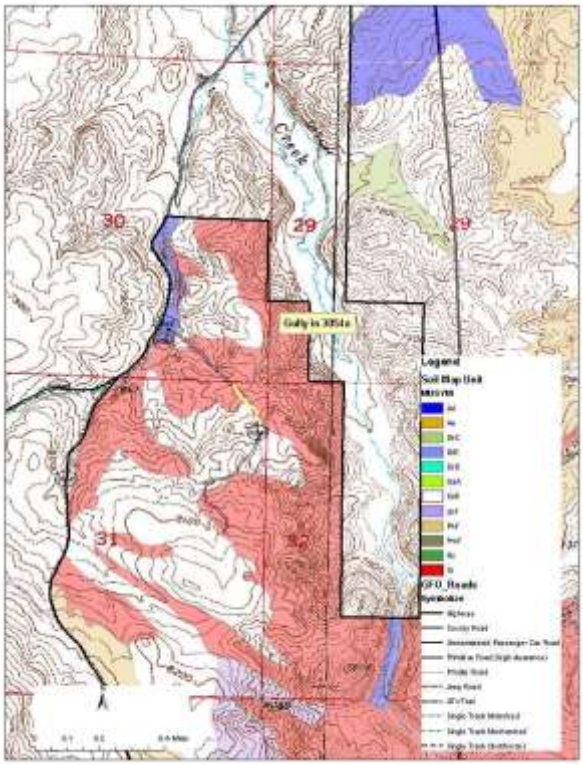


Figure 2. Watershed by Kill Hill Play Area.

Accelerated erosion occurs on BLM road 3545, which sits on map units Kezar-Cathedral, rocky land, stony rocky land (Figure 3b). Two sections of this road within a 0.5 mile road segment have minor gully erosion along the non-engineered road side ditch. The ditch empties into a seasonal drainage. The erosion at this point is manageable, but will become worse without some road maintenance.



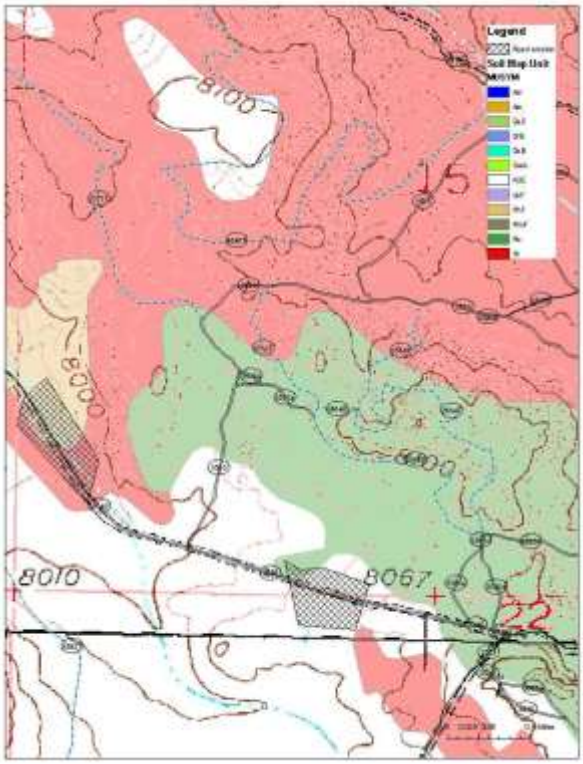


Figure 3a. BLM Road 3540a gully erosion Figure 3b. BLM Road 3545 road problems

Soil Quality. Soil quality focuses on lead in the soil from the shooting area by the McCabe's Lane entrance. That shooting area rests on alluvial lands (Ad). Surface soil texture is a loam and the pH is 7.0, which is neutral (USDA NRCS, 2012). Mean annual precipitation for the area is around 10 inches (WRCC, 2012). Because of the soil properties and low precipitation, it is unlikely that there is lead contamination of the soils. Areas with annual precipitation greater than 45 inches result in more dissolution of solid lead and higher movement of lead (US EPA, 2005). Soils with acidic pH less than 6 or greater than 8 can break down and move down into the underlying soils (US EPA, 2005). Sandy soils have more pore space making it easier for the material to move down into the underlying soils (US EPA, 2005).

3.7.2. Environmental Effects/Mitigation:

This section discusses actions that could have an impact on soil productivity and soil quality

- Roads and trails
- Open play area
- Target shooting area

3.7.2.1. Proposed Action and Actions Common to all Alternatives except the No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

The proposed action is the second best alternative for protecting and restoring soil productivity and soil quality. This alternative will move land health standard 1 towards meeting the standard, as headcuts would be stabilized and infiltration would be restored.

Roads and Trails. Obliterating new roads and trails prior to constructing any new roads will improve soil productivity by de-compacting soils, which will improve infiltration and reduce the potential for erosion on and off the road or trail. Doing so will keep the percentage of roads and trails within Hartman Rocks below 1% of the entire area. Constructing new roads and trails will decrease soil productivity at the site, but spread across the entire planning area, the impacts should be negligible if the correct BMPs are implemented and effective and wheeled vehicles remain on designated roads and trails.

Within the unnamed watershed by the play area at Kill Hill, several actions to reduce erosion will be implemented. The goals of these actions are to increase rates of infiltration and reduce runoff velocities (Brooks et al., 1991). These goals will be achieved by a combination of revegetation, closing roads, ripping compacted surfaces, and hardening unlined drainage paths. These actions are listed below.

Ripping and revegetating 0.4 miles of HRRA28, HR22, user created segment on 3520, and 3520C will improve soil productivity by improving water infiltration. Consequently, less runoff will reach the gully system between BLM road 3510 and 3515 and reduce the potential of accelerated gully erosion and headcut expansion.

Revegetating 0.12 acres of HR22 and a disturbed area off of 3520 will provide ground cover, reducing the potential for erosion. The additional ground cover also will allow precipitation to slowly infiltrate into the ground as opposed to running off and entering the gully system between roads 3510 and 3520.

Stabilizing the 9 headcuts will reduce the likelihood of those existing headcuts from migrating head wards and causing more loss of soil. Controlling headcut and gully migration head wards will protect BLM roads 3510 and 3520 and reduce erosion of those roads. In addition, the roads will remain in their locations on the landscape, reducing the potential of re-routes through productive soils.

Approximately 7.4 cubic yards of riprap would be installed in the road prism and unlined drainage paths on BLM roads 3510, 3515, and 3520. Riprap will reduce runoff velocities into the gully and prevent gully expansion.

Open Play Area. The play area as it is has no defined boundary or way to prevent its use to cause loss of vegetation, which is important in controlling erosion (Brooks et al., 1991). Under the proposed action this area would become defined with a perimeter fence to prevent future loss of soil vegetation (Brooks et al., 1991), which would maintain soil productivity of the lands adjacent to the play area. Indirectly, soil infiltration would be maintained and these adjacent areas would not become future sources of runoff to the gully system between BLM roads 3510 and 3520. The play area would continue to be a designated use of concentrated use and these soils would not be productivity for other uses aside from recreation.

Cumulative Effects

Soil Productivity. Cumulatively, compacted area within Hartman Rocks would see a negligible decrease from 0.71% to 0.70%. Actual miles of routes visible on the ground and with low rates of infiltration would decrease from 128.7 miles to 127.4 miles. Within the watershed by the play area, compacted surfaces would decrease from 3.1% to 2.8%. Mileage of roads and closed routes with low rates of infiltration would decrease from 7.2 to 6.2 miles. With the rehabilitation of closed routes and roads within the watershed along with headcut stabilization and other two actions, the gully should become stabilized. There are no plans to rehabilitate the entire gully, as this would be cost prohibitive and would likely be unsuccessful, given the location of the gully system on stony rock land and rock outcrop within the upper one-third of the watershed (NRCS, 2012). Constructing a fence around the play area should prevent the loss of productive soil adjacent to the play area. This action will also allow disturbed areas to revegetate, adding to the overall soil productivity within the watershed. In the short term, soil productivity would remain stable and over the long term, it should improve as infiltration increases and vegetation takes hold.

Soil Quality. Cumulative effects of relocating the shooting area to a site on soil map units KcE and PhF would be beneficial to soil quality, as this area would be well managed and lead rounds would be periodically removed. The current shooting area near the McCabe's Lane entrance would be closed and restored.

3.7.2.2. No Action Alternative:

Direct and Indirect Effects

Under the no action alternative, soil productivity and soil quality would be the least protected and no restoration would occur. Land health standard one would continue not to be met, as no restoration would take place to stabilize headcuts or to improve infiltration on closed roads and trails.

Erosion would continue and topsoil, which can take between 300 and 1,000 years to form (Johnson, 1987) would be lost.

Soil Productivity. There would be no precedence under this alternative to holistically approach road and trail obliteration from a broad scale. Trails and roads that impact soil productivity by causing loss of soil from erosion would not be closed, stabilized, or rehabilitated through this planning process. These roads and trail would continue to erode on and off their prisms.

There would be no measures to increase infiltration and reduce runoff velocities. BLM road 3520C and 3054a would remain open. BLM Road 3054a would continue to erode due to mechanical erosion by wheeled vehicles. Such vehicles would cause widening and deepening of the existing gully, as the tires of the vehicle drop into the gully and work away soil from the gully. In addition, runoff would continue to be captured by this gully, resulting in erosion from surface runoff. BLM road 3520C would remain open and it would not be ripped and revegetated. Surface runoff from this road would continue to enter the gully between BLM road 3510 and 3520, causing additional soil loss. The close proximity of this road to the gully precludes effective erosion control and water management on the road.

Closed route HR22 would not be ripped or revegetated. This route would continue to erode and cause expansion of two headcuts. Soil loss would likely exceed the 14 cubic yards from the headcuts.

An 85 foot user created segment along 3520 would not be revegetated and this segment would continue to be a source of surface runoff to the gully. Water would not slowly infiltrate into the ground.

Riprap would not be installed in unlined drainage paths from BLM road 3510, 3515, and 3520 to reduce runoff velocities into the gullies. Consequently, higher velocities of water would continue to enter the gully and the gully would continue to enlarge. More irreplaceable soil would be lost.

Management of the play area would continue as it does currently. A perimeter fence with designated parking would not be constructed. Because a perimeter fence would not be constructed, users of this area will continue to expand their uses into undisturbed areas as visualized by Andrew Breibart on January 4, 2012. Protective ground cover would be lost and these areas would be susceptible to erosion: mechanical, water, and wind.

Soil Quality. The current target area would remain in its current location. Use would resume at the end of the 2-year temporary target shooting closure. As previously discussed in the proposed action, soil quality is likely not being impacted from lead, given the neutral pH of the soils and low annual precipitation of 10 inches.

Cumulative Effects

Soil Productivity. Cumulatively, compacted area within Hartman Rocks will remain at 0.71% and actual miles of routes visible on the ground and with low rates of infiltration would remain at 128.7. Within the watershed by the play area, compacted surfaces would remain at 3.1% but could increase over the short term, as the play area expands despite efforts to contain its current footprint. Mileage of roads with low rates of infiltration would remain at 7.2 miles. There would be no headcut stabilization and high runoff velocities from BLM road 3510, 3515, and 3520 would continue. Consequently, there would be more loss of valuable and irreplaceable topsoil.

Soil Quality. There would be no cumulative effects as current shooting areas would still be utilized. Within these areas, lead is stable; however, periodic removal could reduce the potential of lead being transported off site. As mentioned under the cumulative effects section under the proposed action, it is unlikely lead would reach the Gunnison River.

3.7.2.3 Alternative 3 –Limited Recreation

Direct and Indirect Effects

This alternative best maintains and restores soil productivity and soil quality. This alternative will best move land health standard 1 towards meeting the standard, as headcuts would be stabilized and infiltration would be restored on closed roads and routes. In addition the play area would be closed and restored.

Direct and indirect effects are the same as the proposed action, except the play area would be closed and restored. In addition, there would be no shooting areas within Hartman Rocks.

Soil Productivity. Soil productivity would be best protected and restored as the play area would be closed and restored in addition to the other actions in the proposed action. The 2.5 acre play would be restored primarily by a combination of revegetation and construction of erosion control measures. Increased ground cover would increase soil infiltration, thereby reducing the amount of surface runoff available to the gully between BLM road 3510 and 3520.

Soil Quality. Soil quality would be best protected as no shooting would be allowed within Hartman Rocks. Consequently, there would be no risk of lead from bullets degrading soil

quality. In addition, lead at the current shooting area would be removed, thereby reducing the risk of lead being mobilized into natural and artificial drainage paths.

Cumulative Effects

Soil Productivity. Cumulatively, compacted areas within Hartman Rocks would see a negligible decrease from 0.71% to 0.69%, as the play area would be closed and restored. Actual miles of routes visible on the ground with low rates of infiltration would decrease from 128.7 miles to 127.4 miles. Within the watershed by the play area, compacted surfaces would decrease from 3.1% to 1.8%; as the play area which has area of 2.5 acres would be closed and rehabilitated. Mileage of roads and closed routes with low rates of infiltration would decrease from 7.2 to 6.6 miles. Cumulatively, restoration actions along with headcut stabilization should result in the gully stabilizing and beginning a process of soil accumulation as opposed to soil loss. These actions will also allow disturbed areas to revegetate, improving long term soil productivity within the watershed. In the short term, soil productivity would remain stable until vegetation takes hold.

Soil Quality. There would be a very low risk of lead impacting soil quality, as lead would be removed from closed shooting areas and concentrating shooting areas would not be allowed. Consequently, no new sources of lead from shooting would be allowed.

3.7.3 Methods

Compacted areas were computed through the following steps:

- A watershed was drawn by Andrew Breibart the week of January 16, 2012.
- Mileage of open and closed roads and trails was determined within the watershed and Hartman Rocks through ArcGIS by clipping BLM_ROD by each area.
- All roads within the given areas were assumed to have a width of 10 feet, while all trails were assumed to have a width of 4 feet.
- Linear feet of each road and trail were multiplied by their respective widths.
- Area in square feet was totaled and converted to acres to give area of compacted land within Hartman Rocks and the watershed by the Play Area.
- Compacted surfaces were computed by dividing the former into the latter and multiplied by 100
- To compute compacted lands in alternative 3, the same steps were followed in addition to subtracting the total compacted area by 2.5 acres for the play area. Andrew Breibart used a Trimble GeoXT to define that area the week of January 9, 2012.

3.8. Riparian Areas

3.8.1. Affected Environment

The project area supports intermittent stream systems and springs with narrowleaf cottonwood/willow (*Populus angustifolia/Salix*) and aspen/narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus tremuloides*/*Populus angustifolia*) plant communities. These systems have been impacted in the past by contour plowing, spring development, roads, trails, dispersed camping, and concentrated large herbivore grazing and browsing. Erosion from roads, trails, dispersed camping, and concentrated herbivore use in adjacent uplands continues to add sediment to these stream systems.

3.8.2. Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

3.8.2.1. All Alternatives except the No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

Riparian areas will not be directly impacted by the proposed actions in Alternatives 2 or 3. Obliterating and restoring closed routes prior to constructing new routes and adding small parking areas at campsites, climbing areas, and trail/road intersections may indirectly positively impact riparian areas by allowing vegetation to recolonize compacted areas and decreasing the amount of sediment into riparian areas.

Cumulative Effects

The effect of the proposed action and the limited recreation alternative on riparian areas, added to the historical impacts from contour plowing, spring development, roads, trails, dispersed camping, and concentrated large herbivore grazing and browsing, will have negligible cumulative effects.

3.8.2.2. No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

By not obliterating and restoring closed routes prior to constructing new routes and not adding small parking areas at campsites, climbing areas, and trail/road intersections, erosion will continue to occur on closed routes. Recreational use will also continue to reduce vegetation cover holding the soil in place next to campsites, climbing areas, and trail/road intersections. As an indirect effect of this use, sediment will increasingly funnel into riparian areas from these sites during rain storms. Sediment in riparian areas often increases the bedload of spring runoff which ultimately increases stream bottom and stream bank scour.

Cumulative Effects

The effect of the No Action Alternative on riparian areas, added to the historical impacts from contour plowing, spring development, roads, trails, dispersed camping, and concentrated large herbivore grazing and browsing, may have cumulative effects on riparian areas. Increasing amounts of soil compaction, plant elimination, and riparian sedimentation will occur by allowing increasing numbers of recreationists to continue to park wherever they desire next to campsites, climbing areas, and trail/road intersections, increasing soil compaction. Routes with no restoration will also continue to erode and funnel sediment to streams.

3.9. Fire and Fuels Management

3.9.1. Affected Environment:

The vegetation types found within the planning area are all closely associated with fire at different return interval frequencies. Due to historic management and current management most of the planning area has missed at least one fire interval. Due to the increased fuel loading, conditions in the planning area are very susceptible to a wildfire that could be more severe than historically normal. Adjacent private property including year round residences increases the potential for negative impacts from wildfire.

3.9.2. Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

3.9.2.1. All Alternatives except the No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

Under these alternatives, users will be required to utilize installed fire grates at identified camping areas in the Front Country. Firewood collection on site and pallet burning will be prohibited reducing oversized fuels being burnt. Currently most camping activities occur in the Front Country, promoting a more responsible use of campfires will likely reduce the possibility of an escaped campfire.

As recreation uses and impacts change in the Middle and Back Country these alternatives allow managers to implement similar management strategies as in the Front Country. Installing fire grates and potentially limiting camping locations will limit the likelihood of an escaped campfire.

Cumulative Effects

Known fire history specific to the planning area is limited. Mixed severity, mosaic fires likely occurred at an interval of approximately every 25 years within the planning area. Livestock and wildlife grazing has reduced continuous fine fuels such as grasses and forbs limiting the

frequency of low severity fires. Fire suppression has shifted vegetation cover types towards a late seral condition increasing the severity of fires. Increased recreation and the associated increase in human caused wildfire may have an increased negative affect on vegetation and adjacent communities.

3.9.2.2. No Action Alternative:

Direct and Indirect Effects

Under the current scenario, due to camp fires, the largest contributor to man caused wildfires, there is a high likelihood of negative effects. Currently campfires are permitted throughout the planning area with no consideration of fire grates or the location of adjacent receptive fuels. The direct effect of this action is that there is a greater number of camp fire locations and a larger area of disturbance to vegetation as additional campsites are created by users. Camp fires are frequently abandoned in improvised rock rings with fuel that is often oversized, greatly increasing the associated risk of wildfire. This alternative greatly increases the likelihood of an escaped campfire.

3.10. Invasive, Non-native Species

3.10.1. Affected Environment

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), a State of Colorado List C noxious weed, is well established in a number of locations throughout the Hartman Rocks area. In addition, a number of other State of Colorado List B and C species are found in and around the Hartman Rocks area, including absinth wormwood, black henbane, Canada thistle, scentless chamomile, hoary cress, and field bindweed.

Dispersed recreational activities can introduce and cause existing populations of invasive, non-native species to increase. Weed seeds, roots, and plant parts can be transported into the area from outside and spread within the area on vehicles, clothing/shoes, bicycle tires, dogs, and horses. Disturbance to soil and native vegetation around parking areas, campsites, and restrooms, and along roads and trails can provide seedbeds for non-native species to establish. Once established, these species are frequently better adapted to repeated disturbance than are native species.

Regardless of the alternative implemented, recreation will continue to occur and to increase in the Hartman Rocks area. In all cases, noxious weeds will continue to be treated, whenever possible, given funding and staffing levels. The analysis below will display how well each of the alternatives can minimize and/or control the establishment and spread of non-native, invasive species.

3.10.2. Environmental Consequences/Mitigation

3.10.2.1. Common to All Alternatives

Direct and Indirect Effects

All three alternatives prohibit motorized and mechanized travel off of designated routes. Restricting travel to designated routes minimizes soil disturbance and introduction of non-native plant species from bike tires and vehicles.

3.10.2.2. Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects

The priority placed on obliteration and restoration of closed routes under the Proposed Action would be beneficial for the control of invasive, non-native species in the Hartman Rocks area. Unused routes and trails are particularly susceptible to the establishment of weeds; therefore, restoring these routes to native species would slow and/or prevent the encroachment of invasive, non-native species.

Focusing intensive recreation use on the Front Country would reduce the amount of user created disturbance in the Middle and Back Country. Designating/developing areas for parking and camping in the Front Country would simplify and increase the success of weed control around frequently visited sites.

3.10.2.3. No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

The No Action Alternative would not focus intensive use in the Front Country or attempt to limit the number and extent of user created parking areas, walking trails, or camp sites. In addition, trail obliteration and restoration work would not be a priority. As a result, weed inventory and control efforts would occur at similar levels of intensity throughout the entire Hartman Rocks area. Limited resources for inventory/control efforts would be spread more thinly and may result in less effective prevention and control of invasive, non-native species.

3.10.2.4. Limited Recreation Alternative

Direct and Indirect Effects

The Limited Recreation Alternative would have similar effects on the introduction and spread of invasive, non-native species as the Proposed Action.

In the Limited Recreation Alternative, the prohibition placed on establishing rock crawling routes, use of the old gravel pit as a “play area”, developing trials bike riding trails, and expansion and further development of the terrain park would further reduce the likelihood of invasive, non-native species becoming established in these specific locations. However, as pressure for these types of recreational experiences increases, users will find areas in or near the Hartman Rocks area to recreate, and those areas will be vulnerable to noxious weed encroachment. Therefore, the Limited Recreation Alternative would not be better overall at slowing or preventing the establishment of non-native species than the Proposed Action Alternative.

3.10.2.5. Cumulative Effects of All Alternatives

Populations of invasive, non-native species are steadily increasing throughout the Gunnison Basin. Recent drought events have contributed to the expansion of these populations into native plant communities. Projected long-term changes in climate are expected to further increase the vulnerability of native plant communities in the Gunnison Basin to encroachment of non-native species, particularly cheatgrass. Levels of dispersed recreation are expected to increase, with more recreational vehicles entering the Gunnison Basin from areas with heavy populations of noxious weeds.

On the other hand, public awareness of the threats that noxious weeds pose to the natural resources, and to the local industries that depend on those resources, is increasing. The Gunnison Basin Weed Commission, a cooperative of federal, state, county, and local governments, private landowners, and concerned citizens, is working to prioritize and fund weed control and prevention activities, and to educate visitors and private land owners on the importance of preventing the establishment of invasive, non-native species. These efforts are expected to slow, and hopefully reverse, the trend of increasing amounts of invasive, non-native species in the Gunnison Basin.

3.11 Cumulative Impacts Summary:

Recreation

Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and the proposed action develops the framework to deal with increased visitor use by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. The proposed action including: installing toilets; designating campsites; concentrating specific uses to small geographic areas; designating climbing access routes; imposing firewood regulations; and pallet burning regulations would mitigate the effects of human use impacts from increased recreation use. Hartman Rocks is the only open area for people to recreate during severe winters and every spring due to sage-grouse conservation closures. Hartman Rocks Recreation Area takes recreation pressure off of other areas of the field office during these closures. The construction and use of a motor-cross track and building more motorized opportunities may alleviate single track motorized use in other areas of the field office during the snow free season. Recreational target shooters will be displaced and have to find other shooting opportunities inside and outside the planning area.

Migratory Birds

Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and this plan develops the framework to deal with the increased amount of recreation in this area by defining future actions at Hartman Rocks. Although there will be a small increase in the total amount of roads and trails in the region, the proposed action will help decrease impacts from increased use and define where these actions need to take place to lower threats across the region. By focusing on recreation in this area, surrounding areas may receive less impact from recreation and therefore a lower impact on migratory birds overall.

Wildlife

Recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and this plan develops the framework to deal with the increased amount of recreation in this area by defining future

actions at Hartman Rocks. Although there may be a small increase in the total amount of roads and trails in the region, the proposed action will help decrease impacts from increased use and define where these actions need to take place to lower threats across the region. By focusing on recreation in this area, surrounding areas may receive less impact from recreation and therefore a lower impact on wildlife overall.

Rangeland Management

As the overall population increases, and rural home development in the Gunnison Basin increases, dispersed and concentrated recreation will continue to increase in the Gunnison Basin and in the Hartman Rocks area. Incremental costs that can result from increased recreational use include: materials and labor to repair damaged fences and water developments, labor to gather and return livestock to their prescribed use areas, weight loss on livestock that are forced to travel more or that become separated from calves, direct loss of livestock due to theft, vehicle collisions, or intentional destruction, and operator time to meet with agencies and user groups to minimize conflicts with users and resources. The cumulative impact of these incremental costs to livestock operations will occur, regardless of the alternative chosen. The action alternatives may slow the increase in costs and allow more mechanisms for the livestock operations to determine where the highest impacts occur; however, there will be no overall cumulative effects on livestock grazing in the Gunnison Basin, as a result of this plan, regardless of the alternative chosen.

Cultural Resources

Any loss that might occur as a result of project implementation would result in an irreversible and irretrievable loss of cumulative data for the regional archaeological database. The loss might be limited to the currently known extent of resources present but, the data loss is cumulative in nature. While it is hard to determine cumulative effects on unidentified archaeological sites, proposed specific projects for all alternatives should not increase the potential for cumulative effects within the analysis area if a site-specific cultural inventory is implemented and significant resources are avoided.

Soils

Soil Productivity - Cumulatively, compacted area within Hartman Rocks would see a negligible decrease from 0.71% to 0.70%. Actual miles of routes visible on the ground and with low rates of infiltration would decrease from 128.7 miles to 127.4 miles. Within the watershed by the play area, compacted surfaces would decrease from 3.1% to 2.8%. Mileage of roads and closed routes with low rates of infiltration would decrease from 7.2 to 6.2 miles. With the rehabilitation of closed routes and roads within the watershed along with headcut stabilization and other two actions, the gully should become stabilized. There are no plans to rehabilitate

the entire gully, as this would be cost prohibitive and would likely be unsuccessful, given the location of the gully system on stony rock land and rock outcrop within the upper one-third of the watershed (NRCS, 2012). Constructing a fence around the play area should prevent the loss of productive soil adjacent to the play area. This action will also allow disturbed areas to revegetate, adding to the overall soil productivity within the watershed. In the short term, soil productivity would remain stable and over the long term, it should improve as infiltration increases and vegetation takes hold.

Soil Quality - Cumulative effects of locating the shooting area to a site on soil map units KcE and PhF would be beneficial to soil quality, as this area would be well managed and lead rounds would be periodically removed. The current shooting area near the McCabe's Lane entrance would be closed and restored.

Riparian Areas

The effect of the proposed action and the limited recreation alternative on riparian areas, added to the historical impacts from contour plowing, spring development, roads, trails, dispersed camping, and concentrated large herbivore grazing and browsing, will have negligible cumulative effects.

Fire and Fuels

Known fire history specific to the planning area is limited. Mixed severity, mosaic fires likely occurred at an interval of approximately every 25 years within the planning area. Livestock and wildlife grazing reduces continuous fine fuels such as grasses and forbs, limiting the frequency of low severity fires. Fire suppression has shifted vegetation cover types towards a late seral condition increasing the severity of fires. Increased recreation and the associated increase in human caused wildfire may have an increased negative affect on vegetation and adjacent communities.

Invasive, Non-native Species

Populations of invasive, non-native species are steadily increasing throughout the Gunnison Basin. Recent drought events have contributed to the expansion of these populations into native plant communities. Projected long-term changes in climate are expected to further increase the vulnerability of native plant communities in the Gunnison Basin to encroachment of non-native species, particularly cheatgrass. Levels of dispersed recreation are expected to increase, with more recreational vehicles entering the Gunnison Basin from areas with heavy populations of noxious weeds.

On the other hand, public awareness of the threats that noxious weeds pose to the natural resources, and to the local industries that depend on those resources, is increasing. The Gunnison Basin Weed Commission, a cooperative of federal, state, county, and local governments, private landowners, and concerned citizens, is working to prioritize and fund weed control and prevention activities, and to educate visitors and private land owners on the importance of preventing the establishment of invasive, non-native species. These efforts are expected to slow, and hopefully reverse, the trend of increasing amounts of invasive, non-native species in the Gunnison Basin.

4.0 TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

Hartman Rocks User Group meetings were held on July 20, 2010; March 2, 2011; November 30 2011; February 6, 2012; February 15 2012; and May 23, 2012 to discuss issues at Hartman Rocks and to discuss potential solutions responsive to these issues.

An Interdisciplinary Team Meeting was held on February 8, 2011; October 26, 2011; January 26, 2012; and May 31, 2012 to discuss internal issues.

A public open house to discuss issues at Hartman Rocks was held on January 20, 2011. Notice of this public open house was advertised in the local paper on January 13, 2011. Approximately 25 individuals, government/agency representatives attended that meeting.

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Title	Area(s) of Responsibility
Gay Austin	Natural Resource Specialist	Wetlands and Riparian Areas Aquatic Wildlife
Andrew Breibart	Hydrologist	Floodplains Water Quality Hydrology and Water Rights Soils
Brian Brown	Forester	Forest Vegetation/Management
Rebecca Bruno	Land Surveyor	Cadastral Survey
Tara de Valois	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species Upland Vegetation Rangeland Management
Elizabeth Francisco	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Native American Religious Concerns

		Paleontology
Russell Japuntich	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species Terrestrial Wildlife
David Lazorchak	Geologist	Geology and Minerals Hazardous Materials
Marnie Medina	Realty Specialist/NEPA Coordinator	Lands Authorizations NEPA Environmental Justice Prime and Unique Farmlands
Kristi Murphy	Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers Wilderness Access and Transportation Recreation Visual Resources
Jake Schmalz	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species Upland Vegetation Rangeland Management

6.0 REFERENCES CITED

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APPENDIX A
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-COS060-2011-0004- EA

PROJECT NAME: Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions
NA = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required
PA = present and requires further analysis because 1) analysis of the issue is necessary to make a reasoned choice between alternatives, or 2) analysis of the issue is necessary to determine the significance of impacts.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES			
Air Quality (Clean Air Act)	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	**Andrew Breibart**	**2/24/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: The amount of fugitive dust created from these actions should not create impacts within the Gunnison Air Basin.		
Cadastral Survey Needs and Monuments	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	***Rebecca M. Bruno***	**2/26/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: The Public Land Survey conditions in some of these areas are categorized as High Risk according to the latest GCDB inventory. Official records indicate GCDB (and thus GIS) reliabilities to be over 100 ft., which indicates a high uncertainty of boundary locations. When securing access to existing routes or creating new routes, there will be adequate review of the land boundaries for each project by Cadastral Survey staff.		
Geology/Minerals	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	**David Lazorchak**	**2/26/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: The proposed action as identified will have no impact on the geology or minerals within the analysis area.		
Paleontology	Determination	Signature	Date
	NP	*Elizabeth Francisco*	**3/4/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: No paleontological resources have been identified in the project area		

Soils (includes Public Land Health Standard 1)	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	**Andrew Breibart**	**2/24/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.7 of the EA.		
Floodplains (EO 11988)	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	**Andrew Breibart**	**03/06/14**
	Rationale for Determination: Gold Basin Creek, an intermittent stream and South Beaver Creek, which is perennial are the two streams with floodplains within Hartman's. The project will not construct impact floodplains, as no new infrastructure has been proposed within the floodplains of these two streams.		
Water Quality (drinking/ground) (Clean Water Act and others) **(includes Public Land Health Standard 5)**	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	**Andrew Breibart**	**2/24/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: Eight springs were originally inventoried in 1983 and 1984 and monitored again in May 2011. These springs are helocrenes and pH of 7 of the springs ranged between 6.6 and 9.2 in 1983 and 1984. Water was only found in 3 of the springs in 2011 and pH ranged between 7.12 and 8.01. pH falls within state standards. The inventory of springs revealed minimal disturbance to the springs from recreation and range management.		
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Fire and Fuels Management	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	Brian Brown	2/25/2014
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.9 of the EA.		
Invasive, Non-native Species (Federal Noxious Weed Act and EO 13112)	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	Tara M. de Valois	**2/25/14**
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.10 of the EA.		
Forest Vegetation (includes Public Land Health Standard 3)	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	Brian Brown	2/25/2014
	Rationale for Determination: The proposed action would not have a significant impact to forest vegetation within the project area.		
Upland Vegetation (includes Public Land	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	Tara M. de Valois	**2/25/14**

Health Standard 3)	Rationale for Determination: When compared to current conditions, the proposed action would likely decrease the amount of soil compaction and vegetation disturbance where trails are restored and where parking/camping/special use areas are limited and defined. However, the difference between the three alternatives on the overall health of upland vegetative communities would be minor. Therefore, detailed analysis is not required.		
Threatened, Endangered, Candidate (ESA)**, and/or Sensitive Plant Species (includes Public Land Health Standard 4)**	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	**Russell D. Japuntich**	**3/6/14**
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.4 of the EA.		
Riparian Zones and Wetlands (EO 11990) **(includes Public Land Health Standard 2)**	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	*Gay Austin*	**2/27/14**
	Rationale for Determination: The proposed action would likely decrease the amount of soil and vegetation compaction, restore closed routes, and as a result, decrease sedimentation in riparian areas in the project area.		
Wildlife (includes Public Land Health Standard 3)	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	**Russell D. Japuntich**	**3/6/14**
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.3 of the EA.		
Migratory Birds (EO 13186 and Migratory Bird Treaty Act)	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	**Russell D. Japuntich**	**3/6/14**
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.2 of the EA.		
Threatened, Endangered, Candidate (ESA)**, and/or Sensitive Animal Species (includes Public Land Health Standard 4)**	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	**Russell D. Japuntich**	**3/6/14**
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.4 of the EA.		
HERITAGE RESOURCES and HUMAN ENVIRONMENT			
Cultural Resources (National Historic Preservation Act)	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	*Elizabeth Francisco*	**3/4/2014**
	Rationale for Determination:		

	See discussion under section 3.6 of this EA.		
National Historic Trails (National Trails System Act)	Determination	Signature	Date
	NP	**Elizabeth Francisco**	**3/4/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: No National Historic Trails are located within the project area.		
Environmental Justice (EO 12898)	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	*Marnie Medina*	**3/7/14**
	Rationale for Determination: The proposed action has no disproportionate impact on any racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group.		
Native American Religious Concerns (American Indian Religious Freedom Act)	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	*Elizabeth Francisco*	**3/4/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: No Native American religious concerns have been identified in the project area. See discussion under section 3.6 of this EA.		
Socio-economics	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	**Kristi Murphy**	**2/24/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: The proposed action may have some socio-economic impact on the Gunnison area but it was beyond the scope of this analysis.		
Visual Resources	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	**Kristi Murphy**	**2/24/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: The VRM Class for the area is a VRM 4 and a small section is VRM 3 and the proposed actions will have no effect as proposed on visual resources.		
Wastes (hazardous or solid) (RCRA and CERCLA)	Determination	Signature	Date
	NP	**David Lazorchak**	**2/26/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: There are no known RCRA/CERCLA sites within the project area.		
LAND USES and SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS			
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (FLPMA)	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	*Marnie Medina*	**3/7/14**
	Rationale for Determination: The Hartman Rocks area includes the South Beaver Creek ACEC, which was designated to protect and enhance populations and habitat of skiff milkvetch. See the discussion under section 3.4 of the EA.		
Farmlands (Prime or Unique) (SMCRA and	Determination	Signature	Date
	NP	*Marnie Medina*	**3/7/14**

Farmland Protection Policy Act)	Rationale for Determination: There are no prime or unique farmlands in the analysis area. The NRCS has determined that in Gunnison County there are only "Farmlands of Statewide Importance", and only lands that are under irrigation fall into that category within the Important Farmland Inventory for the State of Colorado. There are no irrigated lands on public land in the analysis area.		
Lands/Realty Authorizations	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	*Marnie Medina*	**3/7/14**
	Rationale for Determination: There are six rights-of-way in the analysis area: 3 buried phone lines, a buried electric line, a water pipeline, and the WAPA electric trans-mission line and access roads. The proposed action and alternatives would have no effect on these ROWs.		
Rangeland Management	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	*Tara M. de Valois*	**2/25/14**
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.5 of the EA.		
Recreation	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	**Kristi Murphy**	**2/24/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.1 of the EA..		
Access and Transportation	Determination	Signature	Date
	PA	**Kristi Murphy**	**2/24/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: See the discussion under section 3.1 of the EA		
Wild and Scenic Rivers (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)	Determination	Signature	Date
	NP	**Kristi Murphy**	**2/24/2014**
	Wild and Scenic Rivers not present in the analysis area.		
Wilderness (FLPMA and Wilderness Act)	Determination	Signature	Date
	NP	**Kristi Murphy**	**2/24/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: Designated Wilderness not present in the analysis area.		
Land with Wilderness Characteristic	Determination	Signature	Date
	NA	**Kristi Murphy**	**2/24/2014**
	Rationale for Determination: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics present in the Back Country Recreation Zone and the proposed action will not effect LWC.		

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
NEPA Coordinator	*Marnie Medina*	3/7/14	
Field Manager	*Brian St. George*	3/27/14	

Appendix B: Response to Public EA Review Comments

The comment period for the Hartman Rocks, Gunnison County, Colorado EA ran from August 1 to August 31, 2012. A total of 14 individuals, organizations, and federal, state, and local governments/agencies submitted written comments. All of the comments were reviewed by BLM to determine if revisions of the EA were warranted.

A Draft Environmental Assessment was released to the public on July 31, 2012 and the public was encouraged to comment on the draft by August 31, 2012. A total of 16 individuals, organizations, and federal, state, and local governments/agencies submitted written comments. All of the comments were reviewed by BLM to determine if revisions of the EA were warranted.

A Federal Register Notice was published on September 13, 2013. The notice was published to allow the amendment of the Gunnison Resource Area Resource Management Plan through this EA planning decision. The BLM received interest from 5 interested parties during the FRN outreach effort with two parties making substantive comments.

A subsequent Federal Register Notice was published on 11/20/13 temporarily closing 4,363 acres of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area to target shooting year round for up to two year. No comments were received concerning this notice.

The following is a summary listing of the substantive comments and BLM's response to them. The comments are not presented here in their entirety but are available for public review in the Administrative Record located at the Gunnison Field Office in Gunnison, CO.

Number	Issue	Comment Summary	BLM Response
1A	Terrain Park	Would like to see expansion of Terrain Park. Would like to see it become an enduro track with logs, rocks and other obstacles. Would also like jumps on existing track. Would like to see gate at McCabes Lane move to the east so people have a place to ride in the spring when everything else is closed to motorized use due to Gunnison Sage-grouse closures.	This plan would transition the terrain park into a motor-cross track by manipulating the soil to create features that are desirable for this type of use. Prior to a motor-cross style park being constructed the BLM would enter into an agreement with a partnering organization who would then be permitted to construct, maintain and administer a motor-cross track. If a partner is not found then the area would remain as a terrain park. The Motor-Cross Track/Terrain Park would be open to motorcycle and ATV travel (less than 50 inches). BLM edited section 2.2.3 in response to your comment. The Terrain Park may open earlier in the spring to accommodate motorized use during spring run-off. The gate on McCabe's Lane would be opened and two additional gates would be installed on each side of the Terrain Park so unauthorized forms of travel cannot go further into Hartman Rocks Recreation Area until BLM management opens the area to all recreation uses each spring. One gate would be installed on BLM Road 3500, past BLM Road 3540 and another gate installed on BLM Road 3540 just past the Terrain Park parking lot.

2A	Trails	Likes wide trail concept. The Plan should address looking for new opportunities to build similar sized trails, especially when there is an opportunity to connect what is already being implemented.	Adaptive sports trails/hand cycle trails would be considered when adding or relocating routes. Retrofitting routes for hand cycle use to meet the needs of people with disabilities would be considered with adequate analysis. Constructing or retrofitting trails to make trails accessible for hand cycles will be done on a trial basis and it is not the intent to adapt every trail at Hartman Rocks. New trails or reroutes could be proposed and built for a variety of reasons like safety concerns, resource issues, unsustainable trails or sections of trails, connectivity of trails, dispersing use, social issues, accessibility, and experience. Some issues like safety and resource issues may be a higher priority than other trail issues. New trails or reroutes must go through proper planning and be authorized by BLM prior to construct.
3A	Tomichi Creek Bridge	Trail 3516T should remain designated for foot and horseback travel only and there should be no new bridge access to the BLM land across Tomichi creek. If a new access is developed it must be open to the public and include a parking area, be handicap accessible and provide for future development of rest rooms.	The Tomichi Creek Bridge being shown in the Proposed Action Map was an error and has been removed from the Proposed Action Map. The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis. 3516T is the Golf Course Trail and will continue to stay as part of the Hartman Rocks trail system as a foot/horse trail. It is recognized that this trail ends at Tomichi Creek and private

			property boundaries.
3B	Trail	All of trail 3518T should be mechanized. In other words, the motorized portion should be changed to mechanized.	Thank you for your comment. Your concerns are noted, however this is a multiple use recreation area and keeping trails open to as many uses as possible is important to BLMs mission. The reason for the change in use on 3515b is to deal with vandalism issues on private property and motorized use on the Ridge Trail. Allowing for a loop option for motorized users south of 3515b, with enforced signing, should eliminate motorized encroachment issues on the mechanized portion of (3518T) The Ridge Trail.
3C	Road	Currently, roads 3515b and3515c are parallel, short and go steeply uphill. They end within about a few hundred feet from each other. They are redundant. In addition, an illegal road is developing between them across my private property.	Language in the plan allows for the closure of 3515C to full sized vehicles if problems continue. It could be converted to a single track motorized trail. The BLM will work with you to close and restore the illegal route across your private property.
3D	Road	In addition to bottles and cans, we get tires, golf balls and my neighbor had a 2 foot by 2 foot hole in his garage from a boulder intentionally dislodged from above.	The closure of BLM Road 3515b to full sized vehicles is an attempt to eliminate the vandalism issues on private property. At end of the road is a night life social gathering spot. This plan does not show a designated campsite at that location so another action taken in the plan to reduce vandalism is to eliminate camping and campfires at the end of 3515b and 3515c. This can be found in section 2.1.5. Camping and campfires would not be allowed in those locations.

3E	Road	Erosion is a major problem with both roads because of their steep grade. Four wheelers spin their wheels spewing rocks and dirt. Over time, gullies develop, roads widen and damage grows.	The BLM recognizes that these two routes are not ideal from an erosion standpoint. In section 2.1.1 the plan discusses rerouting trails to make them sustainable. If unacceptable resource impacts develop the BLM will consider other options with additional planning and analysis.
3F	Road	Road 3515b was created about 10 years ago by 4 wheelers with no input from BLM. Therefore it can be considered illegal. Road 3515c is over 20 years old. It was well established in 1992. If we leave one road, it should be 3515c.	BLM Roads 3515b and 3515c were both designated open to full size vehicles in the 2010 Gunnison Basin Travel Management Plan based on the 2006 Hartman Rocks RAMP. If unacceptable resource impacts develop the BLM will consider other options with additional planning and analysis.
3G	Terrain Park/Open Play Area	The proposed action for the Terrain Park is a good one. But if a real motocross track is developed, the Play Area should be closed.	Thank you for your comment.
3H	Terrain Park	During planning for the 2006 RAMP there was opposition to what you are calling the "Play Area". The Terrain Park was a default creation when a real motocross track was rejected by BLM at a higher level. Because of liability concerns, no dirt could be moved to create a real motocross track. It was a poor solution to the problem and motocross was spread across Hartman Rocks and especially at the Play Area which grew and grew over the next decade.	Thank you for your comment.
3I	Open Play Area	We now have a chance to provide a good solution to the problem. Build a great	As stated in section 3.1.2.2 the Open Play Area is growing in size and the proposed action addresses this by installing

		motocross track at the Terrain Park and close off all other motocross at Hartman's. The Play Area is a special problem. It introduces a lot of noise in the most used peaceful valley at Hartman's.	a barrier around this area. This would contain use within a boundary that currently does not exist. The open play area was designated as single track trails but the area is being used as a playground for all kinds of vehicles. This alternative allows all uses in the Open Play Area. The proposed open play area is constantly being used by people recreating, and keeping this site for motorized use will assist the BLM in meeting the demand for this type of use. Noise around the site could be an issue for private land owners below. However, BLM has not received any complaints from private home owners that the current noise levels are an issue. The BLM does not foresee a dramatic change in how this area will be used in the future because the area will be contained to a limited size and will not accommodate large numbers of recreationists.
3J	Terrain Park and Open Play Area	To be successful, BLM must get support from the motorcycle community and Hartman's users. Obviously the motorcyclists must support limiting motocross elsewhere in Hartman's and that should be a condition for building the track. The Hartman Rocks User Group would be a good place to start getting acceptance from the users. The motorcycle shops would also be the place to contact.	Thank you for your comment.

3K	Shooting	Allow recreational shooting only south of the power line but develop several shooting areas for the public.	Thank you for your comment but BLM Policy does not allow for the designation and development of shooting ranges. However dispersed recreational shooting is allowed outside the shooting closure area.
3L	Over Use	My number one concern is the overuse of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area (HR). Since the planning/users group started working on HR almost 2 decades ago, use has increased by over a thousand percent. On my first visit, there were almost no people and the area was pristine. Now there are dozens of people, bikes and vehicles encountered on each visit and there is massive ecological damage. This is the "tragedy of the commons". People see the area as a "free place" and continually push for their particular use. The result is the death of the place they love.	The purpose of this proposed action is to take an adaptive management approach to recreation planning at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area and to update some guidance decisions made in the 2006 RAMP accordingly. An updated RAMP will provide guidance and direction toward managing recreation in a manner that maintains or improves the condition and health of the unique landscape and natural resources while creating a sustainable recreation environment to promote a diversity of high quality recreation opportunities and provide for the health and safety of visitors.
4A	Trails	Would like an overarching goal to continually improve the trail system at Hartman Rocks and strive for a diverse system that appeals to a wide spectrum of trail users. This improvement could mean, but is not limited to, trail maintenance, the rerouting of trails, and the building of new trails.	The BLM edited section 2.2.1 due to your comment. In the future BLM may decide to develop a trail plan for Hartman Rocks Recreation Area as an appendix to the RAMP. The comprehensive trail plan could establish guidelines, maintenance standards, procedures, and timelines for trail work and evaluation of trail conditions. It could establish locations for new routes and reroutes. The plan could also establish a saturation point for new trail development though a maximum miles per acre scenario.

4B	Trails	The ability to reroute unsustainable sections of trails.	The BLM edited section 2.1.2 due to your comment. New trails or reroutes could be proposed and built for a variety of reasons like safety concerns, resource issues, unsustainable trails or sections of trails, connectivity of trails, dispersing use, social issues, accessibility, and experience. Some issues like safety and resource issues may be a higher priority than other trail issues. New trails or reroutes must go through proper planning and be authorized by BLM prior to construction.
4C	Trails	The ability to reroute fenceline trails that are incredibly dangerous. This issue was recently brought up in a global mountain biking magazine (see attachment) and should be a high priority.	The BLM edited section 2.1.2 due to your comments. New trails or reroutes could be proposed and built for a variety of reasons like safety concerns, resource issues, unsustainable trails or sections of trails, connectivity of trails, dispersing use, social issues, accessibility, and experience. Some issues like safety and resource issues may be a higher priority than other trail issues. Trails too close to fence lines, deeply rutted trails, or trails too close to erosion gullies are examples of trail safety issues and those trails may need to be rerouted. New trails or reroutes must go through proper planning and be authorized by BLM prior to construction.

4D	Trails	The ability to reroute, rather than close, trails that have been determined to impact natural or cultural resources.	Section 2.1.2 discusses the possibility of reroutes due to resource concerns. It would be difficult as a public land manager to take away a land management tool and make a blanket statement that trails will not get closed due to resource concerns. It is not the intent of BLM to close trails in such a popular recreation area but if no other option exists BLM may need to use that tool to mitigate resource issues.
4E	Trails	The ability to build new trails for connectivity, to enhance the trail system, or for any other reason deemed to have merit.	Section 2.1.2 was edited due to this comment. New trails or reroutes could be proposed and built for a variety of reasons like safety concerns, resource issues, unsustainable trails or sections of trails, connectivity of trails, dispersing use, social issues, accessibility, and experience. Some issues like safety and resource issues may be a higher priority than other trail issues. New trails or reroutes must go through proper planning and be authorized by BLM prior to construction.

4F	Trails	Allow one-way trails in certain situations.	The BLM edited section 2.1.2 due to this comment. More skilled riders and advancing technology in bikes that have more suspension and can handle steeper terrain are resulting in some demand for steep downhill routes. Steep routes have a much higher chance of erosion problems and tend to create more obvious visual scars. The BLM must be careful when designing more expert routes to try to offer a challenging ride and still avoid unacceptable resource impacts. This can be done by searching for routes with rock or durable soils as a substrate, including extensive features to control water and prevent soil erosion, and designing routes to minimize visual impacts. Construction of one-way trails is not a normal practice at Hartman Rocks but this is one situation where BLM could consider one-way trail traffic.
4G	Vegetation	Parking restrictions, designated parking and camping areas and restrictive barriers should be considered to slow or eliminate this loss of vegetation.	According to section 2.1.7, facility development would be considered where appropriate to enhance recreational experiences or reduce resource impacts. Development of facilities would use the minimum footprint required to maintain ground cover and to minimize the amount of compacted surfaces. Small parking areas would be developed at various locations to reduce resource impacts from unconfined parking at campsites, climbing areas, and trail/road intersections.

4H	Trails	Some mention of trail maintenance standards. Primarily, is lining trails with rocks, logs deadfall and other native, naturally occurring materials an appropriate method for keeping users on the trails and eliminating short cutting, widening, “blow outs,” and “ride arounds?”	In section 2.1.2 edits were made to the plan to deal with trail maintenance standards at a later date if needed. National BLM maintenance standards are outdated and it is hopeful that new standards will come out in the near future. The proposed action allows for the development of a trail in the future if needed. The plan could include these standards. Trail ride-a-rounds have been addressed in section 2.1.2 due to public comments.
4I	Interpretation/Education	The ability to add additional signage as necessary that could contain a variety of messages is a good idea.	Thank you for your comment.
4J	Shooting	It is appropriate to limit target shooting north of the powerlines to designated shooting areas only.	Thank you for your comment.

4K	Terrain Park	Would BLM consider a motorized hair scramble track outside the Sandy Wash Area?	Additional routes outside or inside the fenced area of the Terrain Park could be allowed with proper BLM planning and authorization. Mode of travel on additional routes outside the Terrain Park would be decided with future planning. Possible areas of expansion could be on the west side of BLM Road 3540 or in and around the Sandy Wash trail, east of the Terrain Park. In section 2.1.1 new trails or reroutes could be proposed and built for a variety of reasons like safety concerns, resource issues, unsustainable trails or sections of trails, connectivity of trails, dispersing use, social issues, accessibility, and experience. Some issues like safety and resource issues may be a higher priority than other trail issues. New trails or reroutes must go through proper planning and be authorized by BLM prior to construction.
4L	xc skiing	We favor the expanded XC skiing portrayed on Map 2.2 6a	Thank you for your comment.
4M	Trails/Private Property	Sacrifice trail should be able to be reopened with landowner permission. Please don't obliterate but sign closed for now.	Section 2.1.11addresses private land and access issues. The BLM has opened discussions with some adjacent landowners to assess willingness to permit public trails to cross private land. If private land owners are willing the BLM would work out details about the type of use, level of development, restrictions etc. that are appropriate for those routes and formalize them in a public access easement. No routes would be designated, developed or maintained that trespassed on private land without the owner's permission. Any trails found to be trespassing on

			private land would be closed as soon as practical.
4N	Tomichi Creek Bridge	The Tomichi Creek bridge access and designation of the Golf Course Trail as Mechanized is a great idea and this opportunity should be included in the plan. Parking at the trailhead should not be allowed. Parking for bikes, however, is a good idea, that way, hikers and runners from around the community could access this area via bicycle. No facilities, other than a trailhead and a bike rack should be provided. Another primary reason for this bridge and route is to provide easy access to wild public lands for kids living in this neighborhood and their friends from other parts of the valley. This is a great opportunity to introduce children to responsible public lands stewardship, an experience they simply won't have much access to if they need to be driven to the base area.	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
5A	SRP	2.1.10 Please revise this section to include consideration for ATVs and UTVs. We look forward to submitting many applications in the future.	2.1.10 allows for motorized events and assumes that ATVs and UTVs area motorized vehicles.
5B	Open Play Area	2.2.1 Likes Open Play Area.	Thank you for your comment.

5C	Rock Crawling	2.2.2 Likes Rock Crawling Route.	Thank you for your comment.
5D	Terrain Park	2.2.3 Complete clearance work to expand Terrain Park east and west into gravel pit area. Economically beneficial to area.	The BLM will work with partners to come up with a site specific proposal prior to any planning or clearance work.
5E	Trials Riding	2.2.4 Encourage BLM to sign trials riding routes and designate them as trails.	2.2.4 This plan would designate a trials riding area for mechanized and motorized two wheeled bikes using low pressure tires designed for such a purpose. Riders would be required to stay on hard rock surfaces and to not disturb vegetation and soil. The BLM would harden routes that tie groups of hard rock surfaces together. This would reduce vegetation disturbance by containing it to small localized areas. The BLM may need to sign these hardened routes and designate them as trails. The open riding area for trials riding would only be designated in the Ring Dike area.
5F	Shooting	2.2.5 Recreational Shooting - We are glad to read that the target range area North of Sandy Wash will be closed and that all shooting will be limited to South of the Powerline Road. This adjustment makes the area East of the Motor-cross Track/Terrain Park available for the expansion of motorized opportunities.	Thank you for your comment.

5G	Hand Cycle Trails	Sea of Sage and Broken Shovel are ideal candidate trails. Since so many other user groups will lose these two trails as singletrack options, we ask that BLM immediately considers the construction of 2 new trails in the Front and Middle Country Zones and 1 new trail in the Back Country.	Adaptive sports trails/hand cycle trails would be considered when adding or relocating routes. Retrofitting routes for hand cycle use to meet the needs of people with disabilities would be considered with adequate analysis. Constructing or retrofitting trails to make trails accessible for hand cycles will be done on a trial basis and it is not the intent to adapt every trail at Hartman Rocks. Hand cycle trails or “wide” trails will be managed as single track trails at Hartman Rocks and open to all single track trail uses as well as hand cycles.

5H	Roads and Trails	2.1.2 Roads and Trails - BLM states (p.19, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence) that, "New trails/roads and reroutes would not be considered until obliteration / restoration work has made significant progress" We completely disagree with this policy. What does "significant progress" mean? Would like to see plans on paper as part of this Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment for new ATV / UTV and singletrack trails at Hartman Rocks in the near future. Visitations to the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area have doubled from 20K annually to 40K annually in 5 years and yet the trail and road system remains the same. Modest improvements have been made with regard to amenities (restrooms at base area) and signage (installation of kiosks) but visitations are far outpacing management. We need to build more trails and roads at Hartman Rocks and we need to do it soon so that recreational uses & traffic can be dispersed and the quality of experience can remain very high.	A change was made based on your comment. 2.1.2 A priority would be made to obliterate and restore closed routes. New trails/roads and reroutes might not be considered until obliteration/restoration work has made significant progress unless another significant issue arises such as access, safety or special initiatives. Currently Hartman Rocks Recreation Area has a total of 15 miles of closed routes in the Front and Middle Country Recreation Zones. A restoration goal for the Front Country and Middle Country Zones is to complete 2 to 3 miles of restoration per year for a total of 5 years to complete a total of 15 miles. New route considerations are discussed in this section. ATV and UTV trails have not been a priority use at Hartman Rocks and are not addressed in this document through trail development but are addressed in this document on the Terrain Park and system roads. Section 1.2 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action states An updated RAMP will provide guidance and direction toward managing recreation in a manner that maintains or improves the condition and health of the unique landscape and natural resources while creating a sustainable recreation environment to promote a diversity of high quality recreation opportunities and provide for the health and safety of visitors.

6A	Trails/hand cycle trails	Sea-of-Sage and Broken Shovel should remain intact and a hand cycle trail should be added without losing existing single-track.	A separate site specific decision will be made to construct a hand cycle trail or retrofit an existing trail for hand cycle use. The proposed plan states in section 2.1.2 that adaptive sports trails/hand cycle trails would be considered when adding or relocating routes. Retrofitting routes for hand cycle use to meet the needs of people with disabilities would be considered with adequate analysis. Constructing or retrofitting trails to make trails accessible for hand cycles will be done on a trial basis and it is not the intent to adapt every trail at Hartman Rocks. Hand cycle trails or "wide" trails will be managed as single track trails at Hartman Rocks and open to all single track trail uses as well as hand cycles.
6B	Trails	Reopen Back door (road HRR A28), Arden's (HRT A55), Quarry Drop (HRT A53), Bong Hits (HRT A43), Sacrifice (HRT A16), Enchanted Forest (Z4-X154) and the Old stage coach road (from back in the Aberdeen quarry days (HRT A50 and HRT A51) Also we could possibly connect HRT 51 to HRT 52 avoiding the private land.	Many of these trails were addressed and closed in the 2006 RAMP due to resource concerns. Section 2.1.2 discusses new route considerations.
6C	Route Obliteration	Why are planning route closures outside of the project area boundary?	The proposed action only allows actions within the planning area boundary. Any actions outside the planning area boundary would fall under another planning document like the Gunnison Basin Federal Lands Travel Management Plan.

6D	Trail Connectivity	Concerned about trail connectivity.	Section 2.1.2 discusses new route considerations. 9-0 is located in the Back Country Zone and it is more desirable to locate new trails in the Front Country and Middle Country zones at Hartman Rocks. There is always a possibility a new trail could be built in the Back Country Zone but the proposed action limits this activity due to habitat concerns with sensitive wildlife species.
7A	Shooting	A target shooting area should be established for safety.	BLM Policy does not allow for the designation and development of shooting ranges unless a partner assumes liability and responsibility for development.
7B	Open Play Area	How will BLM manage Open Play Area? Build a fence but do not improve.	2.2.1 This plan proposes to designate the area as an open play area for motorized and mechanized vehicles. A fence or boundary would be constructed around the perimeter of the open play area to stop vegetation loss and stop the area from growing larger. A parking area would be developed within or near the open play area.

7C	Terrain Park	Work with user group to enhance Terrain Park off McCabe's.	2.2.3 This area was developed as a terrain park in the 2006 Hartman Rocks Plan. This plan could transition the terrain park into a motor-cross track by manipulating the soil to create features that are desirable for this type of use. Prior to a motor-cross style park being constructed the BLM would entering into an agreement with a partnering organization who would then be permitted to construct, maintain and administer a motor-cross track. If a partner is not found then the area would remain as a terrain park. The Motor-Cross Track/Terrain Park would be open to motorcycle and ATV travel (less than 50 inches.)
7D	Pallets	Yah! To no pallets	Thank you for your comment.
7E	Restrooms	Be more specific about what kind of restrooms would be built at Hartman Rocks.	2.1.7 All facility development should "fit-in" with the surrounding areas and be aesthetically pleasing. This could include low profile restroom facilities.
7F	Use Fees	Did not discuss use fees at Hartman Rocks.	Visitor use fees are outside the scope of this planning document.
7G	Ski Trails	Would like to see more cross country ski trails and try grooming them to stay narrow and skier set and see if that is what the public wants.	Addressed in Section 2.2.6 If the additional routes are not well received by recreationist the BLM partner who grooms the new routes have the option not to groom those routes.

7H	Shooting	Safety issue with displacing shooters.	BLM Policy does not allow for the designation and development of shooting ranges unless a partner assumes liability and responsibility for development. Section 2.2.5 states the BLM will no longer allow recreational shooting north of the Power Line Road. If unsafe recreational shooting conflicts development south of the Power Line Road the BLM may decide to reevaluate the situation and develop and new strategy related to recreational shooting at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.
8A	Trails	Would like to see and area wide mountain biking trail plan. Would like to see more info on endurance trail levels and skill levels. Need a comprehensive trail plan establish guidelines, procedures, and timelines for trail work and evaluation of trail conditions? Need a more practical management tool.	2.1.2 At a future point the BLM may decide to develop a trail plan for Hartman Rocks Recreation Area as an appendix to the RAMP. The comprehensive trail plan could establish guidelines, procedures, and timelines for trail work and evaluation of trail conditions. It could establish locations for new routes and reroutes. The plan could also establish a saturation point for new trail development though a maximum miles per acre scenario.
9A	Shooting	Would like to see a shooting range that accommodated several shooters at the same time. Need to think about different kinds of recreational shooters.	BLM Policy does not allow for the designation and development of shooting ranges unless a partner assumes liability and responsibility for development.

10A	Partnership /Cooperative Management	Will the BLM continue to manage Hartman Rocks with City of Gunnison, County and Hartman Rocks User Group? Why aren't marketing and promotion mentioned in proposed plan?	2.1.15 The BLM will continue to work closely with the City of Gunnison, Gunnison County, Hartman Rocks User Group, and other interested parties to achieve management goals. Volunteerism and public land stewardship will continue to be a key management plan implementation tool at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. 2.1.12 BLM will work with Hartman Rocks Partners and local communities to determine proper promotional messages. Messages may change based on economics, resources concerns, visitation, visitor experience, trend in recreation, seasons, etc.
10B	Use Figures	Did not have good numbers in the past. Does not feel that use has increased as much as proposed plan indicates.	The BLM is completing a new plan because the current plan lacks long term direction for management and not because of increased use. Resource specialist are seeing an increase in environmental impacts due to recreation. This plan is an attempt to address and contain these human use impacts.
10C	Planning Area Boundary	Concludes that increased use is justification for planning area boundary.	The planning area boundary is a boundary selected by the Interdisciplinary Team to look at how recreation can affect all resources in the entire area. The boundary was not selected due to increased visitor use, the boundary was selected to contain facility development.

10D	Planning Area Boundary	Planning area boundary should be smaller to keep concentrated recreation use and impacts in a limited area. Impacts to wildlife and plants are a concern with the expanded boundary.	The planning area boundary is a boundary selected by the Interdisciplinary Team to look at how recreation can affect all resources in the entire area. The boundary was not selected due to increased visitor use, the boundary was selected to contain facility development to specific areas. A Wildlife Biologist has been a key ID Team member. We are seeing impacts in the entire planning area but focusing development and recreation in the Front Country and Middle Country Zones of Hartman Rocks. The Candidate Conservation Agreement proposes further Gunnison Sage Grouse Protection in areas outside of the Front Country and Middle Country Zones of Hartman Rocks.
10E	Planning Area Boundary	SRMA Boundary is too large and goes into areas that don't have recreation.	An SRMA Boundary can only be designated in an RMP amendment and this not an RMP amendment. An updated Recreation Area Management Plan is needed due to issues with sensitive species. The Action Alternatives limit development in the Backcountry. While the proposed action recognizes people's desire for remoteness and solitude it also acknowledges that such opportunities are limited due to the nature of heavy recreation use in the Front and Middle Country Zones. Development is not encouraged in the Back Country Zone.
10F	Planning Area Boundary	The planning area boundary sends the message that the BLM is willing to sacrifice more and more ground and resource impacts to accommodate increasing recreational demand.	An SRMA Boundary can only be designated in an RMP amendment and this not an RMP amendment. The planning area boundary is a boundary selected by the Interdisciplinary Team to look at how recreation might affect all resources in the entire area.

10G	Planning Area Boundary	The planning area boundary opens the door for potential expansion to a larger area will likely exceed your ability to adequately manage and maintain.	The planning area boundary is a boundary selected by the Interdisciplinary Team to look at how recreation might affect all resources in the entire area. The boundary was not selected due to increased visitor use, the boundary was selected to contain facility development to specific areas. Human use impacts are happening at Hartman Rocks and this plan attempts to provide facilities to manage that use. Partnership building has and will continue to increase our ability to maintain and manage Hartman Rocks. All of the land analyzed in this document is managed by BLM and whether or not it is in or out of the planning area boundary the BLM still has to manage those human use impacts. The BLM is charged with managing public land even if it is outside Hartman Rocks Recreation Area planning area boundary. 3.1.2-Cost Increase to Field Office to Maintain and Pump Toilets - It is anticipated that the Field Office will increase maintenance costs to pump toilets by approximately $4000 annually. The BLM is already cleaning campsites and that maintenance work load will not change with the proposed action compared to what is happening now.
10H	Planning Area Boundary	Planning area boundary encourages trespass along South Beaver Creek	The planning area boundary is a boundary selected by the Interdisciplinary Team to look at how recreation might affect all resources in the entire area. The proposed action does not encourage private land trespass. Private land owners have not brought this issue to our attention and if it becomes an issue the BLM can work with land owners to

			mitigate.
10I	Planning Area Boundary	Planning area boundary expansion has the potential for unacceptable impacts to Skiff Milkvetch, Gunnison Sage-grouse and big game winter range.	The planning area boundary is a boundary selected by the Interdisciplinary Team to look at how recreation might affect all resources in the entire area. The proposed action contains development to the Front and Middle Country Zones and discourages development in the Back Country Zone.
10J	Planning Area Boundary	Planning area boundary opens door for recreation expansion further west outside the boundaries of the SRMA and will impact Sage-grouse and big game winter range.	The BLM would not develop new trails or facilities without further site specific analysis. The possibility of recreation use outside the analysis area is outside the scope of this analysis. New proposed routes or reroutes must be evaluated and authorized by the BLM prior to construction. It is more desirable to locate new trails in the Front Country and Middle Country Zones at Hartman Rocks.
10k	Planning Area Boundary	Keep old SRMA boundary but include immediate Aberdeen Loop Trail. No recreation development west of South Beaver Creek. No parking development west of Beaver Creek.	An SRMA Boundary can only be designated in an RMP amendment and this not an RMP amendment. The intent on a parking area is not to increase visitor use but to reduce impacts from unconfined recreation.

10L	Hand Cycle Trails	The length that you should be willing to go to accommodate this use should be in reasonable proportion to the amount of use you might reasonably expect. You offer no information about the amount of demand by this group to suggest there is great need to accommodate this use.	A separate site specific decision will be made to construct a hand cycle trail or retrofit an existing trail for hand cycle use. The proposed plan states in section 2.1.2 that Adaptive sports trails/hand cycle trails would be considered when adding or relocating routes. Retrofitting routes for hand cycle use to meet the needs of people with disabilities would be considered with adequate analysis. Constructing or retrofitting trails to make trails accessible for hand cycles will be done on a trial basis and it is not the intent to adapt every trail at Hartman Rocks.
10M	Hand Cycle Trails	Hand Cycles can ride on roads.	Thank you for your comment.
10N	Hand Cycle Trails	Widening single track for hand cycle use is too big of an impact on environment and too expensive to justify.	This Recreation Management Plan does not propose any site specific locations for hand cycle trails. Wildlife impacts for hand cycle trails will be analyzed in a separate assessment.
10O	Rock Climbing	Keep rock climbing in ring dike area and don't encourage in South Beaver Creek. Don't list climbing routes pvt property.	Aberdeen Quarry was removed from the list of climbing routes on BLM. This plan is an attempt to document a baseline of climbing crags in the Hartman Rocks Area so future actions can be taken if needed. In section 2.1.4 it states This proposed action would continue to authorize commercial guiding for this activity in the area. Climbing in sensitive portions of the planning area would be discouraged. If climbing begins to cause unacceptable resource impacts (such as long term impacts that cannot be resolved or mitigated), measures would be put in place to reduce and/or remove those impacts.

10P	Trails	Page 28 states that things will open once trails dry out and then contradict that with early opening of trails. Doesn't support early opening of Hartman Rocks in spring.	The BLM is striving to come up with solutions to help ease human pressure on lekking Gunnison Sage Grouse during the early spring when some routes are not completely free of snow/water. The BLM believes that opening a small area of public land for public use is more manageable than closing all public lands to human use during lekking seasons. This document is meant to be flexible and if early spring openings do not change people's recreation habits in other areas of the field office the Field Office Manager then has the discression to not follow this early opening. This early opening mimics the Candidate Conservation Agreement for Gunnison Sage Grouse.
10Q	Rock Crawling	Two areas for rock crawling were identified in the 2006 plan. Those sites should be used.	After coordination with local rock crawling enthusiasts a suitable area for that type of use was found at Hartman Rocks. Thank you for your comment.
10R	Competitive Motorized Events	Concerned that motorized competitive events will cause lasting damage to roads and trails.	Addressed on page 45 of plan. "Motorized events such as motorcycle trials, poker runs and enduros could be considered as long as they would not cause lasting damage to the trail system or inappropriate impacts to the area's resources. The BLM would work to ensure that the routes authorized for events are appropriate for that type of use."
10S	Open Play Area	Careful not to create a hazard for riders when fencing open play area.	Thank you for your comment.

10T	Terrain Park	Concerned that BLM would take on liability issues at the Terrain Park if dirt jumps were constructed.	Addressed in section 2.2.3, "Prior to a motor-cross style park being constructed the BLM would enter into an agreement with a partnering organization who would then be permitted to construct, maintain and administer a motor-cross track. If a partner is not found then the area would remain as a terrain park. "
10U	Terrain Park	Would like Terrain Park open to ATVs and Motorcycles. Can only maintain Terrain Park with a UTV or ATV. Not enough use to eliminate ATVs.	Addressed in section 2.2.3, "The Motor-Cross Track/Terrain Park would be open to motorcycle and ATV travel (less than 50 inches.)"
10V	Terrain Park	Not enough rational for expanding riding options at the Terrain Park. Does not see any reason to create additional motorized single track to be tied into the Terrain Park.	1.5.3 The Terrain Park received limited use due to size of track area, lack of built features, beginner/kids track is too small without enough challenge, and lack of trailer parking. Based on public input during public scoping motorized recreationists expressed interest in the expansion of motorized trails near the Terrain Park.

10W	Shooting	Closing the designated shooting area will cause impacts to other areas. Does not agree with impact analysis on page 75 because the existing site is safe as long as it is used in the way it was designed to be used.	Section 1.5.3 States the issues associated with recreational shooting and the BLM had to weigh several issues to develop the proposed action. Continuing to operate under the no action alternative, as stated in section 3.1.2.3, visitor health and safety could be jeopardized because shooting conflicts are not clearly addressed and conditions have changed since the 2006 plan. Selecting this alternative has the potential to have a negative impact on human health and safety. The no action alternative is also not in line with current agency policy. In the Proposed Action under section 2.2.5 the BLM will no longer allow recreational shooting north of the Power Line Road. If unsafe recreational shooting conflicts development south of the Power Line Road the BLM may decide to reevaluate the situation and develop and new strategy related to recreational shooting at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.
10X	Winter Ski Trails	Increasing groomed ski trails will negatively impact deer in the winter. The document shows no proof that the current winter ski trail use is so crowded that additional opportunities are necessary. Trails don't loop and dump out to locations where there aren't parking areas.	Impacts to wildlife were identified and addressed in the Wildlife section of the plan. Some changes were made to the proposed action based on your comment concerning loop options and lack of parking. Two routes, BLM 3550 east of BLM 3570 and BLM 3545, are not being considered at this time due to lack of parking at the county road intersections. If parking is resolved these routes may also be considered for ski trail grooming. Some routes listed as open for grooming may not be suitable for full grooming due to steep grades or sharp turns. This is a long term plan and some roads and trails may be rerouted in the

			future making them more viable for winter grooming.
10Y	Winter Motorized Use	Define winter motorized use. What is a snowmobile? When is the snow deep enough for to use the groomed trails? What is a snowmobile?	2.1.8 Tracked vehicles would be allowed only on the designated groomed ski routes. To prevent damage to the system of groomed cross country ski trails, Hartman Rocks would be closed to motorized use except tracked vehicles once grooming begins each year for ski trails. 2.2.6 Tracked vehicles would be allowed to use any system road that is groomed for cross-country skiing. Using tracked vehicles on ungroomed routes would not be allowed at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.
10Z	Law Enforcement	Lack of law enforcement's management role in the proposed plan.	2.2.8 and 2.1.14 discusses possible supplemental rules and law enforcement participation in managing Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

11A	Trails	Plan lacks new routes. Lack of quantifying how many routes need to be obliterated before new routes can be considered.	2.1.2 A priority would be made to obliterate and restore closed routes. New trails/roads and reroutes might not be considered until obliteration/restoration work has made significant progress unless another significant issue arises such as access, safety or special initiatives. Currently Hartman Rocks Recreation Area has a total of 15 miles of closed routes in the Front and Middle Country Recreation Zones. A restoration goal for the Front Country and Middle Country Zones is to complete 2 to 3 miles of restoration per year for a total of 5 years to complete a total of 15 miles. In the future BLM may decide to develop a trail plan for Hartman Rocks Recreation Area as an appendix to the RAMP. The comprehensive trail plan could establish guidelines, maintenance standards, procedures, and timelines for trail work and evaluation of trail conditions. It could establish locations for new routes and reroutes. The plan could also establish a saturation point for new trail development though a maximum miles per acre scenario.
11B	Trails	Connectivity of trails in front and middle country. Would like to construct new trails instead of replacing trails.	2.1.2 New trails or reroutes could be proposed and built for a variety of reasons like safety concerns, resource issues, unsustainable trails or sections of trails, connectivity of trails, dispersing use, social issues, accessibility, and experience. Some issues like safety and resource issues may be a higher priority than other trail issues. New trails or reroutes must go through proper planning and be authorized by BLM prior to construction.

11C	Trail Easements	Would like to see an easement or working with the landowners (land swap) on Sacrifice and the River trail.	2.1.11 The BLM has opened discussions with some adjacent landowners to assess willingness to permit public trails to cross private land. If private land owners are willing the BLM would work out details about the type of use, level of development, restrictions etc. that are appropriate for those routes and formalize them in a public access easement. No routes would be designated, developed or maintained that trespassed on private land without the owner's permission. Any trails found to be trespassing on private land would be closed as soon as practical.
12A	Shooting	Close Hartman Rocks to shooting and isolate shooting from other activities.	2.2.5 Due to the popularity of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area and the amount of use it receives this plan proposes to no longer allow recreational shooting north of the Power Line Road (BLM 3550), east of BLM Road 3555, and northeast of BLM Road 3500 in Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. See Figure 2.2a, Proposed Action Map. Hunting would continue to be allowed throughout Hartman Rocks. If unsafe recreational shooting conflicts development south of the Power Line Road the BLM may decide to reevaluate the situation and develop and new strategy related to recreational shooting at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. This alternative would close the existing target shooting location. The existing Target Shooting Area would be mitigated and reclaimed. However, people can continue

			to enjoy dispersed target shooting behind the new OHV Parking Area. The OHV parking area is located east of the Terrain Park near the McCabe's Lane entrance to Hartman Rocks. This popular dispersed shooting area is near the old Target Shooting Area (approximately 0.2 mile away), offers similar shooting opportunities, and is situated outside the proposed recreational shooting closure area.
12B	Road Improvement	Improve/maintain McCabe Lane road entrance.	Thank you for your comment.
12C	Terrain Park	Terrain Park does not get used.	1.5.3 The Terrain Park received limited use due to size of track area, lack of built features, beginner/kids track is too small without enough challenge, and lack of parking with trailers. 2.2.3 This area was developed as a terrain park in the 2006 Hartman Rocks Plan. This plan would transition the terrain park into a motor-cross track by manipulating the soil to create features that are desirable for this type of use. Prior to a motor-cross style park being constructed the BLM would enter into an agreement with a partnering organization who would then be permitted to construct, maintain and administer a motor-cross track. If a partner is not found then the area would remain as a terrain park. The Motor-Cross Track/Terrain Park would be open to motorcycle and ATV travel (less than 50 inches.)

13A	Hand Cycle Trails	The idea of the handicapped hand-cycle trails is awesome – however – abandoning/closing the existing trails close to the proposed reroutes is sad – my suggestions is either widen the existing or build the new one and leave the old ones in place.	A separate site specific decision will be made to construct a hand cycle trail or retrofit an existing trail for hand cycle use. The proposed plan states in section 2.1.2 that Adaptive sports trails/hand cycle trails would be considered when adding or relocating routes. Retrofitting routes for hand cycle use to meet the needs of people with disabilities would be considered with adequate analysis. Constructing or retrofitting trails to make trails accessible for hand cycles will be done on a trial basis and it is not the intent to adapt every trail at Hartman Rocks. Hand cycle trails or "wide" trails will be managed as single track trails at Hartman Rocks and open to all single track trail uses as well as hand cycles.
13B	Trail Obstacles	Can the BLM create ride arounds on technical sections of trail?	The BLM edited section 2.1.2 to allow the construction of ride-a-rounds.
14A	Tomichi Creek Bridge	Wildlife have been observed in the same location as the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge.	The Tomichi Creek Bridge being shown in the Proposed Action Map was an error and has been removed from the Proposed Action Map. The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.

14B	Tomichi Creek Bridge	BLM is not following regulations that include Protection of Migratory Birds or law required by National Environmental Policy Act in regards to the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge.	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14C	Tomichi Creek Bridge	Does not approve of the proposed Tomichi Creek bridge installation.	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14D	Tomichi Creek Bridge	The Golf Course Trail is an out and back trail that goes down to Tomichi Creek and to the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge site. The Building of the bridge violates the rights of wildlife in this riparian area.	The construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14E	Tomichi Creek Bridge	How wide should the corridor be on Tomichi Creek Bridge?	The construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14F	Golf Course Trail	The 2006 RAMP shows the Golf Course Trail as .54 miles. The proposed RAMP shows the Golf Course Trail as .801 miles. Why? What will the future of the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge area look like long the Tomichi Creek and how will vegetation be protected?	Better GIS technology has the length of routes more accurate.

14G	Tomichi Creek Bridge Safety and Traffic Impact	By not addressing the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge in the proposed Hartman Rocks Ramp then the BLM is not addressing future actions. Wildlife and people who live just outside of HR could be affected.	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14H	Tomichi Creek Bridge Safety and Traffic Impact	Safety of people accessing the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge through the subdivision.	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14I	Tomichi Creek Bridge Safety and Traffic Impact	No bike shoulder on Fairway Lane to the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge.	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14J	Tomichi Creek Bridge Safety and Traffic Impact	If the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge is constructed the trail into Hartman Rocks will not be safe due to volume and type of use.	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.

14K	Limit Fishing Access	Close off public access to Tomichi Creek from Hartman Rocks.	The BLM is a multiple use agency that allows public access to public lands. This comment is outside the public land management mission of the agency.
14L	Parking and Access for Tomichi Creek Bridge	In reference to the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge are we 100% sure that no parking now or in the future will be required in the subdivision.	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14M	Parking and Access for Tomichi Creek Bridge	The proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge provides no parking at the bridge and it doesn't allow for handicap parking.	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14N	Parking and Access for Tomichi Creek Bridge	In reference to the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge, how can we predict the future actions of other land owners adjacent to Hartman Rocks and how will BLM adjust to those actions?`	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.

14O	Trail	In reference to the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge will the Golf Course Trail be open year round?	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
14P	Tomichi Creek Trail	In reference to the proposed Tomichi Creek Bridge will the Golf Course Trail be open to motorized uses?	The BLM has not received an official proposal from the local community concerning a new trail bridge on Tomichi Creek. Therefore, the construction of the Tomichi Creek Bridge is not being proposed or analyzed in this planning document. This comment is outside the scope of the analysis.
15a	Shooting	Hartman Rocks does have a lot of recreation use and it is up to the shooter to shoot in a safe manner. However, not all shooters shoot in a safe manner. There are plenty of back stops to shoot into safely within the shooting closure.	The BLM has struggled with conflicts related to dispersed target shooting. The proposed action addresses these issues through the target shooting closure in heavy use zones and allows for target shooting in lower use areas.
16b	Shooting	Shooting closure area is a too large and BLM should consider removing the southwest corner from the closure to allow more opportunity for dispersed target shooting.	The original proposal was to close 5,135 acres to target shooting and this comment and several verbal comments the BLM removed the 772 acre area from the proposed target shooting closure. This acreage reduction would allow for continued dispersed target shooting and still provide safety to other recreationists.

17a	Shooting	We ask that the Bureau of Land Management consider the adoption of an established shooting range instead of dispersed target shooting in the RMP. Although it is preferable for individuals seeking target practice to go to a shooting range, such as that provided by the Gunnison Sportsmen's Association Gun Club, we realize that people enjoy target shooting on public lands and will continue to do so. Accordingly, we believe it is best for wildlife and for ensuring clean public lands that an established shooting range is considered and maybe even adopted in the RMP. Given Hartman Rocks is widely used for recreation, such as mountain biking and dirt biking, it could also be safer for people recreating at Hartman Rocks if there is a designated shooting range. We encourage the Bureau of Land Management to consider the benefits of an established shooting range versus dispersed target shooting for the Hartman Rocks RMP.	BLM Policy does not allow for the designation and development of shooting ranges unless a partner assumes liability and responsibility for development.
18a	Multiple Use	Some designated specific-purpose areas are desirable and useful, but should not end up benefiting one user group over another/penalize one user group over another.	Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is a multiple use area. This plan takes into account all uses and identifies area where specific uses are acceptable based on location, natural resource concerns, and public safety.

18b	Winter Travel	Winter travel by tracked vehicles does not need to be limited. When the snow melts so do the tracks.	Snowmobile use is not popular in rocky lower elevations in the Gunnison Basin due to poor snow conditions and the possibility of hitting rocks while riding. Groomed ski trails at Hartman Rocks are open to snowmobile use and Hartman Rocks sees less than 5 recreational snowmobile visits on groomed ski trails each season. The proposed action does not allow cross country travel on 14,423 acres that leaves the remaining 570,000 acres of the Gunnison Field Office for cross country winter travel.
19a	Shooting	Gun Range at McCabe's is not safe due to location and amount of use. Move shooting range to a new location.	The BLM has struggled with conflicts related to dispersed target shooting. The proposed action addresses these issues through the target shooting closure in heavy use zones and allows for target shooting in lower use areas.
20a	Shooting	Close calls with shooters needs to be addressed. People will be displaced to Gold Basin dispersed shooting issues.	The BLM has struggled with conflicts related to dispersed target shooting. The proposed action addresses these issues through the target shooting closure in heavy use zones and allows for target shooting in lower use areas. The BLM acknowledges that dispersed target shooters will be displaced to other locations on public lands.