

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-CO-S054-2013-0024-EA

July 2013

Centennial Canoe SRP

Location: Gunnison River from Gunnison Forks Recreation Site to Delta, CO

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
Phone: (970) 240-5300**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S054-2013-0024 EA

PROJECT NAME: Centennial Canoe SRP

PLANNING UNIT: Gunnison Gorge NCA and Uncompahgre Field Office

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T15S R95W, sec. 5; T 15S R 93W, sec. 6; T 14S R94W, sec. 36;
T 15S 94W sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9

APPLICANT: Centennial Canoe

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

The Gunnison River flows through BLM-managed lands within the Gunnison Gorge NCA. It flows through Management Unit 3 within the Gunnison River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The SRMA is a non-technical family friendly river recreation opportunity, including boating and fishing.

After the river leaves the NCA, the river generally flows through private lands until it reaches Confluence Park in the city of Delta. The exception is a ½ mile segment where it crosses BLM lands. The ½ mile stretch of BLM land is within the North Delta OHV area, managed for intensive OHV use (see Figure 1.)

Over the past two years two dam structures, the Hartland Dam and the Relief Ditch diversion, have been modified to allow safe boat passage on the Gunnison River. This has opened up new recreational opportunities for enjoyment of the river. The Hartland Dam is located about two miles upriver from the city of Delta, and the Relief Ditch diversion is located within Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA).

Boating on the Gunnison River is now unimpeded by human-made obstructions from Crystal Dam at the east end of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park to Redlands Dam near Grand Junction. This section of river connects one National Park (Black Canyon) and two National Conservation Areas (Gunnison Gorge and Dominguez-Escalante). Since the work was done on the dams, BLM has seen increased interest in both private and commercial use of this section of river for longer, multi-day trips that begin at the Forks and continue downriver to Whitewater, CO.

Within the ½ mile section of BLM land between the Gunnison Gorge NCA and the city of Delta, there are suitable locations for dispersed riverside camping for boaters. This piece of BLM land is approximately a one-day float from the BLM put-in at the Forks recreation site. The next BLM river camping opportunity is approximately one day's float further downriver. This piece of public land is critical for those wishing to make a multi-day trip that includes the two NCAs (Figure 2).

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION:

Centennial Canoe has applied for a commercial river Special Recreation Permit. The BLM's need is to respond to the application.

The purpose is for the BLM to decide whether to issue Centennial Canoe the Special Recreation Permit, and what conditions, if any, must be prescribed.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action:

The proposed action is for BLM to issue a commercial river Special Recreation Permit to Centennial Canoe for non-motorized use of BLM-managed portions of the Gunnison River from the Gunnison Forks Recreation Site to Confluence Park in Delta (figure 1). The season of use for the permit would be April 1 – November 30.

Design Features:

1. Overnight use in Gunnison Gorge NCA would be limited to designated campsites downriver from the Gunnison Forks.
2. Camping would be allowed adjacent to the river in North Delta OHV Area. In order to limit recreational impacts, a primitive campsite would be designated. A 30'x30' area would be cleared of brush and a small access trail from the river would be maintained.
3. BLM Colorado standard SRP stipulations would apply. Lower Gunnison River stipulations and Forks to Austin stipulations would apply (Appendix A).
4. Fire pans would be required. Campfires would be located away from the cottonwood canopy.
5. No firewood gathering would be allowed.

No Action Alternative:

The Special Recreation Permit would not be issued.

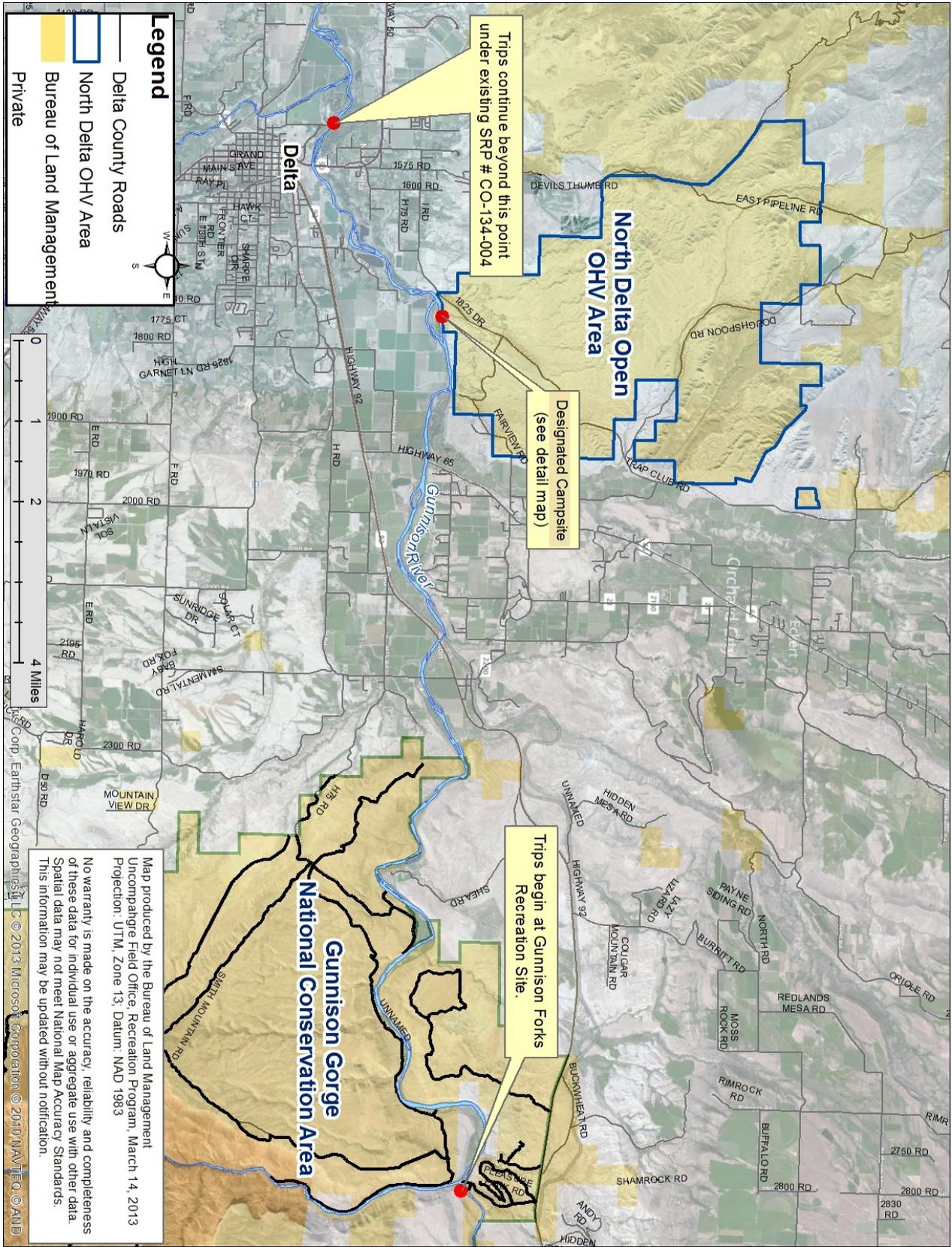


Figure 1

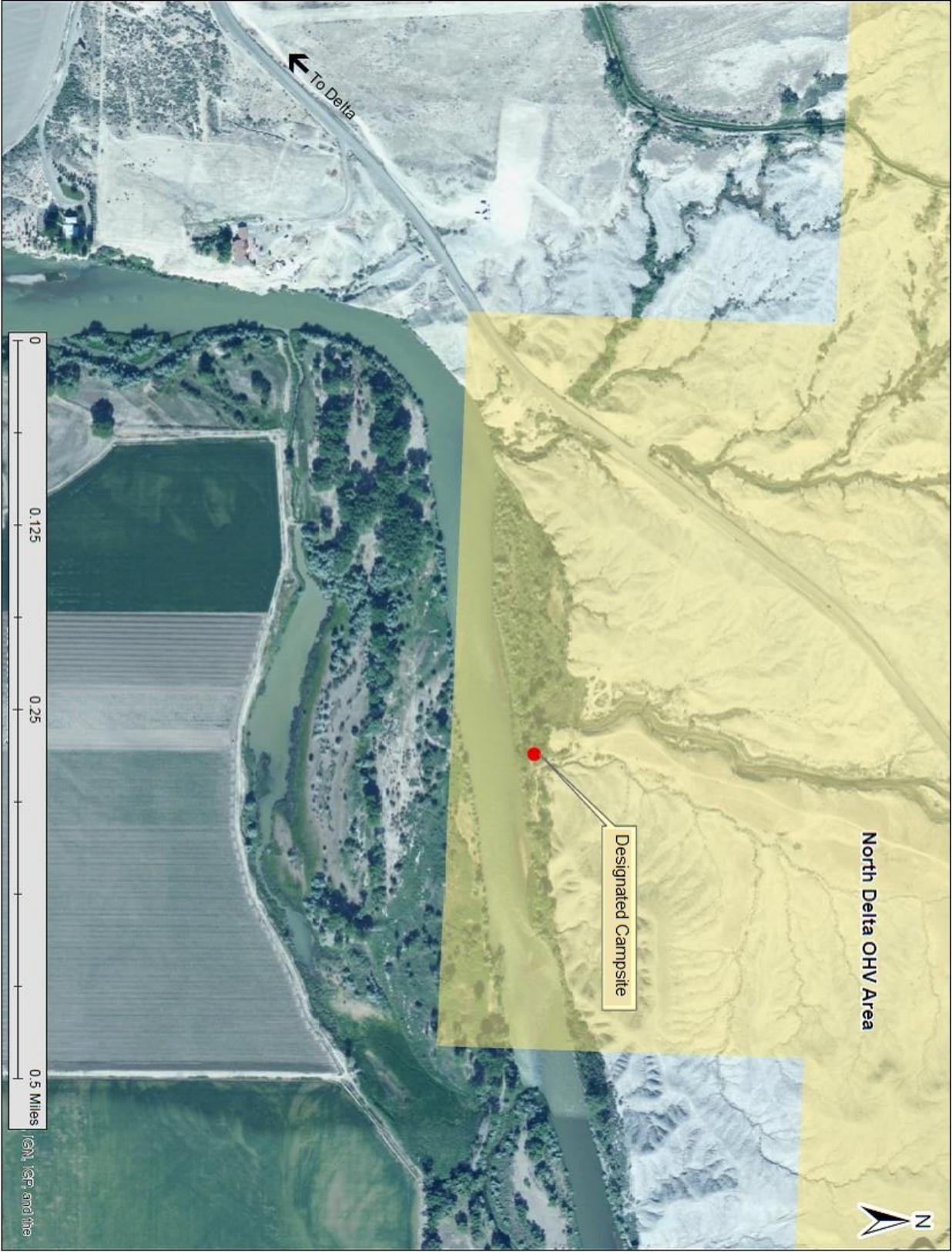


Figure 2

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plans (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Wilderness Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: November 2004

Decision Number/Page:

REC 3-52, pg. 2-73

Decision Language: New permits for non-motorized uses will be considered after a method and system for determining permit needs, allocating use, and selecting new outfitters is implemented.

REC 3-36, pg. 3-72

Decision Language: The Gunnison River will be closed to motorized river and watercraft.

REC 3-37, pg. 3-72

Decision Language: Camping will be allowed in designated campsites or camping areas only.

REC 3-44, pg. 3-73

Decision Language: Maximum group size 25 people.

Name of Plan: Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: September 1988

Decision Number/Page: Management Unit 8, pg. 152

Decision Language: The management unit will be managed as open to ORV [Off-Road Vehicle] use. Recreational and competitive ORV use and a high concentration of recreation users would be permitted within the management unit. Facilities such as informational signs and motorcycle loading ramps could be developed if constructed and maintained to BLM standards by local ORV organizations. A minimum of restrictions would be placed on surface-disturbing activities that do not impede or endanger ORV recreationists.

Other relevant policy:

Special Recreation Permits are managed according to national, state and field office policy. The relevant documents can be downloaded at the locations below:

- BLM Manual MS-2930 Recreation Permits and Fees -- www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wo/Information_Resources_Management/policy/blm_m

- [anual.Par.45352.File.dat/2930.pdf](#)
- BLM Recreation Permit Administration Handbook H-2930-1 --
[www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wo/Information_Resources_Management/policy/blm_handbook.Par.22509.File.dat/h2930-1.pdf](#)
- Colorado State SRP Handbook --
[www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/recreation/information_and_guidelines/Special_Recreation_Permits/SRP_forms.html](#)
- Uncompahgre Field Office and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area SRP Policy--
[www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/co/field_offices/uncompahgre_field/documents/srp_forms_and_instructions.Par.43933.File.dat/2011%20Updated%20Final_UFO-GGNCA%20SRP%20Policy.pdf](#)
- Supplemental Permit Stipulations –
[www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/recreation/special_recreation.html](#)

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. A finding for each standard will be made in the environmental analysis (next section).

Standard	Definition/Statement
#1 Upland Soils	Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.
#2 Riparian Systems	Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water, function properly and have the ability to recover from major surface disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.
#3 Plant and Animal Communities	Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.
#4 Threatened and Endangered Species	Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.
#5 Water Quality	The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT and ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter provides a description of the human and environmental resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action, and presents comparative analyses of the direct, indirect and

cumulative effects on the affected environment stemming from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Potential effects to resources (table 1) were evaluated to determine if detailed analysis is necessary. Consideration of some elements is to ensure compliance with laws, statutes or Executive Orders that impose certain requirements upon all Federal actions. Other items are relevant to the management of public lands in general, and to the BLM UFO in particular.

Cumulative impacts of the proposed action are shown in the analysis of each element. Past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions known to the BLM that may occur within the affected area are shown at the end of this section

Any element not affected by the proposed action will not be analyzed.

Table 1

Elements	Not Applicable or Not Present	Present, But No Impact	Applicable & Present; Brought Forward for Analysis
Air Quality	X		
ACEC	X		
Wilderness	X		
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers			X
Cultural		X	
Native American Religious Concerns		X	
Farmlands, Prime/Unique	X		
Soils	X		
Vegetation			X
Invasive, Non-native Species			X
Threatened and Endangered Species			X
Migratory Birds			X
Wildlife, Terrestrial			X
Wildlife, Aquatic			X
Wetlands & Riparian Zones			X
Floodplains			X
Water -- Surface		X	
Water -- Ground	X		
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid		X	
Environmental Justice	X		
Socio-Economics	X		

Access	X		
Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Realty Authorizations	X		
Range Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Fire			X
Noise		X	
Recreation			X
Visual Resources	X		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Paleontology	X		
Law Enforcement	X		

AIR QUALITY; AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC); WILDERNESS; LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS; FARMLANDS, PRIME AND UNIQUE; SOILS

The proposed action will not impact air quality. There are no ACECs or Wilderness within or adjacent to the analysis area. Based on an inventory for wilderness characteristics in the project area (2011), no lands within or adjacent to the area possesses wilderness characteristics. There are not any prime or unique farmlands within the permitted sections of river. Camping would occur in the floodplain, and would have negligible to no impact on the soil resource.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Affected Environment: The river segment from the Gunnison Forks to the Relief Company Ditch (about 4 miles) has been determined to be “suitable” for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, and has been tentatively classified as “recreational” (Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP/EIS, 2004). The outstandingly remarkable values for this segment are described as follows:

- **Scenic** – Interesting geology and outstanding vistas of the Uncompahgre Plateau, West Elk Wilderness, Grand Mesa, and the Ragged Mountains add interest and 360-degree viewing enjoyment. The area is rated “A” for visual quality as defined in the BLM Visual Resource Inventory Handbook, H-8410-1 (BLM 2002).
- **Recreational** – This segment provides an excellent opportunity for family boating. The relatively flat water allows for canoeing, kayaking, and rafting through a relatively secluded area. In addition, this segment is noted for its excellent year-round trout fishery that is supported by high-quality water. There is currently a road parallel to the river for the entire segment length. This road

provides recreation for off-highway vehicle users and access for anglers and boaters. It is visible from the river corridor in many places and is located within the proposed 0.5-mile-wide segment boundary.

From the Relief Company Ditch, downriver to where it leaves BLM public lands the river has been determined to be “not eligible” for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Further downstream, the segment of the Gunnison River adjacent to the North Delta OHV Area has been determined to be “eligible” for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, and has a preliminary classification of “recreational.” The outstandingly remarkable value for this segment is fish. The segment contains habitat for the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker, both classified as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This section also supports three BLM and Colorado sensitive fish species: flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker and roundtail chub.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – The permitting of non-motorized commercial boating in these segments would have no adverse consequences for their respective outstandingly remarkable values. It would provide increased opportunity for family boating to those who may not have the equipment or knowledge to conduct their own private trips. This is one of the recreational outstandingly remarkable values of the reach within the NCA.

Both segments are classified as recreational. The development and use of campsites within the corridor is consistent with the recreational classification.

Cumulative Impacts – It is anticipated that there would be no effect on ORVs or the recreational preliminary classifications of either segment, therefore no cumulative effects would occur.

No Action Alternative – There would be no impact.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The permitted activity will be confined to either water or to shore localities that have been developed or that are within the natural river floodplain. No Cultural Resource inventory is required for this permit under the provisions of BLM 8100 Manual section .23B1, and no further work is required.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – There will be no effects to any National Register or otherwise NR eligible property from the issuance of this permit.

Cumulative Impacts – None

No Action Alternative – There will be no impacts to Cultural.

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Affected Environment: See also Cultural Resources above. While there are no identified Native American traditional use areas, sacred sites and Traditional Cultural Properties identified within the permit area, said properties often include rivers and river corridors. Use of these corridors without substantial alteration is not considered to have an impact to such properties.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – Use of the area under this permit will have no effect to any known or anticipated Native American concerns.

Cumulative Impacts – None known.

No Action Alternative – Not issuing this permit will have no effect on any Native American Religious Concerns.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the project area is primarily riparian adjacent to the river, and salt desert shrub on the immediate uplands. The salt desert vegetation includes plant associations dominated by greasewood, shadscale, and mat saltbush. Herbaceous species are varied, with the most prominent native species being galleta grass, sea-blite, Indian ricegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, and scarlet globemallow. Many perennial and annual weeds are also present in the understory, and are discussed in more depth in the Invasive Species section. Riparian vegetation is discussed in detail in the Wetlands section of this document. Detailed descriptions of the plant communities can be found in the Gunnison Gorge Land Health Assessment (http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/co/field_offices/uncompahgre_field/land_health_assessments.Par.16687.File.dat/Gunnison%20Gorge%20LHA.pdf).

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – Impacts to riparian vegetation are discussed in the Wetland Section. Incidental, low levels of disturbance to upland vegetation are expected to occur as a result of low numbers of boaters venturing away from the river, through the riparian zone and up into the salt-desert vegetation. The level of trampling is expected to be so low as to be undetectable.

Cumulative Impacts – Very low levels of vegetation disturbance from the proposed action are expected to take place in an environment where numerous other activities are disturbing vegetation on public and private lands. The vegetation impacts associated with the proposed action will be negligible cumulatively with overall vegetation disturbance in the region.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal

communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic; Wildlife, Terrestrial; and Invasive, Non-native Species): Many of the uplands in the project area are rated as meeting with problems or not meeting Standard 3. The level of upland vegetation disturbance associated with this activity is expected to be extremely low, and extremely limited in extent and should be compatible with other actions to improve land health in the areas where there are concerns.

No Action Alternative – There will be no new disturbance to vegetation.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed project is located within the riparian zone along the lower section of the Gunnison River. The riparian zone contains many native species in addition to several non-native noxious weeds. Russian knapweed is the dominant understory noxious weed in the campsite area, and yellow toadflax and oxeye daisy could co-exist in the understory. Overstory noxious weeds along the entire river stretch include Russian olive, tamarisk, and Siberian elm.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – The proposed action will not generally increase the spread of Russian knapweed; however, if unintended fire was to occur in the campsite and adjacent areas, noxious weeds could easily expand, compromising native vegetation, rehabilitation efforts, and recreational experiences. Yellow toadflax and oxeye daisy are present in isolated small patches long the river and treatment of these weeds, if present in campsites, would be necessary to reduce additional spread. The proposed action should not contribute to the spread of Tamarisk, Russian olive or Siberian elm, unless unintended fire was to occur within the riparian zone. Overall the proposed action with the design features in place should not contribute substantially to additional weed spread.

Cumulative Impacts – Considering past, present and reasonably foreseeable future projects the proposed action will contribute a small amount to weed spread in the overall river system when combined with other uses such as irrigation return flows, upland recreation, gravel mining, commercial and residential activities.

No Action Alternative – The proposed action would not contribute to any additional weed spread.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4) & **WILDLIFE, AQUATIC** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

The Uncompahgre Field Office utilizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *Information, Planning, and Conservation System* (IPaC) to generate the most current species list to analyze the effects of a proposed action on threatened, endangered and candidate species and designated

critical habitat for these species (USFWS 2013). In accordance with *BLM Manual 6840*, the goal of management is to prevent a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability for sensitive species.

Appendix B lists potentially occurring federally listed species within the UFO and provides assessments for their occurrence within the project area (BLM 2013). No threatened, endangered, or federally protected species or habitats occur in the proposed action area. Only those species where the project is within the known range of the species and with potential habitat or known occurrences are discussed below.

Appendix C identifies species of special management concern that are known or have potential to occur within the UFO along with occurrence assessments for the area (BLM 2013). Several sensitive species are known or have the potential to occur in the project area. Only those species where the project is within the known range of the species and with potential habitat or known occurrences are discussed below.

Appendix D discusses those Federally-listed species and Sensitive species where the project is within the known range of the species and with potential habitat or known occurrences.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – Only occurring and potentially occurring species are assessed in this section. The proposed treatments would have “no effect” on the remaining species. Refer to the Vegetation, Riparian and Weed sections for a general discussion of potential impacts of the proposed action on vegetation communities and water quality.

Federally Listed Fish, BLM Sensitive Fish & Amphibians

As fishing is not proposed in the SRP application there are no anticipated impacts from the proposed action to Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, bluehead sucker, roundtail chub, and flannelmouth sucker or other aquatic species potentially occurring within the identified stretch of the Gunnison River. The footprint of the proposed designated campsite within the riparian zone of the Gunnison River is so small that impacts associated with erosional runoff and loss of riparian vegetation are expected to be undetectable to aquatic resources. Recreationists utilizing the designated campsite or other shore landings may initially disrupt foraging or reproductive behaviors for Northern leopard frogs or canyon tree frogs, however, both species are expected to quickly disperse when threats are perceived and once out of range of threats (human presence) will quickly resume normal behaviors. While these impacts may occur they are not expected to result in mortalities or disruption of major life process that could result in population declines.

BLM Sensitive Bats

Habitat for these species relative to how the project area would be utilized under the SRP is limited to nighttime foraging activities. Impacts to sensitive bat species are not anticipated or are expected to be undetectable from implementing the proposed action.

BLM Sensitive Birds

The application for the SRP states that the project area would be utilized from 4/1-10/1 annually.

Therefore no impacts to wintering bald eagles are anticipated from the proposed action. Numerous private river rafters utilize the Gunnison River daily with no observed impacts to nesting Golden eagles or perceivable disruption of foraging activities, therefore implementing the commercial SRP at the scale proposed is not anticipated to impact Golden eagles.

Cumulative Impacts – The proposed action is not expected to noticeably contribute impacts, cumulatively, to sensitive and aquatic species associated with the Gunnison River system.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The majority of the riparian zone in the project area meets Standard 3&4 for aquatic and sensitive species. The small area and low intensity of vegetation disturbance are not anticipated to have any impact on this rating.

No Action Alternative – There would be no impacts to sensitive species or aquatic species from these commercial activities.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Plant communities within the analysis area provide habitats for a variety of migratory bird species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list of Birds of Conservation Concern was used to complete this analysis (USFWS 2008). Appendix E identifies the species from this list which are known or have potential to occur in the UFO and which are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and assesses their potential for occurring in the project area (BLM 2013).

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – Since wood collection is prohibited under the proposed action and the footprint of the designated campsite has been established by private recreationists no additional habitat modification is anticipated from the proposed action. Recreationists utilizing the designated campsite or other shore landings may initially disrupt foraging or courtship behaviors for bird species present, however, affected species are expected to quickly disperse when threats are perceived and once out of range of threats (human presence) will quickly resume normal behaviors. While these impacts may occur they are not expected to result in mortalities or disruption of major life process that could result in population declines. Therefore, the proposed action is expected to have no detectable impacts to migrating or resident bird individuals or populations.

Cumulative Impacts – The proposed action is not expected to contribute measurable cumulative impacts to migratory bird species associated with the Gunnison River system.

No Action Alternative – There would be no impacts to migratory bird species from these commercial activities.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area supports a variety of terrestrial wildlife species including reptiles, small mammals, carnivores, birds, and big game. Example species include garter snake, cottontail rabbit, least chipmunk, prairie dogs, coyote, bobcat, black bear, mountain lion, elk, mule deer, possibly Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, red-tailed hawk, and a large number of songbird species. The Gunnison Gorge Land Health Assessment (BLM 2000) contains a more detailed listing of wildlife species for this area.

Riparian areas are amongst the most important habitat for many terrestrial wildlife species, especially as a source of water in an arid environment, and often are the most biologically diverse in terms of terrestrial wildlife. The riparian habitats in this area have been degraded by altered flow regimes, invasion of tamarisk and Russian knapweed as well as other noxious and invasive species, and are further fragmented by the presence of orchards and other farm lands adjacent to the project. They are all adjacent to cliff and canyon habitat, which reduces the amount of big game use. The project area has been identified as winter concentration and overall winter range (Colorado Parks & Wildlife) for mule deer (BLM 2013). Similar to other riparian and river canyons, the habitat is used for movement and foraging by bear, mountain lion, birds and a variety of small and medium sized mammals.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – Recreationists utilizing the designated campsite or other shore landings may initially disrupt foraging or reproductive behaviors for terrestrial wildlife present, however, affected species are expected to quickly disperse when threats are perceived and once out of range of threats (human presence) will quickly resume normal behaviors. While these impacts may occur they are not expected to result in mortalities or disruption of major life process that could result in population declines.

Cumulative Impacts – The proposed action is not expected to contribute cumulative impacts to terrestrial wildlife species associated with the Gunnison River system.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation; Invasive, Non-native Species; and Wildlife, Aquatic): The majority of the riparian zone in the project area meets Standard 3 for terrestrial species. The small area and low intensity of vegetation disturbance are not anticipated to have any impact on this rating.

No Action Alternative – There would be no impacts to terrestrial wildlife species from these commercial activities.

WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The project area falls largely within the riparian zone along the Gunnison River. On public lands this riparian zone is composed of mainly shrub and herbaceous dominated wetland-riparian plant communities, and of limited areas of cottonwood gallery forest. There are also sizeable infestations of tamarisk and Russian olive. The shrub dominated

communities include sandbar willow, Emory's seepwillow, skunkbush sumac, Basin big sagebrush, poison ivy, and spearleaf rabbitbrush. The herbaceous dominated communities include reed canarygrass, common reed, woolly sedge, scouring horsetail, inland saltgrass, and spikerush. The cottonwood gallery forests are mainly comprised of Fremont cottonwood, with a variable understory of some of the shrubs listed above. Many of the communities also contain invasive weeds, particularly Russian knapweed.

The cottonwood gallery forests appear to be declining over time, with little natural recruitment of cottonwood. Many young cottonwood have been planted along the riverbanks within the GGNCA. These young trees are contained in protective cages to prevent beaver damage.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – Some riparian vegetation is expected to be disturbed through trampling and crushing by boaters and their gear, and through removal to create a camping area. The level of disturbance is expected to be relatively small in area and degree, and to be within the scope of riparian disturbance already occurring from casual recreational use. The area that is to be cleared for camping will likely be converted from a riparian shrub community to one dominated by riparian herbaceous species, but this will occur on a very small footprint. Increased recreational use and camping could increase the chances of campfires escaping and burning the riparian vegetation -- particularly the cottonwood forest--or of campers damaging trees as they gather firewood. Design features which include requiring a fire pan, requiring that campfires are located away from the cottonwood canopy, and which prevent firewood gathering should reduce the likelihood of these things happening. No impacts to the channel or streambank are anticipated.

Cumulative Impacts – The proposed action would bring about a small increase in disturbance to riparian vegetation in a region where many disturbances are already occurring. Efforts to improve riparian habitat are also being undertaken, as with the biocontrol for tamarisk, weed control, and revegetation projects. Similar activities are also occurring on private lands. The riparian disturbance associated with the Proposed Action is negligible given the level and extent of riparian disturbances and improvements from these other activities.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The majority of the riparian zone in the project area meets Standard 2. The small area and low intensity of vegetation disturbance are not anticipated to have any impact on this rating.

No Action Alternative – There would not be impacts to wetland and riparian areas.

FLOODPLAINS

Affected Environment: Various floodplain terraces border the Gunnison River. The 100 year floodplain is mapped by FEMA along the Gunnison River, and includes the area that is modeled to be inundated with a 1% chance in any given year.

The BLM is required to meet the objectives of federal floodplain policy. Executive Order 11988 (21), as amended, established this policy and directs agencies to “avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practical alternative”. The objectives of avoiding development and modification of floodplains are to 1) reduce the hazard and the risk of flood loss, 2) minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare, and 3) restore and preserve the natural and beneficial floodplain values.

The existing floodplain varies in condition due to large scale public land use processes. The series of large dams on the Gunnison River have significantly changed the condition of the floodplain by altering the scouring effects of seasonal flooding. The result is a heavily vegetated surface encroaching on the channel. In some places the vegetation consists of invasive species such as Tamarisk and Russian Knapweed. The result is a very stable floodplain capable of dissipating flooding events with ease.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Proposed Action – The proposed action includes removal of riparian vegetation in a 30’x30’ area within the North Delta OHV area. The scale of this impact along the floodplain corridor is expected to be negligible. Other incidental impacts from boaters dragging boats up and down banks would also likely result in negligible impacts that would not alter the ability of the floodplain to dissipate flooding.

The natural and functional aspects of the floodplain are expected to improve with the re-operation of the Aspinall Dam Unit by providing more natural flood flows. See the link below for the EIS prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation:

<http://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/eis/AspinallEIS/>

Cumulative Impacts – The proposed action, when combined with the past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions could negligibly decrease the functionality of the floodplain associated with the Gunnison River by removal of native vegetation. The overall cumulative impact of this action is expected to be minimal.

No Action Alternative – No impacts to floodplains are anticipated.

WATER – SURFACE and GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Surface water provides the mode of travel for the proposed action and water quality could be impaired by human waste or trash associated with recreation. However, stipulations associated with the permit require strict use of portable toilets, straining of dishwater, and packing out all trash. These measures provide adequate protection by making the likelihood of impact so remote, it would be negligible. Ground water would not be impacted. Surface and ground water quality will not be analyzed further.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: Hazardous and solid wastes are not a part of the natural environment. Solid waste (trash and human waste) could be introduced to the environment through any recreational activity.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – Permit stipulations requiring the use of portable toilet systems adequately mitigate the concerns regarding human waste. Requirements to pack out other trash should suffice.

Cumulative Impacts – Cumulative impacts would be none to negligible.

No Action Alternative – There would be no impacts over and above what might already be occurring from the existing recreational use of the river corridor.

FIRE

Affected Environment: Although wildfire along the river in this area is rare, the vegetation (see vegetation and invasive species sections) in the camping area is susceptible to wildfire.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – The expected increase in recreational use and camping would increase the presence of campfires and potentially increase the risk of escaping fires. The following design features decrease risk for escaped fires: requiring a fire pan, requiring that campfires are located away from the cottonwood canopy. The overall impact of this action is expected to minimal.

Cumulative Impacts – Cumulative impacts would be minimal to unnoticeable.

No Action Alternative – There would be no additional impacts.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The area is currently used for permitted float and fish trips, as well as private float trips, fishing and camping, as described in the “background” section.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action – Centennial Canoe would provide more opportunities for family-oriented, non-technical recreational use of the Gunnison River than what is offered in the wilderness part of the Gorge. They will provide opportunities to recreate on the river for those who do not have the expertise or equipment to outfit their own trip, or for people visiting from outside the local area. It is likely that visitors will experience more social contacts with other

groups (seeing or hearing other groups). It is anticipated that the number of social contacts will remain within the targets (desired future condition) identified in the Gunnison Gorge Resource Management Plan (November 2004, pg 2-73).

Providing enhanced opportunities for recreation through commercial outfitting would also support the “Benefits and Values” goals for this management unit as prescribed in the Resource Management Plan (RMP) (*ibid*, pg 2-73 and 2-74).

Cumulative Impacts – The proposed action would likely result in increased recreational use on the lower Gunnison River by commercial outfitters, but is not expected to contribute appreciably to cumulative impacts.

No Action Alternative – There would be no impacts over and above what might already be occurring from the existing recreational use of the river corridor.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY

Cumulative impacts for each element or resource are discussed within each of the sections above. Cumulative impacts are the environmental impacts that could result from the implementation of the Proposed Action, when added to the impacts from all other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities, regardless of who is conducting such activities. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time.

Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Past, present and reasonable foreseeable actions are the same for this project. These influence the Gunnison River system on public, private, and state lands and include livestock grazing, casual recreational use including private party rafting, existing commercial rafting permits, wildlife use, fire, vegetation treatments, disturbances associated with infrastructure, rights of ways, altered flows from dams and gas development. Other actions on the inter-mixed private lands include agriculture, residential or commercial development, and gravel mining.

Impacts

The minor impacts to all resources would not noticeable add incrementally to impacts occurring from other activities.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: The following BLM personnel have contributed to and have reviewed this environmental assessment.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Ken Holsinger	Biologist	TE&S species, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, Migratory Birds
Edd Franz	Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers
Julie Jackson	Recreation Planner	Recreation, Visual Resources
Lynae Rogers	Range Management Specialist	Invasive Species
Jedd Sondergard	Hydrologist	Floodplains, Water-surface and ground
Amanda Clements	Ecologist	Vegetation, Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Glade Hadden	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Kelly Homstad	Fire Use Specialist	Fire

References

BLM 2000. Gunnison Gorge Land Health Assessment. Uncompahgre Field Office.

BLM 2013. TES Wildlife and Plants Report for 2013-0024 Centennial Canoe Special Recreation Permit. Central Files, File Code 6840. Uncompahgre Field Office, Montrose, CO.

USFWS 2008. Birds of Conservation Concern Table 14, p.32, BCR 16 [Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau]. United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, Virginia. 85 pp. [Online version available at <<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/>>].

USFWS 2013. Centennial Canoe Special Recreation Permit IPAC 6/21/2013

Appendix A – Permit Stipulations

GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT (SRP) NORTH FORK TO AUSTIN SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIAL STIPULATIONS (Revised January 2009)

Stipulations: The following set of stipulations is automatically included and applies to all North Fork to Austin permits. These stipulations are in addition to the Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) SRP Terms, Conditions and Stipulation for All Permitted Activities that are attached annually to your permits. Failure to comply with these stipulations may result in remedial actions listed in the UFO SRP Terms, Conditions and Stipulations on page 5.

I. USE LIMITS AND REGISTRATION

A. On all trips, day or overnight, a maximum group size of twenty-five (25) people, including guides, is permitted, unless otherwise specified on the Annual Operating Authorization.

B. Maximum length of stay along the Forks to Austin river segment is three (3) days (two nights).

C. Head Guide Sign-In Requirements and Restriction: Head guides on all walk-in fishing and raft trips are required to sign their name along with the company name on registers at the Gunnison Forks Day Use site put-in (boater & walk-wade fishing users) or the Cottonwood Grove Campground and Boat Launch or Orchard Boat Launch (walk-wade fishing & waterfowl hunting users) along the Forks to Austin river segment. Information on number of people and duration of trip must be consistent with that reported in trip logs.

1. Only the Head guides for a trip may sign-in their trip.

2. Head guide sign-ins can only be made on the put-in day of the trip. Sign-ins are not permitted prior to the day of the actual launch.

3. Head guides must have a copy of current BLM Annual Authorization Form in his/her possession while in the Gunnison Gorge NCA.

D. Permittees must supply BLM a list of all guides employed by their company prior to the season. In addition, BLM must be informed of any changes in the list in a timely manner. Any guides not on the list will be required to provide BLM patrol personnel proof that they are employed by a permitted outfitter in the Gorge.

E. Changes to the guide list should be faxed to BLM at (970) 240-5368, or e-mail to: efranz@blm.gov.

F. All outfitters will be required to put-in and take out on legal access points along the North Fork to Austin segment of the Gunnison River.

1. Legal boat launch points include the two BLM boat ramps located at the Gunnison Forks. Launching at the GRPP private access point requires a private-land permission letter along with the SRP application.

2. Public BLM take-out points are located at the Cottonwood Grove Campground and Boat Launch, and the Orchard Boat Launch. Take-out at points on private land requires coordination and permission from the land owner in writing, submitted with the SRP application.

II. DESIGNATED CAMPSITES

A. Sign-in and Use of Campsites in the Gunnison Gorge NCA – Forks to Austin: All campsites along the Forks to Austin river segment are designated. Sign-ins are required at the Gunnison Forks put-

in (boater & walk-wade fishing users) or Orchard Boat Launch (walk-wade fishing & waterfowl hunting users). Commercial river trips must stay in designated boater sites.

B. Cottonwood Grove Campground and Boat Launch is **not** available for commercial camping.

C. Maximum length of stay for commercial boaters at one campsite is one day. No layover days are allowed.

D. Commercial walk-wade fishing groups may camp a maximum of two nights at a designated hiker site along the Forks to Austin river segment.

E. Campsites for overnight commercial trips along Forks to Austin may be signed in for only by the head guide on the day of the walk-in fishing trip or boat launch. Sign-ins of campsites are not permitted prior to the day of the actual launch.

F. Overnight camping and parking is not allowed on BLM public lands located at the Gunnison River Pleasure Park.

III. RESOURCE PROTECTION

A. No food and/or equipment caches are allowed in the Gunnison Gorge NCA – Forks to Austin unless specifically authorized in advance by the permitting officer.

B. Commercial permittees on overnight trips are required to use stoves or charcoal. If charcoal is used, it must be contained in a fire pan and the ashes must be packed out. Ashes will not be disposed of in the river. Permittee will strain food garbage from rinse water and pack-out refuse. Wood fires are not permitted except in fire grills at Cottonwood Grove Campground and Boat Launch. Kitchen and lunch site floors are strongly recommended and may become mandatory if deemed necessary.

C. Reusable, portable toilets are required for all overnight trips and must be set up and used each night in camp. All human fecal matter, trash, and food refuse will be packed out and removed from the public lands. A sanitation dump station is provided on BLM land at the Gunnison Forks take-out. No trash facilities are provided.

D. Boats shall be cleaned and free of all debris to reduce the introduction of new invasive species including noxious weeds, quagga/zebra mussels, and the New Zealand mudsnail.

**UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT (SRP)
LOWER GUNNISON SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIAL STIPULATIONS
(Revised December 2008)**

Stipulations: The following set of stipulations is automatically included and applies to all Lower Gunnison permits. These stipulations are in addition to the Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) SRP Terms, Conditions and Stipulation for All Permitted Activities that are attached annually to your permits. Failure to comply with these stipulations may result in remedial actions listed in the Uncompahgre Field Office Special Recreation Permit Terms, Conditions and Stipulations on page 5. These stipulations are being jointly implemented by the Uncompahgre Field Office and Grand Junction Field Office to ensure consistency in permit administration, monitoring and compliance. It is your responsibility as permittees to ensure that all personnel associated with your Lower Gunnison River trips know and comply with these regulations.

I. RESOURCE PROTECTION

- A. River trips will not exceed 25 people including guides.
- B. A washable, reusable toilet system or an EPA-approved bag system will be carried on all river trips to pack out human waste
- C. A fire pan will be carried for campfires on all river trips.
- D. All dishwater will be strained. Strained water will be emptied into the main channel of the river.
- E. A ground cloth to catch micro-trash will be used in kitchens.

APPENDIX B. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	STATUS	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	CRITICAL HABITAT (Y/N)? ³	KNOWN? ⁴	RANGE (Y/N)? ⁵	HABITAT (Y/N)? ⁶	NO EFFECT (X)? ⁷	MENLAE (X) ⁸	MELAE (X) ⁹
<i>FISH</i>									
Bonytail <i>Gila elegans</i>	E	Warm-waters of the Colorado River mainstem and tributaries, some reservoirs; flooded bottomlands for nurseries; pools and eddies over rocky substrates with silt-boulder mixtures for spawning	No	None	Y	N	X		
Humpback chub <i>Gila cypha</i>	E	Warm-water, canyon-bound reaches of Colorado River mainstem and larger tributaries; turbid waters with fluctuating hydrology; young require low-velocity, shoreline habitats such as eddies and backwaters	No	None	N	N	X		
Razorback sucker <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	E	Warm-water reaches of the Colorado River mainstem and larger tributaries; some reservoirs; low velocity, deep runs, eddies, backwaters, sidecanyons, pools, eddies; cobble, gravel, and sand bars for spawning; tributaries, backwaters, floodplain for nurseries	No	None	Y	Y	X		

APPENDIX B. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	STATUS	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	CRITICAL HABITAT (Y/N)? ³	KNOWN? ⁴	RANGE (Y/N)? ⁵	HABITAT (Y/N)? ⁶	NO EFFECT (X)? ⁷	MENLAE (X) ⁸	MELAE (X) ⁹
Colorado pikeminnow <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	E	Warm-waters of the Colorado River mainstem and tributaries; deep, low velocity eddies, pools, runs, and nearshore features; uninterrupted streams for spawning migration and young dispersal; also floodplains, tributary mouths, and side canyons; highly complex systems	No	None	Y	Y	X		
Greenback cutthroat trout <i>Oncorhynchus clarki stomias</i>	T	Cold water streams and lakes with adequate spawning habitat (riffles), often with shading cover; young shelter in shallow backwaters	No	None	N	N	X		
MAMMALS									
Black-footed ferret ¹⁰ <i>Mustela nigripes</i>	E	Prairie dog colonies for shelter and food; >200 acres of habitat with at least 8 burrows/acre	No	None	N (extirpated)	N	X		

APPENDIX B. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	STATUS	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	CRITICAL HABITAT (Y/N)? ³	KNOWN? ⁴	RANGE (Y/N)? ⁵	HABITAT (Y/N)? ⁶	NO EFFECT (X)? ⁷	MENLAE (X) ⁸	MELAE (X) ⁹
Canada lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T	Spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, willow carrs, and adjacent aspen and mountain shrub communities that support snowshoe hare and other prey	No	None	N	N	X		
North American Wolverine ¹³ <i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	P	Alpine and arctic tundra, boreal and mountain forests (primarily coniferous). Limited to mountains in the south, especially large wilderness areas.	No	None	N	N	X		
Gunnison's prairie dog <i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>	C	Level to gently sloping grasslands, semi-desert shrublands, and montane shrublands, from 6,000' - 12,000 in elevation	No	None	N	N	X		
BIRDS									
Mexican spotted owl ¹¹ <i>Strix occidentalis</i>	T	Mixed-conifer forests and steep-walled canyons with minimal human disturbance	No	None	Y	N	X		

APPENDIX B. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	STATUS	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	CRITICAL HABITAT (Y/N)? ³	KNOWN? ⁴	RANGE (Y/N)? ⁵	HABITAT (Y/N)? ⁶	NO EFFECT (X)? ⁷	MENLAE (X) ⁸	MELAE (X) ⁹
Southwestern willow flycatcher ¹¹ <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E	For breeding, riparian tree and shrub communities along rivers, wetlands, and lakes; for wintering, brushy grasslands, shrubby clearings or pastures, and woodlands near water	No	None	N	N	X		
Gunnison sage grouse ¹² <i>Centrocercus minimus</i>	P	Sagebrush communities (especially big sagebrush) for hiding and thermal cover, food, and nesting; open areas with sagebrush stands for leks; sagebrush-grass-forb mix for nesting; wet	No	None	N	N	X		
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	C	Riparian, deciduous woodlands with dense undergrowth; nests in tall cottonwood and mature willow riparian, moist thickets, orchards, abandoned pastures	No	None	Y	Y	X		
<i>PLANTS</i>									

APPENDIX B. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹									
SPECIES	STATUS	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	CRITICAL HABITAT (Y/N)? ³	KNOWN? ⁴	RANGE (Y/N)? ⁵	HABITAT (Y/N)? ⁶	NO EFFECT (X)? ⁷	MENLAE (X) ⁸	MELAE (X) ⁹
Clay-loving wild buckwheat <i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>	E	Mancos shale badlands in salt desert shrub communities, often with shadscale, black sagebrush, and mat saltbush; 5200' – 6400' in elevation	No	None	Y	N	X		
Colorado hookless cactus <i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	T	Salt-desert shrub communities in clay soils on alluvial benches and breaks, toe slopes, and deposits often with cobbled, rocky, or graveled surfaces; 4500' – 6000' in elevation	No	None	Y	N	X		
<i>INVERTEBRATES</i>									
Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly ¹¹ <i>Boloria acrocneuma</i>	E	Restricted to moist, alpine slopes above 12,000' in elevation with extensive snow willow patches; restricted to San Juan Mountains	No	None	N	N	X		

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2009. Federally listed species in Colorado. Official correspondence, February.

² Van Reyper G. 2006. Bureau of Land Management TES [threatened, endangered, sensitive] species descriptions. Uncompahgre Field Office, Montrose, CO, updated 2009/2010. Unpublished document.

³ Designated Critical Habitat in Project Area?

⁴ Potential and/or known occurrences in Project Area? Assessment based on UFO files and GIS data, partner data, and local knowledge.

⁵ Project area is within the current known range of the species?

⁶ Project area contains suitable habitat for the species?

⁷ Project activities will have “No Effect” to the species or it’s habitat

⁸ Project activities “May Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect” to the species or its habitat

⁹ Project activities “May Effect, Likely to Adversely Effect” to the species or its habitat

¹⁰ Black-footed ferret believed to be extirpated from this portion of its range.

¹¹ Species not known to occur within UFO boundaries, but known to occur in close proximity.

APPENDIX C. BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹								
SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ^{2,3}	KNOWN ⁴	RANGE? ⁵	HABITAT? ⁶	NO EFFECT? ⁷	MAI ⁸	LFL ⁹	
<i>FISH</i>								
Roundtail chub <i>Gila robusta</i>	Warm-water rocky runs, rapids, and pools of creeks and small to large rivers; also large reservoirs in the upper Colorado River system; generally prefers cobble-rubble, sand-cobble, or sand-gravel substrate	Occupied	Y	Y	X			
Bluehead sucker <i>Catostomus discobolus</i>	Large rivers and mountain streams, rarely in lakes; variable, from cold, clear mountain streams to warm, turbid streams; moderate to fast flowing water above rubble-rock substrate; young prefer quiet shallow areas near shoreline	Occupied	Y	Y	X			
Flannelmouth sucker <i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>	Warm moderate- to large-sized rivers, seldom in small creeks, absent from impoundments; pools and deeper runs often near tributary mouths; also riffles and backwaters; young usually in shallower water than are adults	Occupied	Y	Y	X			
Colorado River cutthroat trout <i>Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus</i>	Cool, clear streams or lakes with well-vegetated streambanks for shading cover and bank stability; deep pools, boulders, and logs; thrives at high elevations	None	Y	Y	X			
<i>MAMMALS</i>								
Desert bighorn sheep <i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>	Steep, mountainous or hilly terrain dominated by grass, low shrubs, rock cover, and areas near open escape and cliff retreats; in the resource area, concentrated along major river corridors and canyons	None	N	N	X			
White-tailed prairie dog ¹⁴ <i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	Level to gently sloping grasslands and semi-desert grasslands from 5,000' – 10,000' in elevation	Yes	Y	N	X			
Kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	Semi-desert shrublands of saltbrush, shadscale and greasewood often in association with prairie dog towns	Extirpated	Y	Y	X			
Allen's (Mexican) big-eared bat <i>Idionycteris phyllotis</i>	Ponderosa pine, pinyon-juniper woodland, oak brush, riparian woodland (cottonwood); typically found near rocky outcrops, cliffs, and boulders; often forages near streams and ponds. Thought to be in the West End.	None	N	Y	X			

APPENDIX C. BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹							
SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ^{2,3}	KNOWN ⁴	RANGE? ⁵	HABITAT? ⁶	NO EFFECT? ⁷	MAI ⁸	LFL ⁹
Big free-tailed bat <i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	Rocky areas and rugged terrain in desert and woodland habitats; roosts in rock crevices in cliffs and in buildings caves, and occasionally tree holes	None	Y	Y	X		
Spotted bat <i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Desert shrub, ponderosa pine, pinyon-juniper woodland, canyon bottoms, open pasture, and hayfields; roost in crevices in cliffs with surface water nearby	None	Y	Y	X		
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Mesic habitats including coniferous forests, deciduous forests, sagebrush steppe, juniper woodlands, and mountain; maternity roosts and hibernation in caves and mines; does not use crevices or cracks; caves, buildings, and tree cavities for night roosts	None	Y	Y	X		
Fringed myotis <i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Desert, grassland, and woodland habitats including ponderosa pine, pinyon/juniper, greasewood, saltbush, and scrub oak; roosts in caves, mines, rock crevices, and buildings	None	Y	Y	X		
BIRDS							
Bald eagle ⁵ <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Nests in forested rivers and lakes; winters in upland areas, often with rivers or lakes nearby	None	Y	Y	X		
American peregrine falcon ⁵ <i>Falco peregrines anatum</i>	Open country near cliff habitat, often near water such as rivers, lakes, and marshes; nests on ledges or holes on cliff faces and crags	None	Y	Y	X		
Northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Nests in a variety of forest types including deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests including ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, or in mixed-forests with fir and spruce; also nest in aspen or willow forests; migrants and wintering individuals can be observed in all coniferous forest types	None	Y	N	X		

APPENDIX C. BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹							
SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ^{2, 3}	KNOWN ⁴	RANGE? ⁵	HABITAT? ⁶	NO EFFECT? ⁷	MAI ⁸	LFL ⁹
Ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	Open, rolling and/or rugged terrain in grasslands and shrubsteppe communities; also grasslands and cultivated fields; nests on cliffs and rocky outcrops. Winter migrant.	None	Y	N	X		
Burrowing owl ¹⁵ <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Level to gently sloping grasslands and semi-desert grasslands; Prairie dog colonies for shelter and food	None	Y	N	X		
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse <i>Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus</i>	Native bunchgrass and shrub-steppe communities for nesting; mountain shrubs including serviceberry are critical for winter food and escape cover. Thought to be extirpated from UFO.	None	N	N	X		
Long-billed curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	Lakes and wetlands and adjacent grassland and shrub communities. Rare occurrence.	None	Rare	N	X		
White-faced ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	Marshes, swamps, ponds and rivers	None	Y	Y	X		
American white pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Typically large reservoirs but also observed on smaller water bodies including ponds; nests on islands	None	Y	N	X		
Brewer's sparrow <i>Spizella berweri</i>	Breeds primarily in sagebrush shrublands, but also in other shrublands such as mountain mahogany or rabbitbrush; migrants seen in wooded, brushy, and weedy riparian, agricultural, and urban areas; occasionally observed in pinyon-juniper	None	Y	N	X		
Black swift ¹⁵ <i>Cypseloides niger</i>	Nests on precipitous cliffs near or behind high waterfalls; forages from montane to adjacent lowland habitats. Rare.	None	Y	N	X		
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS							
Longnose leopard lizard <i>Gambelia</i>	Desert and semidesert areas with scattered shrubs or other low plants; e.g., sagebrush; areas with abundant rodent burrows, typically below 5,000' in elevation	None	Y	Y	X		

APPENDIX C. BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹							
SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ^{2,3}	KNOWN ⁴	RANGE? ⁵	HABITAT? ⁶	NO EFFECT? ⁷	MAI ⁸	LFL ⁹
<i>wislizenii</i>							
Midget faded rattlesnake ¹³ <i>Crotalus oregonus concolor</i>	Rocky outcrops for refuge and hibernacula, often near riparian; upper limit of 7500'-9500' in elevation	None	Y	Y	X		
Milk snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum taylori</i>	Variable types including shrubby hillsides, canyons, open ponderosa pine stands and pinyon-juniper woodlands, arid river valleys and canyons, animal burrows, and abandoned mines; hibernates in rock crevices	None	Y	Y	X		
Northern leopard frog ¹⁴ <i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	Springs, slow-moving streams, marshes, bogs, ponds, canals, flood plains, reservoirs, and lakes; in summer, commonly inhabits wet meadows and fields; may forage along water's edge or in nearby meadows or fields	None	Y	Y		X	
Canyon treefrog <i>Hyla arenicolor</i>	Rocky canyon bottoms along intermittent or perennial streams in temporary or permanent pools or arroyos ; semi-arid grassland, pinyon-juniper, pine-oak woodland, scrubland, and montane zones; elevation 1000' - 10,000'	None	Y			X	
Boreal toad <i>Anaxyrus boreas boreas</i>	Mountain lakes, ponds, meadows, and wetlands in subalpine forest (e.g., spruce, fir, lodgepole pine, aspen); feed in meadows and forest openings near water but sometimes in drier forest habitats	None	N	N	X		
PLANTS							
Debeque milkvetch <i>Astragalus debequaeus</i>	Varicolored, fine-textured, seleniferous, saline soils of the Wasatch Formation-Atwell Gulch Member; elevation 5100' - 6400'	None	N	N	X		
Grand Junction milkvetch <i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Sparsely vegetated habitats in pinyon-juniper and sagebrush communities, often within Chinle and Morrison Formation and selenium-bearing soils, only known to occur on the eastern base of the Uncompahgre Plateau; elevation 4800' - 6200'	None	N	N	X		
Naturita milkvetch <i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>	Cracks and ledges of sandstone cliffs and flat bedrock area typically with shallow soils, within pinyon-juniper woodland; elevation 5400' - 6700'	None	N	N	X		

APPENDIX C. BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹							
SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ^{2,3}	KNOWN ⁴	RANGE? ⁵	HABITAT? ⁶	NO EFFECT? ⁷	MAI ⁸	LFL ⁹
San Rafael milkvetch <i>Astragalus rafaensis</i>	Banks of sandy clay gulches and hills, at the foot of sandstone outcrops, or among boulders along dry watercourses in seleniferous soils derived from shale or sandstone formations; elevation 4500' – 5300'	None	N	N	X		
Sandstone milkvetch <i>Astragalus sesquiflorus</i>	Sandstone rock ledges (Entrada formation), domed slickrock fissures, talus under cliffs, sometimes in sandy washes; elevation 5000' – 5500'	None	N	N	X		
Gypsum Valley cateye <i>Cryptantha gypsophila</i>	Confined to scattered gypsum outcrop and grayish-white, often lichen-covered, soils of the Paradox Member of the Hermosa Formation; often the dominant plant at these sites; elevation 5200' – 6500'	None	N	N	X		
Fragile (slender) rockbrake <i>Cryptogramma stelleri</i>	Cool, moist, sheltered calcareous cliff crevices and rock ledges	None	N	N	X		
Kachina daisy (fleabane) ¹⁵ <i>Erigeron kachinensis</i>	Saline soils in alcoves and seeps in canyon walls; elevation 4800' – 5600'	None	Y	N	X		
Montrose (Uncompahgre) bladderpod <i>Lesquerella vicina</i>	Sandy-gravel soil mostly of sandstone fragments over Mancos Shale (heavy clays) mainly in pinyon-juniper woodlands or in the ecotone between it and salt desert scrub; also in sandy soils derived from Jurassic sandstones and in sagebrush steppe communities; elevation 5800' – 7500'	None	Y	N	X		
Colorado (Adobe) desert parsley <i>Lomatium concinnum</i>	Adobe hills and plains on rocky soils derived from Mancos Formation shale; shrub communities dominated by sagebrush, shadscale, greasewood, or scrub oak; elevation 5500' – 7000'	None	N	N	X		
Paradox Valley (Payson's) lupine <i>Lupinus crassus</i>	Pinyon-juniper woodlands, or clay barrens derived from Chinle or Mancos Formation shales, often in draws and washes with sparse vegetation; elevation 5000' – 5800'	None	N	N	X		
Dolores skeleton plant ¹⁵ <i>Lygodesmia doloresensis</i>	Reddish purple, sandy alluvium and colluviums of the Cutler Formation between the canyon walls and the river in juniper, shadscale, and sagebrush communities; elevation 4000' – 5500'	None	N	N	X		
Eastwood's monkey-flower	Shallow caves and seeps on steep canyon walls; elevation 4700' – 5800'	None	N	N	X		

APPENDIX C. BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹							
SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ^{2, 3}	KNOWN ⁴	RANGE? ⁵	HABITAT? ⁶	NO EFFECT? ⁷	MAI ⁸	LFL ⁹
<i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i>							
Paradox (Aromatic Indian) breadroot <i>Pediomelum aromaticum</i>	Open pinyon-juniper woodlands in sandy soils or adobe hills; elevation 4800' – 5700'	None	N	N	X		
INVERTEBRATES							
Great Basin silverspot butterfly <i>Speyeria nokomis nokomis</i>	Found in streamside meadows and open seepage areas with an abundance of violets	None	Y	N	X		

¹ Based on Colorado BLM State Director's Sensitive Species List (Last update: April 15, 2011).

² Van Reyper G. 2006. Bureau of Land Management TES [threatened, endangered, sensitive] species descriptions. Uncompahgre Field Office, Montrose, CO, updated 2009/ 2010. Unpublished document.

³ Spackman SB, JC Jennings, C Dawson, M Minton, A Kratz, C Spurrier. 1997. Colorado rare plant field guide. Prepared for the BLM, USFS, and USFWS by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.

⁴ Potential and/or known occurrences in Project Area? Assessment based on UFO files and GIS data, partner data, and local knowledge.

⁵ Project area is within the current known range of the species?

⁶ Project area contains suitable habitat for the species?

⁷ Project activities will have no effect to the species or it's habitat

⁸ Project activities may effect individuals of the species or it's habitat, but not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing

⁹ Project activities are likely to result in a trend toward federal listing for the species

¹⁰ ESA delisted species.

¹¹ Federal candidate species; in accordance with BLM policy and Manual 6840, candidate and proposed species are to be managed and conserved as BLM sensitive species. For the Gunnison prairie dog, candidate status includes only those populations occurring in the "montane" portion of the species' range.

¹² Species not known to occur in UFO.

¹³ Validity of subspecies designation is in question by taxonomists.

¹⁴ Species was petitioned for listing and is currently under status review by FWS, and a 12-month finding is pending; i.e., listing of the species throughout all or a significant portion of its range may be warranted.

¹⁵ Species not on BLM Colorado State Director's Sensitive List; included at the Field Office level to account for recent sightings, proximate occurrences, and/or potential habitat.

Appendix D – Federally-listed and Sensitive Species

This appendix discusses those Federally-listed species and Sensitive species where the project is within the known range of the species and with potential habitat or known occurrences.

Federally listed species

Western yellow-billed Cuckoo

Suitable habitat (mature cottonwood stands) for this species is not present at or near the project area with the closest known occupations occurring, primarily on private lands in the North Fork Valley area near Hotchkiss and Paonia. Since 2003, this species has been confirmed every year in the North Fork of the Gunnison Valley. In 2008, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory conducted surveys for yellow-billed cuckoo within the UFO. Survey areas included the San Miguel River, North Fork Valley, and several drainages on the east slope of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Based on broadcast call surveys, yellow-billed cuckoos were detected in the North Fork Valley on private land near Hotchkiss in Delta County. Breeding was also confirmed that year in the same area. There have also been reports of this species on private lands along the Uncompahgre River in the Montrose, Colorado area. Due to lack of suitable habitat and no detections during field survey this species is not expected in the project area therefore the proposed action would have no effect to yellow-billed cuckoo.

Federally Listed Fish, & BLM Sensitive Fish

In the UFO the Gunnison River is designated as critical habitat for Colorado pikeminnow and Razorback sucker from the confluence with the Uncompahgre River down to the confluence with the Colorado river. Colorado pikeminnow also have been found in the Gunnison River upstream from the confluence with the Uncompahgre River as far as the Hartland Diversion Dam (approximately 4 miles from the confluence). Few wild razorback suckers are known to occur in the Gunnison River; however, the population is being augmented by stocking both in the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. The Humpback chub is not known to occur in the UFO. However, one individual was recently captured in the Gunnison River in a canyon-bound reach at river mile 22, approximately 5 miles north of the UFO planning area boundary. Based on this information, there is a possibility the species occurs within the Gunnison River, or may spend part of its life cycle in the river well below the project site. The project will not occur within designated critical habitat.

The portion of the Gunnison River where the project would occur is not suitable habitat due to the presence of the Heartland dam near Delta. However, a fish passage was constructed at the Heartland Diversion in 2011 so there is some potential for Colorado pikeminnow and Razorback sucker to occur as far up stream as the project site.

The Gunnison River is known to contain populations of flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker, and roundtail chub. The Gunnison River is a popular sport fishery which the Colorado Division of Wildlife has stocked with rainbow trout for many years.

Northern leopard frog

Amphibians (including substantial leopard frog populations), reptiles, invertebrates, and other

species may depend on aquatic habitats of the Gunnison River for “welfare factors” (i.e., life stages, cover, food, water, etc.). The range of the northern leopard frog extends from southern Canada and northern United States south to Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, northern Illinois, extreme northwestern Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Arizona, and eastern California. They occur throughout Colorado, excluding most of the southeastern and east-central portions of the state. Elevation range extends from below 3,500 feet in northeastern Colorado to above 11,000 feet in southern Colorado. NDIS data records indicate that the northern leopard frog occurs in Delta County.

Typical habitats include wet meadows and the banks and shallows of marshes, ponds, glacial kettle ponds, beaver ponds, lakes, reservoirs, streams, and irrigation ditches. Little information is available on northern leopard frog food habits in Colorado, but invertebrates undoubtedly dominate the diet of adults. Leopard frogs were observed during a site visit to the proposed camp site location and in previous surveys up the Gunnison river as far as the newly reconstructed Relief Ditch diversion.

Canyon treefrog

The range of the canyon treefrog extends from southern Utah and southern Colorado south through Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas to central Mexico. It occurs in western Colorado along the southern edge of the Colorado River valley, east to Grand Junction, and along the Dolores River and its tributaries from near the Utah border south into San Miguel County, mainly at elevations of about 4,500–6,300 feet (1,370–1,920 m). The canyon treefrog occurs along intermittent streams in deep, rocky canyons. Known foods include beetles, ants, caterpillars, caddis flies, centipedes, spiders, and worms.

The planning area is within the range of the canyon treefrog and the Gunnison River contains wetland/riparian habitat that may be suitable for this species. Site specific surveys did not reveal presence of this species.

Sensitive Species

BLM Sensitive Birds (Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle)

The project area is identified as bald eagle winter concentration areas. There are a few large diameter cottonwood galleries scattered along the identified SRP area including the proposed designated campsite which has two large mature cottonwoods that could serve as roosting areas. No nesting has been detected by Bald eagles within the proposed project area.

There is one historic golden eagle nest site in the cliffs above the Gunnison River approximately 0.6 river miles upstream from the Relief Ditch diversion location which was first identified in 1997. The site is likely still active as courtship behavior has been observed very near the site as recently as February 2013. If the nest site is not active then the area is certainly a territory for a pair of nesting eagles as the pair has been observed in the area for three consecutive years.

BLM Sensitive Bats (big free-tailed bat, spotted bat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, fringed myotis)

All of the sensitive bat species that may occur in the project area are cliff/cave roosting species.

They may have roosting habitat in adjacent cliffs, but would use the river corridor for foraging and as a travel corridor to other habitats.

BLM Sensitive Amphibians

Northern leopard frog

Amphibians (including substantial leopard frog populations), reptiles, invertebrates, and other species may depend on aquatic habitats of the Gunnison River for “welfare factors” (i.e., life stages, cover, food, water, etc.). The range of the northern leopard frog extends from southern Canada and northern United States south to Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, northern Illinois, extreme northwestern Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Arizona, and eastern California. They occur throughout Colorado, excluding most of the southeastern and east-central portions of the state. Elevation range extends from below 3,500 feet in northeastern Colorado to above 11,000 feet in southern Colorado. NDIS data records indicate that the northern leopard frog occurs in Delta County.

Typical habitats include wet meadows and the banks and shallows of marshes, ponds, glacial kettle ponds, beaver ponds, lakes, reservoirs, streams, and irrigation ditches. Little information is available on northern leopard frog food habits in Colorado, but invertebrates undoubtedly dominate the diet of adults. Leopard frogs were observed during a site visit to the proposed camp site location and in previous surveys up the Gunnison river as far as the newly reconstructed Relief Ditch diversion.

Canyon treefrog

The range of the canyon treefrog extends from southern Utah and southern Colorado south through Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas to central Mexico. It occurs in western Colorado along the southern edge of the Colorado River valley, east to Grand Junction, and along the Dolores River and its tributaries from near the Utah border south into San Miguel County, mainly at elevations of about 4,500–6,300 feet (1,370–1,920 m). The canyon treefrog occurs along intermittent streams in deep, rocky canyons. Known foods include beetles, ants, caterpillars, caddis flies, centipedes, spiders, and worms.

The planning area is within the range of the canyon treefrog and the Gunnison River contains wetland/riparian habitat that may be suitable for this species. Site specific surveys did not reveal presence of this species.

APPENDIX E. BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	RANGE/STATUS ^{2,3}	Populations Trends ⁴	KNOWN ⁵	RANGE ⁶	HABITAT? ⁷	NO EFFECT? ⁸	MAI ⁹	LFL ¹⁰
Gunnison sage grouse <i>Centrocercus minimus</i>	Sagebrush communities (especially big sagebrush) for hiding and thermal cover, food, and nesting; open areas with sagebrush stands for leks; sagebrush-grass-forb mix for nesting; wet meadows for rearing chicks	Year-round resident, breeding.	-5.5 (-6.1) <u>-7.5 (-10.1)</u> Note: <i>Centrocercus sp.</i>						
American bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Marshes and wetlands; ground nester	Spring/ summer resident, breeding confirmed in the region but not within the UFO	No data	None	Y	Y	X		
Bald eagle ¹¹ <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Nests in forested rivers and lakes; winters in upland areas, often with rivers or lakes nearby	Fall/winter resident, no confirmed breeding	+14.3 (+15.2) <u>+14.3</u> <u>(+15.2)</u>						
Ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	Open, rolling and/or rugged terrain in grasslands and shrubsteppe communities; also grasslands and cultivated fields; nests on cliffs and rocky outcrops	Fall/ winter resident, non-breeding	+2.5 (+4.0) <u>+0.7 (+0.8)</u>						
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Open country, grasslands, woodlands, and barren areas in hilly or mountainous terrain; nests on rocky outcrops or large trees	Year-round resident, breeding	-1.4 (-0.9) <u>-0.2 (+0.8)</u>	None	Y	Y		X	

APPENDIX E. BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	RANGE/STATUS ^{2,3}	Populations Trends ⁴	KNOWN ⁵	RANGE ⁶	HABITAT? ⁷	NO EFFECT? ⁸	MAI ⁹	LFL ¹⁰
Peregrine falcon ¹¹ <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Open country near cliff habitat, often near water such as rivers, lakes, and marshes; nests on ledges or holes on cliff faces and crags	Spring/summer resident, breeding	+1.5 (+6.3) <u>+28.1</u> <u>(+21.7)</u>						
Prairie falcon <i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Open country in mountains, steppe, or prairie; winters in cultivated fields; nests in holes or on ledges on rocky cliffs or embankments	Year-round resident, breeding	+1.7 (+6.3) <u>+3.0 (+2.6)</u>	None	Y	Y	X		
Long-billed curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	Lakes and wetlands and adjacent grassland and shrub communities	Spring/ fall migrant, non-breeding	+0.1 (+0.3) <u>-4.4 (-3.5)</u>						
Snowy plover ¹² <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Sparsely vegetated sand flats associated with pickleweed, greasewood, and saltgrass	Spring migrant, non-breeding	No Data	None	N	N	X		
Mountain plover <i>Charadrius montanus</i>	High plain, cultivated fields, desert scrublands, and sagebrush habitats, often in association with heavy grazing, sometimes in association with prairie dog colonies ; short vegetation	Spring/ fall migrant, non-breeding	-3.4 (-2.5) <u>-1.3 (-0.2)</u>	None	N	N	X		
Yellow-billed cuckoo ¹³ <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Riparian, deciduous woodlands with dense undergrowth; nests in tall cottonwood and mature willow riparian, moist thickets, orchards, abandoned pastures	Summer resident, breeding	<u>-1.0 (-2.6)</u>						
Flammulated owl <i>Otus flammeolus</i>	Montane forest, usually open and mature conifer forests; prefers ponderosa pine and Jeffrey pine	Summer resident, breeding	No Data	None	N	N	X		

APPENDIX E. BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	RANGE/STATUS ^{2,3}	Populations Trends ⁴	KNOWN ⁵	RANGE ⁶	HABITAT? ⁷	NO EFFECT? ⁸	MAI ⁹	LFL ¹⁰
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Open grasslands and low shrublands often in association with prairie dog colonies; nests in abandoned burrows created by mammals; short vegetation	Summer/ fall resident, breeding	-0.1 (+0.4) <u>-0.9 (-0.6)</u>	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section					
Lewis's woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Open forest and woodland, often logged or burned, including oak, coniferous forest (often ponderosa), riparian woodland, and orchards, less often in pinyon-juniper	Year-round resident, breeding	-2.0 (-1.4) <u>-0.9 (+0.8)</u>	None	Y	Y	X		
Willow flycatcher ¹² <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Riparian and moist, shrubby areas; winters in shrubby openings with short vegetation	Summer resident, breeding	-2.6 (-1.8) <u>-3.1 (-2.8)</u>	Occupied	Y	Y		X	
Gray vireo <i>Vireo vicinior</i>	Pinyon-juniper and open juniper-grassland	Summer resident, breeding	+1.7 (+1.4) <u>+0.6 (+1.6)</u>	None	Y	N	X		
Pinyon jay <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	Pinyon-juniper woodland	Year-round resident, breeding	-3.6 (-3.3) <u>-3.0 (-3.4)</u>	None	Y	Y	X		
Juniper titmouse <i>Baeolophus griseus</i>	Pinyon-juniper woodlands, especially juniper; nests in tree cavities	Year-round resident, breeding	+0.3 (+1.5) <u>-0.5 (-0.2)</u>	None	Y	N	X		
Veery <i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Deciduous forests, riparian, shrubs	Possible summer resident, observed recently in Gunnison County, possible breeding	-4.9 (-7.7) <u>-5.7 (-5.8)</u>	None	Y	Y	X		
Bendire's thrasher <i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	Desert, especially areas of tall vegetation, cholla cactus, creosote bush and yucca, and in juniper woodland	UFO is outside known range	-4.7 (-4.6)	None	N	N	X		

APPENDIX E. BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	RANGE/STATUS ^{2,3}	Populations Trends ⁴	KNOWN ⁵	RANGE ⁶	HABITAT? ⁷	NO EFFECT? ⁸	MAI ⁹	LFL ¹⁰
Grace's warbler <i>Dendroica graciae</i>	Mature coniferous forests	Summer resident, breeding	-1.6 (+1.9) <u>+6.1 (+5.2)</u>	None	Y	N	X		
Brewer's sparrow <i>Spizella breweri</i>	Sagebrush-grass stands; less often in pinyon-juniper woodlands	Summer resident, breeding	-1.7 (-0.1) <u>-2.0 (-1.6)</u>	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section					
Grasshopper sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Open grasslands and cultivated fields	UFO is outside known range	-1.9 (-8.1) <u>-3.0 (-1.1)</u>	None	N	N	X		
Chestnut-collared longspur <i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Open grasslands and cultivated fields	Spring migrant, non-breeding	<u>+0.4 (-3.4)</u>	None	Y	Y	X		
Black rosy-finch <i>Leucosticte atrata</i>	Open country including mountain meadows, high deserts, valleys, and plains; breeds/ nests in alpine areas near rock piles and cliffs	Winter resident, non-breeding	No Data	None	Y	N	X		
Brown-capped rosy-finch <i>Leucosticte australis</i>	Alpine meadows, cliffs, and talus and high-elevation parks and valleys	Summer residents, breeding	No Data	None	Y	N	X		
Cassin's finch <i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>	Open montane coniferous forests; breeds/ nests in coniferous forests	Year-round resident, breeding	-0.6 (+0.3) <u>+0.4 (+2.2)</u>	None	Y	N	X		

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Birds of Conservation Concern 2008. United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, Virginia. 85 pp. [Online version available at <<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/>>].

² Cornell Lab of Ornithology. All about birds: bird guide. <<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>> Accessed 05/15/2009.

³ Status within the UFO. San Juan Institute of Natural and Cultural Resources. Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. <<http://www.cobreedingbirdatlasii.org/>> Accessed: 05/15/2009.

⁴ Potential and/or known occurrences in Project Area? Assessment based on UFO files and GIS data, partner data, and local knowledge.

⁵ Project area is within the current known range of the species?

⁶ Project area contains suitable habitat for the species?

⁷ Project activities will have no effect to the species or it's habitat

⁸ Project activities may effect individuals of the species or it's habitat, but not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing

⁹ Project activities are likely to result in a trend toward federal listing for the species

¹⁰ ESA delisted species.

¹¹ Non-listed subspecies/ population.

¹²ESA candidate species.

BIG GAME HABITAT OF THE UFO ¹							
SPECIES	Severe winter range	Winter concentration	Winter range	Production area	Concentration area	Migration Corridors	Highway crossing
Mule deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pronghorn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Desert Bighorn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rocky Mountain Bighorn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mountain goat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Based on CDOW big game data and maps