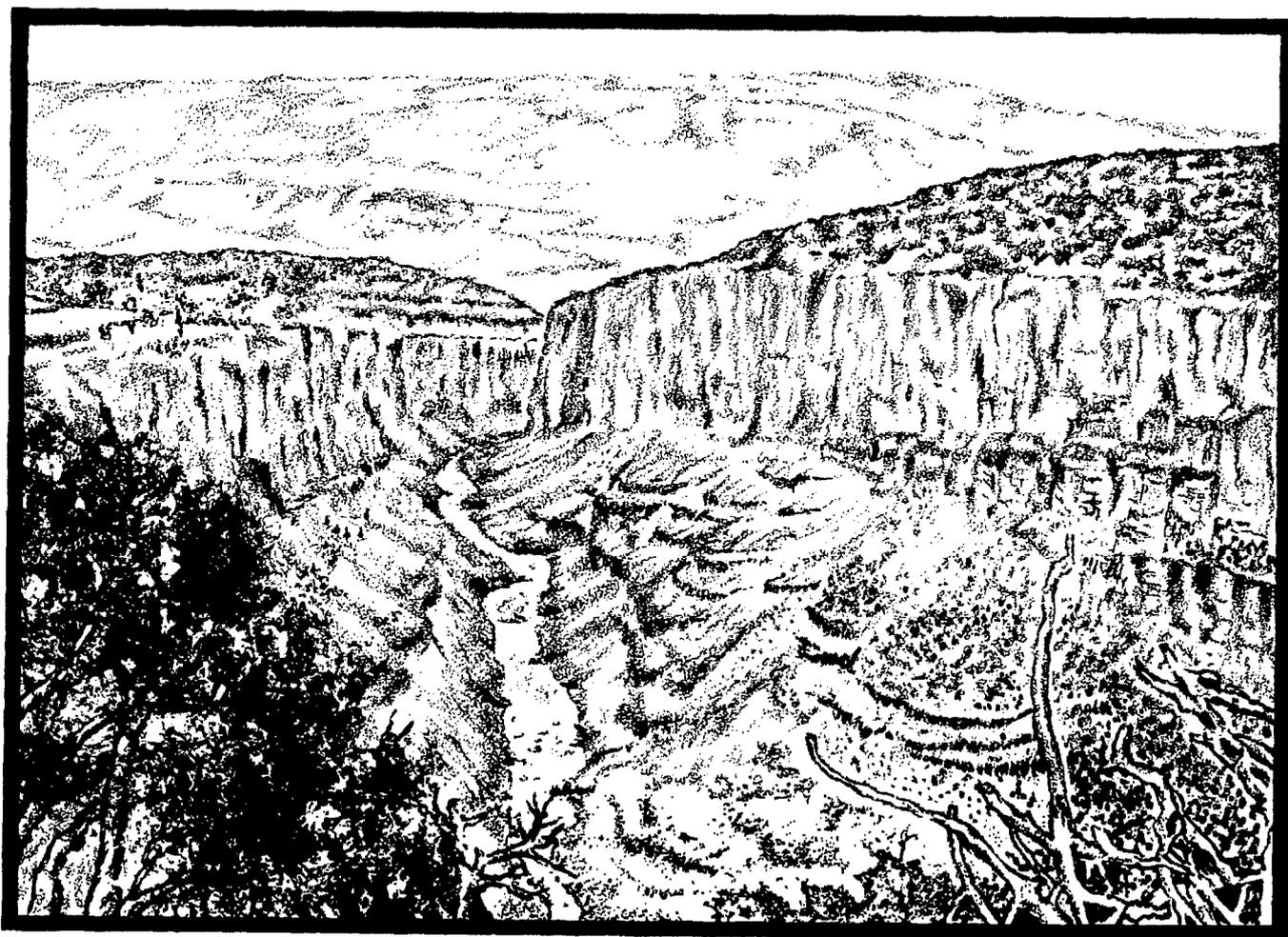


REVISED PROPOSED
LITTLE SNAKE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Craig, Colorado District
Little Snake Resource Area

October 1988



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CRAIG DISTRICT OFFICE
455 Emerson St.
Craig, CO 81625-1129



IN REPLY REFER TO

Dear Reader,

This is the revised proposed Little Snake RMP. It incorporates changes and revisions made as a result of protests filed with the Director, Bureau of Land Management, in November 1986. The changes involve text revisions made to clarify management prescriptions. Some format changes also have been made to eliminate confusion, primarily in relation to the display of management prescriptions including those for proposed management of federal minerals underlying non-federal surface areas within the resource area. The clarifications and edits made in response to the plan protests have not changed the plan decisions set forth in the proposed plan published in 1986 and repeated herein. Oil and gas leasing will be further addressed in a document to follow approval of this plan.

A copy of this document is made available for your information and reference at this time because the BLM wants to keep you informed and current with the status of planning activities in the Little Snake Resource Area. Resolving the plan protests, unfortunately, required an extraordinary amount of time. (The particulars of the protests are discussed below.)

Comment Opportunity and Plan Decision Schedule

We anticipate completing the Record of Decision and approved plan after considering public comments no sooner than 30 days after a notice of the availability of this document is published in the Federal Register. The record will remain open for public comment on the plan during that 30-day period. (Copies of the draft RMP/EIS and the proposed RMP/FEIS published in 1986 are available at local BLM offices for anyone wishing to see those documents.)

Also, any person (who participated in the Little Snake planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the plan approval) believing the clarifications and edits made in this document do change the proposed decisions, may protest to the Director, BLM. Any protest filed with the Director must show what decision(s) the protesting party believes was changed and how it was changed. Other aspects of the proposed plan are not opened to further protest, given the previous protest opportunity. Any protest filed must be in accord with the procedures set forth at 43 CFR 1610.5-2.

Plan Protests and Their Resolution

Several issues were raised in the four protest letters filed with the Director, BLM. They are summarized below. One protesting party was concerned about the implications of the proposed designation of the Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon area as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) on existing rights associated with coal mining activities, including maintenance of facilities and rights-of-way, and the development of present (and future) coal leases. Another protesting party was concerned the SRMA designation (and the wilderness suitability recommendation) prejudiced the prior withdrawal of the Little Yampa/ Juniper Canyon sites for hydropower purposes. Language has been incorporated to make it clear that valid existing rights are unaffected and that necessary maintenance

of existing coal mining facilities within the upper unit of the SRMA is compatible with the plan. New public lands rights-of-way would be processed where they are associated with development of the nearby Iles Mountain coal lease tracts and were otherwise in conformance with the RMP. Also, administering the Yampa River corridor for recreation will have no effect on prior hydropower withdrawals since the proposed management would not preclude the possibility of constructing a dam or reservoir in the Little Yampa /Juniper Canyon.

The recommendation of the Cross Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as "preliminarily suitable" was raised as an issue, primarily because the protesting party believed the change in the recommendation between draft and final had not had sufficient public review. The rationale for the recommendation and the public review and comment upon which it is based were explained to the protesting party. Also, the question of reserved water rights in wilderness areas, another protest issue, was not addressed because Congress takes that matter into consideration when considering wilderness legislation. (Protest on wilderness recommendations are not taken by the Director, given the role reserved to Congress in the wilderness decision process.)

The plan to continue applying the wilderness interim management policy on areas with wilderness characteristics under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) adjacent to similar areas within Dinosaur National Monument was protested. It was decided that the public land values involved should continue to be protected so that Congress could make a decision considering the areas together as a whole.

Use of management priority areas and use of federal mineral concern areas in the proposed RMP, particularly with regard to fluid mineral leasing under non-federal surface, were protested as inconsistent with the FLPMA and in the latter instance beyond BLM's authority. To reduce possible confusion the revised proposed plan describes management prescriptions, geographical locations, the acreage involved, and the management objectives of individual management units. Also, since the individual management units cover broader areas and their management prescriptions apply only to federal surface and/or federal minerals, there is no need to designate areas as federal mineral concern areas. They are dropped from this document.

The absence in the proposed plan of an analysis of the suitability of segments of the Yampa River (contained in the national inventory list) for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system was also protested. The protesting party suggested a supplement to the proposed RMP/FEIS or a new draft be issued. The BLM will, however, schedule the necessary study and analysis when funds are available. Funding has been requested in the 1990-91 budget documents.

Address for Comments

Any comments on the revised proposed Little Snake RMP should be addressed to Duane Johnson, Project Manager, BLM, Little Snake Resource Area, 1280 Industrial Ave., Craig, CO 81625.

Your involvement and assistance in preparing a resource plan for more effective management of the public lands is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel C. Rylander
Acting
District Manager

LITTLE SNAKE
Revised Proposed
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties, Colorado

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CRAIG DISTRICT OFFICE
LITTLE SNAKE RESOURCE AREA



Neil F. Morck
State Director, Colorado

Abstract: This Revised Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) has been prepared to clarify those management prescriptions contained in the Little Snake Resource Management and Final Environmental Impact Statement issued in September 1986. This Revised Proposed RMP contains management actions that would occur within the Little Snake Resource Area following approval of this plan. In addition, this Revised Proposed RMP describes management prescriptions for each management unit within the Little Snake Resource Area. Each management unit description also contains the geographical location, the acreage, and the management objective of the unit.

For Further Information Contact: Duane Johnson, Program Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Resource Area Office, 1280 Industrial Avenue, Craig, Colorado 81625.
Telephone 303 - 824 - 4441.

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Revised Proposed Resource Management Plan

REVISED PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

In September 1986, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued the Proposed Little Snake Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The document contained the Proposed Plan for managing BLM administered public lands within the Little Snake Resource Area in northwest Colorado.

The Proposed Plan received four letters of protest which have been resolved by the BLM Director. In considering the protests, it was determined that some of the points being protested were due to misunderstandings of the management descriptions in the Proposed Plan.

The "management priority area" concept caused the greatest misunderstanding. One protest alleged that this concept would create a situation where the priority use would be the dominant or controlling use in a management priority area. This was not the intent of the Proposed Plan. Management priority areas were intended to provide an opportunity to manage an area to maintain, develop, or preserve the priority use but still allow for multiple use management of other resources. Our objective was and continues to be to achieve multiple-use management as prescribed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). However, in order to rectify any misconceptions, the BLM Director agreed that the BLM Colorado State Director should clarify the management prescriptions without changing any of the proposed management decisions. The revised plan only changes the format and clarifies management prescriptions. We have not changed any management decisions.

This revised plan consists of two parts. The first part describes management actions which are descriptions of types of management for individual resources throughout the resource area. The second part consists of management unit descriptions. These management units are geographic areas that are suited for development, management, protection or use of a particular combination of management objectives. The management units, described in detail later in this Revised Proposed Plan, have been given names to represent their general geographical location within the Little Snake Resource Area. Each management unit describes how resource uses will be managed in that area and what terms and conditions are necessary to meet the management objectives for each unit. Management units are delineated on the enclosed Revised Proposed Plan map. Resource uses within a management unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for each unit. In addition, all public lands would be managed according to the following "Management Actions" section. Future proposals would be

evaluated in the context of a unit's management objectives, as well as the "Management Actions" section of this plan. Although there is some overlap between these two sections, neither is designed to stand on its own as a distinct and complete description of the resource management decisions that have been approved. These sections are interrelated and interdependent and they must be viewed together in order to get a complete, accurate picture of the proposed management direction for the Little Snake Resource Area.

In addition, the term "federal mineral concern areas" will not be used in this Revised Proposed Plan. This is because the management units encompass all lands within the Little Snake Resource Area (see Valid Existing Rights Section later in this Introduction) and describe the management objectives and management prescriptions that would apply to only public lands (including reserved federal minerals) managed by the BLM in each unit.

Implementation of recommended management decisions for the resource area would be guided by a series of activity plans. An activity plan is a more detailed and specific plan for managing resources or plan elements undertaken as necessary to implement the more general RMP decisions. Detailed schedules and management actions, including projects, treatments, and other on-the-ground activities would be described in each activity plan. Resource specific plans to be prepared following approval of the RMP would include an oil and gas technical supplement (see Oil and Gas Management Actions), habitat management plans (HMPs) for wildlife, allotment management plans (AMPs) for livestock grazing, watershed activity plans, and cultural resource management plans (CRMPs). Site specific management plans would also be required for areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), special recreation management areas (SRMAs), and areas ultimately designated by Congress as units of the National Wilderness Preservation system. In addition, an overall resource monitoring plan will be prepared for the Little Snake Resource Area. The plan will identify appropriate locations and methods for monitoring resources (either in combination or individually), coordination procedures for developing and initiating specific monitoring studies, and methods for recording and evaluating monitoring data.

Activities or uses not specifically addressed in this Revised Proposed Plan, such as small-scale projects (rights-of-way applications for rural telephone lines, access roads, free use permits, etc.), would be authorized if they met legal requirements and were compatible with the objectives of each management unit.

Valid Existing Rights

This Revised Proposed Plan would not affect valid existing rights. Valid existing rights are those rights to use the public land which predate the final decision on the plan and arise from a permit, lease, right-of-way, or claim. For example, this Revised Proposed Plan may designate an area as open for oil and gas leasing with a no-surface-occupancy stipulation. This stipulation would not be retroactively applied to oil and gas leases which already exist in this area. Valid existing rights may be held by BLM, other government entities, or by private individuals or companies.

The management units depicted on the Revised Proposed Plan map include areas of split-estate (non-federal surface over federal minerals), private, state, or other nonfederal lands. However, the management unit prescriptions apply only to public lands (the term "public lands" means any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership ... FLPMA). On split estate lands, management unit prescriptions indicate how BLM would manage the federal mineral estate; they would not dictate other surface uses unrelated to federal mineral development. None of the management unit prescriptions apply to private, state, or other lands or minerals not managed by BLM.

In addition, the Revised Proposed Plan does not propose that Congress reserve water rights for Cross Mountain, Diamond Breaks, or any other wilderness study area. If Congress expressly states that water rights are not reserved for a wilderness area, there can be no implication and no reserved water right. The Wilderness Act and BLM Wilderness Management Policy recognize valid existing rights. In the case of water rights, if any reserved water rights are determined to be established by the act of designation, the priority date of that right would be junior to all rights existing at the time of designation. It would, therefore, not preempt any existing water rights.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

This is the management action section which is the first part of the revised plan. This section explains how individual resources will be managed.

Coal (Issue 1-1)

1. Approximately 638,800 acres (containing an estimated 5.8 billion tons of coal) would be identified as

acceptable for further consideration for federal coal leasing. Of this total, approximately 457,089 acres (an estimated 4.2 billion tons of coal) would be acceptable for further consideration for leasing for surface or underground development. Approximately 181,669 acres (an estimated 1.3 billion tons of coal) would be acceptable for further consideration for leasing for underground development only (see Tables 1 and 2). Approximately 266 million tons of coal throughout the region would not be available for surface mining.

2. Site-specific activity planning, including additional environmental analysis, would be needed before a decision to lease specific tracts could be made.
3. Exploratory drilling would be allowed in order to obtain sufficient data for resource management decisions and fair-market-value determinations.
4. Other data gathering efforts would be scheduled that would ensure data adequacy standards would be met for activity planning within the coal planning area.

Oil and Gas (Issue 1-2)

1. The resource area would be available for oil and gas leasing. Areas have been designated for leasing with standard stipulations, seasonal restrictions, avoidance stipulations, performance objectives, or no-surface-occupancy stipulations; areas where no new leasing would be allowed have also been identified (see Table 3). Stipulations or restrictions may be waived or reduced if circumstances change or if the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts to the concern(s) identified. The appropriateness of allowing specific stipulations to be waived will be further analyzed in the oil and gas technical supplement discussed in Item 2 below.

During consideration of leasing and development of federal minerals where the surface is privately owned, efforts will be made to identify environmental concerns and work with the private surface owners regarding management of their surface; private surface owners are encouraged to become involved in the activity planning process. BLM's actions will be consistent with the wishes of the surface owner, to the extent possible, but impacts to federal lands or resources, threatened or endangered species, or other resource values protected by nondiscretionary statute will be mitigated to an acceptable level, as approved by the authorized officer.

2. After completion of the Little Snake RMP, an oil and gas technical supplement (referred to as an activity plan in the Final Little Snake RMP/EIS) will be developed for the Little Snake Resource Area to further refine

Table 1
SUMMARY OF COAL UNSUITABILITY RESULTS *

Criterion	Acres		
	Before Exceptions	After Exceptions	After ¹ Exemptions
1 Federal Lands Systems	322	322	322
2 Rights-of-Way and Easements	3,041	0	0
3 Buffer Zones along Rights-of-Way and adjacent to Communities and Buildings	3,151	1,486	1,486
4 Wilderness Study Areas	0	0	0
5 Scenic Areas	0	0	0
6 Lands used for Scientific Studies	0	0	0
7 Historic Lands and Sites	0	0	0
8 Natural Areas	0	0	0
9 Federally Listed Endangered Species	7,541	7,541	7,541
10 State-Listed Endangered Species	0	0	0
11 Bald and Golden Eagle Nests	48,207	45,898	45,898
12 Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas	7,541 ²	7,541 ²	7,541 ²
13 Falcon Cliff Nesting Site	2,402	2,402	2,402
14 Migratory Birds	2,681	2,681	2,681
15 State Resident Fish and Wildlife	611,878 ³	37,960	37,960
16 Floodplains	5,104	5,104	5,104
17 Municipal Watersheds	0	0	0
18 National Resource Waters	0	0	0
19 Alluvial Valley Floors	1,948 ⁴	1,948 ⁴	1,948 ⁴
20 State Proposed Criterion	0	0	0
Total Lands Unsuitable (excluding overlaps)	611,878	104,261	104,261

* This table is a summary of application of the 20 coal unsuitability criteria from 43 CFR 3461 to the federal coal planning area. See Appendix 2, Federal Lands Review, in the Draft RMP/EIS for more detailed information.

¹ The unsuitability criteria are subject to exemptions and/or specific exceptions. General exemptions applicable to several criteria include: lands subject to valid existing rights (Criteria Numbers 1, 3, 4 [limited]); lands to which the operator has made substantial legal and financial commitments prior to January 4, 1977 (all except Criteria Numbers 3, 4, and 19); surface coal mining operations existing on August 3, 1977 (all except criteria Numbers 4 and 7); and lands for which a mining permit has been issued (all but 3, 4, and 7). All criteria except 4, 5, 6, 15, 16, and 19 are also subject to one or more specific exceptions. For example, the exceptions to Criterion Number 11 state that a lease may be issued if stipulations can ensure that eagles are not disturbed during the breeding season, or if the Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the nest(s) of golden eagles can be moved; and the size of a buffer zone can be decreased if active eagle nests will not be adversely affected. Results did not change after the exemptions were considered because the criteria were not applied to leased lands (43 CFR 3461.4-2), and none of the exemptions were applicable to the unleased lands in the coal planning area.

² These lands are the same as identified in Criterion 9.

³ Overlaps with all other criteria.

⁴ Includes 1,081 acre overlap with Criterion 16.

the degree to which oil and gas development will be allowed on lands open to leasing. This technical supplement will assess the levels of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts resulting from a reasonable, foreseeable level of oil and gas development in the resource area. The technical supplement will, in part, identify any additional necessary and justifiable mitigative measures to reduce or eliminate unacceptable adverse environmental impacts, as well as those less restrictive methodologies that would result in the same desired effect. The technical supplement will also identify any change to current oil and gas leasing decisions needed for conformance with the revised proposed Little Snake RMP.

Table 2
ACRES AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER
CONSIDERATION
FOR COAL LEASING
(excluding overlaps) *

Screens	Results
Coal Development Potential	638,758
Unsuitability Review	(-104,261)
Acreage Remaining	534,497
Surface Owner Consultation	(-68,808)
Acreage Remaining	465,689
Multiple Use Tradeoffs	
Recreation	(- 8,600)
Acreage Remaining	457,089
<hr/>	
Total Acres Available	
Surface/Underground Methods	457,089
<hr/>	
Total Acres Available	
Underground Methods Only	181,669
(No Surface Disturbance)	
<hr/>	
Total Coal Tonnage Available	5.5 billion

* In some portions of the coal planning area, more than one screen was found to apply, e.g., portions of the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA were eliminated as the result of both unsuitability criteria and multiple use tradeoffs. Acreage for such areas was only subtracted once from the total coal planning area acreage.

At a minimum, the oil and gas technical supplement will address the primary, secondary, and cumulative

impacts of at least one reasonable, foreseeable level of oil and gas development in the Little Snake Resource Area. The level of development will be based on resource potential (see the oil and gas map enclosed in the Final Little Snake RMP/EIS, Sept. 1986) and historical oil and gas activity in the area. The analysis of impacts will be based on assumptions, such as the number of wells expected to be drilled in the resource area over the next 20 years, the varying density of those wells, typical surface disturbance resulting from oil and gas activity, reclamation potential, the number of acres in a disturbed condition in a typical year, and the expected total number of acres disturbed during the next 20 years.

Until this technical supplement is approved, the existing Little Snake Oil and Gas Umbrella Environmental Assessment in combination with the Little Snake RMP oil and gas leasing decisions, will continue to be the National Environmental Policy Act compliance document for oil and gas leasing in the resource area.

Other Minerals (Issue 1-3)

1. All public land would be open to locatable mineral entry and development unless administratively withdrawn or proposed for withdrawal (proposed wilderness designation). Mineral exploration and development on public land would be regulated under 43 CFR 3800.
2. Applications for removing common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, would continue to be processed on a case-by-case basis. Stipulations to protect important surface values would be attached, based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal. Mineral material sales would not be allowed in Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA, Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA, and the Cedar Mountain Recreation Management Unit.
3. BLM would consider leasing geothermal energy resources or other leasable minerals on a case-by-case basis. All minerals that are considered leasable on acquired lands (Bankhead Jones Act) would be treated the same as other leasable minerals. In Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA, Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA, and the Cedar Mountain recreation management unit, leasing of other minerals for underground mining would be allowed with no surface occupancy stipulations. Leasing for surface mining would not be allowed in these four areas.
4. New leases and mineral material sales within fragile soil and water areas (Vermillion Management Unit) would be subject to the performance objectives

Table 3
OIL AND GAS LEASING RESTRICTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed Restrictions	Estimated Acreage	Percentage of Federal Oil and Gas Acreage (1,878,400 acres)	Area ¹
Seasonal Restrictions	685,927	36	Critical wildlife habitat (scattered throughout the resource area) ²
Avoidance Stipulations ³	11,680 <u>6,500</u>		Irish Canyon ACEC Lookout Mountain ACEC
Subtotal	18,180	1	
Performance Standards ⁴	35,840	2	Vermillion M. U., including portions of Canyon Creek, Shell Creek, Vermillion Creek, Sand Wash, Dry Creek, Yellow Cat Wash, northwest facing slopes Vermillion Bluffs (extremely fragile soils/water areas)
No Surface Occupancy	16,240		Critical wildlife habitat (scattered throughout the resource area) ⁵
	1,350		Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA
	14,081		Cross Mountain WSA, including Cross Mountain canyon ACEC (recommended for wilderness designation)
	19,840		Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA
	880		Cedar Mountain recreation area
	<u>384</u>		Steamboat Lake State Park
Subtotal	52,775	3	
No New Leasing	36,240	2	Diamond Breaks WSA (recommended for wilderness designation)
Standard Lease Terms	1,049,438	56	Remaining federal oil and gas acreage

¹ ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern
RNA Research Natural Area
SRMA Special Recreation Management Area
WSA Wilderness Study Area

² See Table 4 under Wildlife Habitat (Issue 2-2) for a summary of seasonal wildlife restrictions. Seasonal restrictions do not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Exceptions to seasonal limitations in any particular year may be specifically approved in writing by the authorized officer. These acreages are estimates based on the application of these stipulations in the June 1982 Little Snake Oil and Gas Umbrella Environmental Assessment.

³ See the descriptions under Management Actions Section for examples of avoidance stipulations. Additional scattered areas containing habitats of known Colorado BLM sensitive plants and specifically identified remnant plant associations would also be protected by avoidance stipulations.

⁴ If performance standards could not be met, then no-surface-occupancy would be allowed. Additional areas within the resource area may have restrictive stipulations imposed on a case by case basis to protect fragile soils and water resource values; see Soils and Water Resources (Issues 2-5 and 2-6) for further discussion.

⁵ Critical raptor habitat, greater sandhill crane habitat, critical wildlife watering areas, beaver colonies, sage grouse strutting grounds, sharptailed grouse dancing grounds, prairie dog towns (potential black footed ferret habitat). See Item 3 under Wildlife Habitat (Issue 2-2). These acreages are estimates based on the application of these stipulations in the June 1982 Little Snake Oil and Gas Umbrella Environmental Assessment.

described under Soil and Water Resources (Issues 2-5 and 2-6).

5. The recommended Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain wilderness areas (including Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC) would be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, leasing and development of other minerals, and mineral material sales if designated as wilderness by Congress.

Livestock Grazing (Issue 2-1)

1. Livestock grazing utilizing federal preference (166,895 AUMs) would be allowed until rangeland monitoring studies were completed.
2. BLM would immediately initiate rangeland monitoring studies on a minimum of 13 conflict allotments (allotment numbers 4203, 4206, 4207, 4209, 4210, 4219, 4225, 4302, 4431, 4432, 4520, 4521, and 4522) to yield information needed to make decisions on livestock stocking rates. Other rangeland monitoring studies would be initiated on allotments exhibiting worst forage conditions established from the 1981-1983 surveys. The level of survey would depend on funding and staff.
3. Based on 1981-1983 surveys for 73 percent of the area and earlier surveys for the rest of the area, an anticipated grazing level of 148,821 AUMs would be used as baseline inventory data.
4. Livestock use adjustments would be implemented in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3-3 after acquisition of 2 or 3 years of rangeland monitoring data, in combination with baseline data. Decisions implementing changes in livestock use would be issued as soon as data were available to support that change. In no case would more than 5 years of rangeland monitoring data be required for adjustments. Any adjustments would result in consultation/coordination with the livestock operator.
5. BLM policy is to issue decisions or enter into agreements within 5 years of publication of a Range Program Summary (RPS) following completion of a Grazing Environmental Impact Statement Resource Management Plan (EIS/RMP). An RPS is issued within 5 months after the final EIS/RMP is published. A five-year implementation period would be used. Decisions would be issued in the third and fifth years to modify the adjustments as necessary to reach estimated grazing capacity. These decisions would be contained in a rangeland program summary.
6. Grazing would be temporarily suspended in areas where key forage plants have been critically overutilized.

7. Vegetative land treatments would be implemented on 68 allotments. Proposed treatments would involve interseeding, burning and reseeding, spraying, and plowing and reseeding. In conducting these treatments, BLM would adhere to established procedures and design specifications to protect all resource uses and values. A benefit/cost analysis and environmental analysis would be completed before any treatments were implemented.
8. Range improvement projects would be constructed on 69 allotments to control livestock use, improve distribution, and improve riparian/wetland habitat. A benefit/cost analysis and environmental analysis would be completed before any projects were implemented.
9. Management categorization (M, I, or C) for allotments would be updated as the result of rangeland condition change or as data that supported changes became available through the monitoring program. (See Appendix 7 Draft Little Snake RMP/EIS.)
10. Allotment management plans would be developed for all allotments within the Little Snake Resource Area. Level of detail of each plan would be determined from the management category (M, I, or C) for that allotment.

Wildlife Habitat (Issue 2-2)

1. Forage would be provided on BLM land to maintain approximately 66,400 mule deer, 6,500 elk, 6,300 pronghorn, and 70 bighorn sheep. This would contribute to total resource area big game populations of 110,600 mule deer, 21,700 elk, 8,350 pronghorn, and 70 bighorn sheep until further monitoring studies were completed and proper utilization levels were established.
2. BLM would immediately initiate monitoring studies on a minimum of 13 conflict allotments (allotment numbers 4203, 4206, 4207, 4209, 4210, 4219, 4225, 4302, 4431, 4432, 4520, 4521, and 4522) to yield information needed to make decisions on wildlife numbers. Other monitoring studies would be initiated on allotments exhibiting worst forage conditions, as established from the 1981-1983 surveys. The level of survey would depend on funding and personnel.
3. Wildlife-use adjustments would be implemented through consultation and coordination with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) if monitoring data indicated that adjustments were necessary. Negotiation to implement changes in wildlife use would proceed as soon as data were available to support that change.
4. Wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved through application of mitigative measures or

restrictions applied to all wildlife habitat-disturbing activities.

5. Wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved through application of seasonal restrictions on resource activities to maintain wildlife production areas and important wildlife habitat (Table 4).

Table 4
DATES ALLOWED FOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OF WILDLIFE CONCERNS

Type of Wildlife Concern	Dates Activity Allowed
Greater sandhill crane nesting and staging area buffer zones	Oct. 15 - Feb. 28
Sage grouse strutting ground buffer zone	June 1 - Feb. 28
Critical raptor nest buffer zones	Aug. 1 - Jan. 31
Bald eagle habitat	April 15 - Oct. 31
Sharptail grouse dance ground buffer zone	June 15 - March 15
Mule deer and elk migration routes	May 15 - Oct. 15 and Dec. 1 - March 15
Mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, mountain lion, elk critical winter range	April 15 - Nov. 30
Elk calving	July 1 - April 15
Pronghorn antelope fawning, bighorn sheep lambing	July 1 - April 30

6. Wildlife habitat for raptors and the greater sandhill crane, as well as wildlife watering areas, beaver colonies, sage-grouse-strutting grounds, and potential black footed ferret habitat (some prairie dog towns), would have no-surface-occupancy stipulations applied to new oil and gas leases. These areas vary in size between 10 and 110 acres and are scattered throughout the resource area; current known total habitat is 16,240 acres. Such stipulations would also be applied to similar habitat identified on future surveys.
7. Activity would not be permitted in threatened, endangered, and sensitive species' habitat that would jeopardize their continued existence. The CDOW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) would be consulted pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act before implementation of projects that might affect threatened and endangered species' habitat.

8. BLM would cooperate with the CDOW in monitoring the habitat and populations of bighorn sheep on Cross Mountain and in the Cold Spring Mountain area.
9. BLM would coordinate with the CDOW for joint funding of wildlife projects.
10. The federally-endangered American peregrine falcon, Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, bonytail chub, and the state-protected razorback sucker would be protected by designation of Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC (see revised proposed plan map).
11. Wildlife habitat management plans would be prepared and implemented, emphasizing aquatic/riparian habitats for the Little Snake River, Yampa River, Vermillion Creek, Beaver Creek, Canyon Creek, Shell Creek, Morgan Gulch, Milk Creek, Fortification Creek, West Timberlake Creek, Willow Creek, and Fourmile Creek.
12. Aquatic surveys would be completed on 3,000 acres of riparian and 400 acres of known wetland wildlife habitat.
13. Inventories would be conducted to determine if other riparian or wetland habitats occur in the resource area and to determine their value as wildlife habitat.
14. Wildlife watering guzzlers would be installed on Godiva Rim, Sand Wash Basin, Cross Mountain, and Dry Mountain. Additional environmental analyses would be completed and design specifications would be adhered to before any wildlife habitat improvement project would be implemented.
15. Sage grouse and elk habitat would be improved on West Cold Spring Mountain by rollerchopping or burning irregular shaped areas of sagebrush.
16. Elk habitat would be improved in Bald Mountain Basin and Great Divide by conducting prescribed burns within irregular shaped areas.
17. Antelope distribution in Sand Wash, Powder Wash, and Great Divide would be improved by constructing 25 antelope passes, installing 2 miles of lay down panels, and constructing fence modifications.
18. Elk habitat on Dry Mountain would be improved by chaining or burning irregular shaped plots of juniper.
19. An undetermined number of springs and seeps, and associated wetlands and riparian areas, would be fenced to protect the water source and associated riparian habitat. Water would be transported outside the fenced area for other uses.

Threatened/Endangered, Candidate, and Sensitive Plants (Issue 2-3)

1. Proposed project locations likely to harbor threatened/endangered, candidate, and Colorado BLM sensitive plants would be surveyed before project development. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act consultation procedures with the USFWS will be implemented when a "may-affect" determination is made for listed threatened and endangered species.
2. Identified threatened, endangered, and candidate species would be protected through no-surface-occupancy stipulations.
3. Identified Colorado BLM sensitive plants would be protected through avoidance stipulations. When applied, the avoidance stipulation would include the following: "habitat of known populations of Colorado sensitive plants, and those remnant vegetation associations specifically identified, would be protected from human-induced activities to the extent such mitigation of impacts to these resources does not unduly hinder or preclude the exercise of valid existing rights. For Colorado BLM sensitive plants, the area of protection would include the actual location of the population and, if present, adjacent critical sites that affect their habitat."
4. Colorado BLM sensitive plants would be protected by designation of Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA, Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Irish Canyon ACEC, and Lookout Mountain ACEC (see revised proposed plan map).

Wild Horses (Issue 2-4)

1. Habitat condition in Sand Wash Basin would be managed to maintain an appropriate management level of 130 to 160 wild horses.
2. Surplus horses would be gathered to maintain herd objectives.
3. A monitoring program would be established that would determine annual utilization and vegetative trends within the Sand Wash Basin.

Soil and Water Resources (Issues 2-5 and 2-6)

1. Soil and water resources would be protected through mitigation or restrictions applied to surface and underground disturbing activities, as needed, on a case-

by-case basis. Water quality parameters would conform to state water quality standards.

2. The fragile soil and water areas (Vermillion Management Unit) identified below (and shown on the map of the revised proposed plan) are areas where soil erosion potential is known to exist.
 - a. The fragile soil areas listed below encompass approximately 2 to 3 percent of the total acreage within the resource area.
 - (1) The area along Canyon Creek, including the adjacent steep side slopes, to approximately 1/2 mile either side of the creek. The actual boundary would be drawn based on topography.
 - (2) The area along Shell Creek, including the adjacent steep side slopes, to approximately 1/2 mile either side of the creek. The actual boundary would be drawn based on topography.
 - (3) The area along Vermillion Creek, including the adjacent steep side slopes, to approximately 1/2 mile to either side of the creek (the actual boundary being based on topography), downstream to the confluence with Douglas Draw.
 - (4) The area along Sand Wash, including the adjacent side slopes, to approximately 1/2 mile either side of the wash (the actual boundary to be drawn based on topography), from section 10, T. 9 N., R. 99 W., to its confluence with Dugout Draw.
 - (5) The area along Yellow Cat Wash, including the adjacent side slopes, to approximately 1/2 mile either side of the wash (the actual boundary being based on topography), from section 12, T. 9 N., R. 98 W., to its confluence with Sand Wash.
 - (6) The area along Dry Creek, including the adjacent side slopes, to approximately 1/2 mile either side of the creek (the actual boundary to be based on topography), from section 22, T. 11 N., R. 99 W., to its confluence with Vermillion Creek.
 - (7) The northwest facing slopes of the Vermillion Bluffs, from the Vermillion Bluffs ridgetop road downslope to the Dry Creek drainage.
 - b. These performance objectives would apply to all surface-disturbing activities in fragile soil areas. If these performance objectives cannot be met, surface occupancy will not be permitted on federal surface. On private surface (federal mineral ownership) BLM will, if necessary, develop an acceptable surface use program where the impact of development of federal minerals may impact off lease lands or resources.

The following performance objectives have been established for fragile soils.

- (1) Maintain the soil productivity of the site by reducing soil loss from erosion and through proper handling of the soil material.
 - (2) Reduce impact to off-site areas by controlling erosion and/or overland flow from these areas.
 - (3) Protect water quality and quantity of adjacent surface and groundwater sources.
 - (4) Reduce accelerated erosion caused by surface-disturbing activities.
 - (5) Select the best possible site for development in order to reduce the impacts to the soil and water resources.
- c. All proposed surface-disturbing activities within fragile soil areas would undergo a site-specific review at the resource area and/or district level. Special performance standards (listed below) would be applied to these activities as well. Again, if the performance standards could not be met, surface occupancy would not be authorized.

To achieve the performance objectives, BLM has identified the following performance standards that may apply to surface-disturbing activities. These standards are presented to identify the types of mitigative measures that may be necessary, based on the type of activity to be permitted, the timing of development activities, the geographical location, specific soil types and conditions, etc. Depending on these variables, an applicant will demonstrate that the performance objectives have been met either through a plan of development, using alternative measures, or through use of appropriate suggested mitigative measures identified below.

- (1) All sediments generated from the surface-disturbing activity would have to be retained on site.
- (2) Construction or other surface-disturbing activities would be allowed when the soils are saturated to a depth of less than 3 inches.
- (3) Vehicle use would be limited to existing roads and trails.
- (4) All new permanent roads would be built to meet primary road standards (BLM standards) and their location approved by the authorized officer. For oil and gas purposes, permanent roads are those used for production.
- (5) All geophysical and geochemical exploration would be conducted by helicopter, horseback, on foot, or from existing roads.

(6) Any sediment control structures, reserve pits, or disposal pits would be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures would have a design life of 25 years.

(7) Before reserve pits, production pits, or emergency pits would be reclaimed, all residue would be removed and trucked off-site to an approved disposal site.

(8) Reclamation of disturbed surfaces would be initiated before November 1 each year.

(9) All reclamation plans would be approved by the authorized officer in advance and might require a bond, if one has not been previously posted.

These requirements would not supersede valid existing rights on approved application for permits to drill or developing leases or entry under the general mining laws. They would apply to all new oil and gas leases and to all surface-disturbing activities permitted under this plan. BLM will work with operators/permittees to achieve performance objectives on undeveloped leases or permits consistent with previously granted lease rights.

3. Rights-of-way construction would be allowed along Moffat County roads 4, 67, and 126 on a case-by-case basis. Stipulations would be applied to the right-of-way activity at the approval stage.
4. Surface-disturbing activities on isolated sites that meet fragile soil criteria (a-b below) would be subject to the performance objectives/stipulations listed above. Surface disturbance would be allowed only where the performance objectives/standards could be met.
 - a. Areas rated as highly or severely erodible by wind or water, as described by the Soil Conservation Service in the Area Soil Survey Report or as described by on-site inspection.
 - b. Areas with slopes greater than or equal to 35 percent, if they also have one of the following soil characteristics: (1) a surface texture that is sand, loamy sand, very fine sandy loam, fine sandy loam, silty clay, or clay; (2) a depth to bedrock that is less than 20 inches; (3) an erosion condition that is rated as poor; or (4) a K factor (see Glossary in Draft RMP/EIS) of greater than .32. (See Table 5.)
5. Range and water projects would be developed and implemented in order to encourage the relocation of livestock from within fragile soil and water areas. Where necessary, livestock would be fenced from riparian areas, although a water source would be provided.
6. No-surface-occupancy stipulations would be established from within 500 feet to 1/4 mile of perennial water

sources, depending on the type of source, use of source, soil type, and slope steepness.

7. Construction would be allowed within or near intermittent drainages and their floodplains only after completing a case-by-case analysis of soil type and slope steepness of the drainage. Compliance with Executive Order 11988 would be ensured. These actions would not preclude road crossings built to BLM specifications.
8. To ensure that unstable areas were avoided, accelerated erosion was reduced, and detailed soil information was made available, detailed soil surveys would be conducted on timber harvesting areas of Diamond Peak/Middle Mountain and Douglas Mountain.
9. The remaining 10 percent of the water quality and quantity inventory of resource area springs and seeps would be completed.

**Table 5
POTENTIAL FRAGILE SOILS AREAS
WITHIN THE LITTLE SNAKE
RESOURCE AREA ¹**

Area	Estimated Acreage
Portions of Buffalo Gulch/Twelvemile	
Mesa Area	4,000
Along some upper tributaries of Sand Wash	3,000
Along some western tributaries of the Little Snake River	17,000
Along some eastern tributaries of the Little Snake River	5,000
Along portions of Sand Creek	2,000
Along portions of Conway Draw	1,000
Portions of the Deception creek Area	1,000
Total	33,000

¹ This is only a partial listing of fragile soil areas within the resource area and other sites may meet the fragile soils criteria.

10. Groundwater quality and aquifers would be inventoried within the resource area.
11. Water quality and watershed activity plans would be developed in areas with potential for water quality improvements. The potential for salinity control projects on BLM-administered public lands in the Milk Creek, Vermillion Creek, and Little Snake River watersheds would be analyzed.
12. Nonpoint sources of pollution would require management actions be coordinated with federal, state, and local agencies.

13. BLM roads and trails on public lands would be closed and rehabilitated if they have high-erosion rates that could not be corrected.
14. The Little Snake monitoring plan would include proposals for monitoring the impacts of management actions on soil and water resources.
15. BLM would seek appropriate water rights for domestic livestock, wildlife, and recreation uses.

Forest Lands and Woodlands (Issues 2-7 and 2-8)

1. Existing 10-year forest management plans would continue for Diamond Peak/Middle Mountain and Douglas Mountain.
2. Commercial forest lands (6,330 acres) would be managed to produce a variety of forest products on a sustained yield basis. Limited management (such as natural revegetation and minimal cultural treatments) would apply to remaining commercial forest lands. Allowable harvest levels under a sustained yield have been calculated to be approximately 300,000 board feet per year. The allowable harvest would be recalculated periodically based on updated inventories.
3. Approximately 37,600 acres of woodland would be managed to produce a variety of woodland products on a sustained-yield basis. Limited management would apply to the remaining woodland acreage. Annual woodland harvest levels under a sustained yield have been calculated to be 2,500 cords, or 1.25 million board feet per year. The allowable harvest would be recalculated periodically based on updated inventories.
4. Access would be acquired for future timber sales (see Map 1).
5. Public harvest areas would be opened to meet local demand.

Fire Management (Issue 2-9)

A fire management plan (FMP) has been developed for the Little Snake Resource Area.

Maximum suppression would be used on areas with high resource values, structures, commercial forest, oil and gas developments, cultural values, improvements, etc. Buffer areas near or adjacent to critical management areas for threatened, endangered and candidate species, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, and research natural areas (RNA), would require full protection. Maximum suppression

may also be used in other areas to prevent fire from spreading to adjacent private property/structures.

Minimum fire suppression would be used in areas with resources that are low in value or do not warrant full suppression actions and/or high suppression costs. Fires in the Douglas Mountain area [five Dinosaur-adjacent wilderness study areas (WSAs)], Diamond Breaks WSA, West Cold Spring WSA, and Cross Mountain WSA, will be handled under this strategy.

Prescribed fire would be used to improve resource habitat, condition, etc. Both planned and unplanned fires would be used.

Wilderness (Issue 3-1)

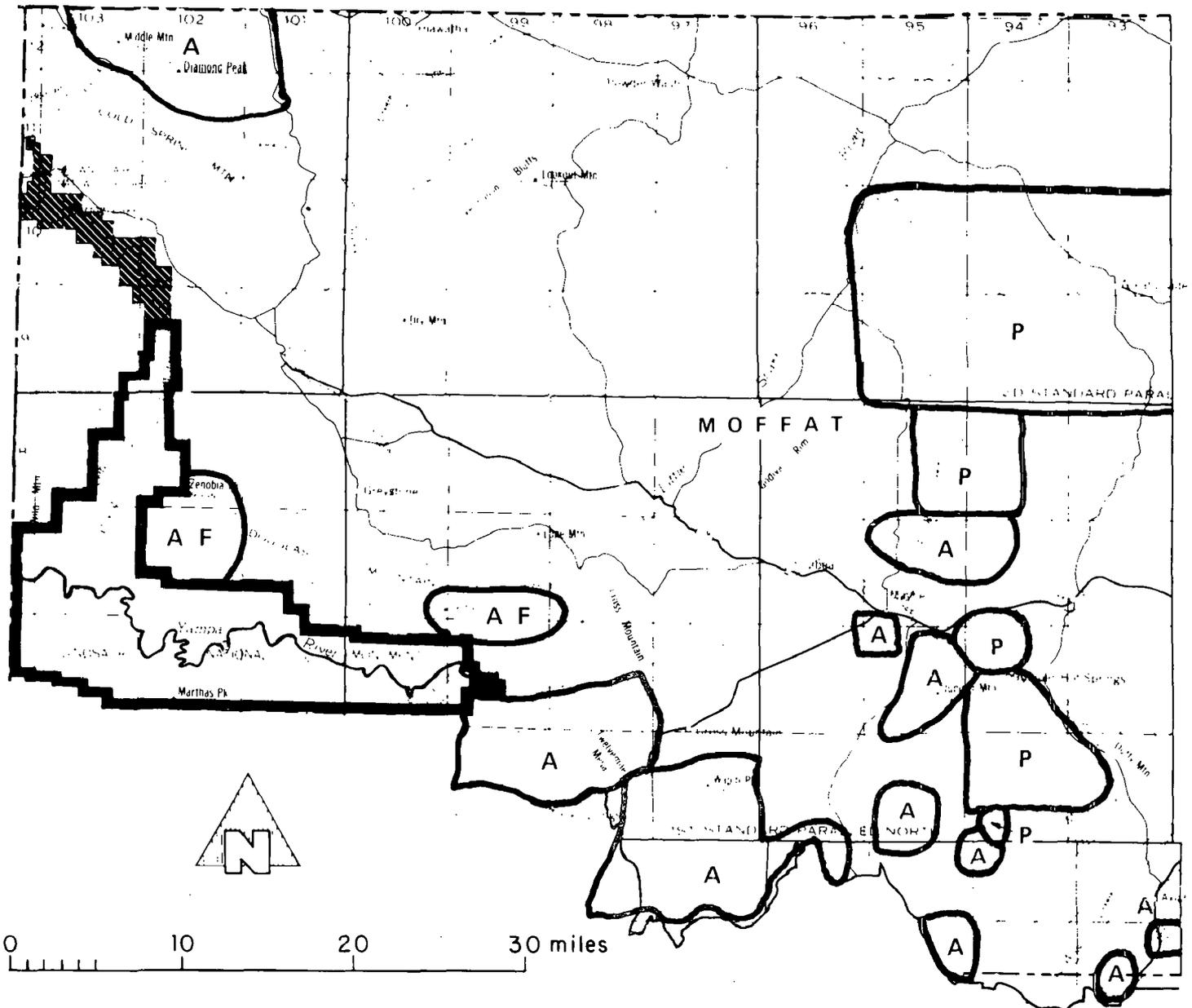
1. The Diamond Breaks Wilderness Study Area (WSA) would be recommended as preliminarily suitable for wilderness designation (Table 6). If Congress does not designate Diamond Breaks as wilderness, the Colorado portion of the WSA (31,480 acres) would be managed as a recreation management unit; the Utah portion (3,900 acres) would be managed by the Vernal District according to existing management framework plans. (See the Draft RMP/EIS Wilderness Technical Supplement, Diamond Breaks No Wilderness Alternative for more detailed discussion.)
2. The Cross Mountain WSA (including the proposed Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC) would be recommended as preliminarily suitable for wilderness designation. BLM would recommend that the proposed Cross Mountain wilderness would remain open to oil and gas leasing with no-surfaceoccupancy stipulations. If Congress does not designate Cross Mountain as wilderness, the area would be managed as a special recreation management area (13,000 acres), including the Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC (3,000 acres). (See the Draft RMP/EIS Wilderness Technical Supplement, Cross Mountain Preferred Alternative, for more details.)
3. The West Cold Spring WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. If Congress does not designate the area as wilderness, the Colorado portion of West Cold Spring would be managed as the Cold Spring & Little Snake River management units (total of 14,482 acres). The Utah portion of the WSA would be managed under the Brown's Park Management Framework Plan. (See the Draft RMP/EIS Wilderness Technical Supplement, West Cold Spring Preferred Alternative for more information.)
4. Four WSAs being evaluated under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)—Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears—would be recommended as nonsuitable

for wilderness designation but would be recommended to the Secretary for forwarding to congress for the final decision. If Congress does not designate these areas as wilderness, they would be managed as follows (see Draft RMP/EIS Wilderness Technical Supplement, Preferred Alternative for each of these WSAs, for details):

- a. The northwest corner of Ant Hills would be managed as the Douglas Mountain Management Unit and the remainder as the Scattered Sands Management Unit.
 - b. Chew Winter Camp would be managed as the Scattered Sands Management Unit.
 - c. The north third of Peterson Draw would be managed as the Scattered Sands Management Unit and the remainder as the Douglas Mountain Management Unit.
 - d. Most of Vale of Tears would be managed as the Little Snake River Management Unit and the other portions in the northwest corner would be managed as the Douglas Mountain and Scattered Sands Management Units.
5. The Tepee Draw WSA, the fifth WSA being evaluated under Section 202 of FLPMA, would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. If the Colorado BLM State Director drops this WSA from further consideration, it would be managed as the Douglas Mountain Management Unit.
 6. WSAs would continue to be managed in compliance with BLM's Interim Management Policy (BLM, Revised July 12, 1983) until they were reviewed and acted upon by Congress or the BLM Colorado State Director, as appropriate.
 7. Public land designated as wilderness would be managed in compliance with BLM's Wilderness Management Policy and the Wilderness Act of 1964. Site specific wilderness management plans would be developed for such areas after designation by Congress.

Natural History (Issue 3-2)

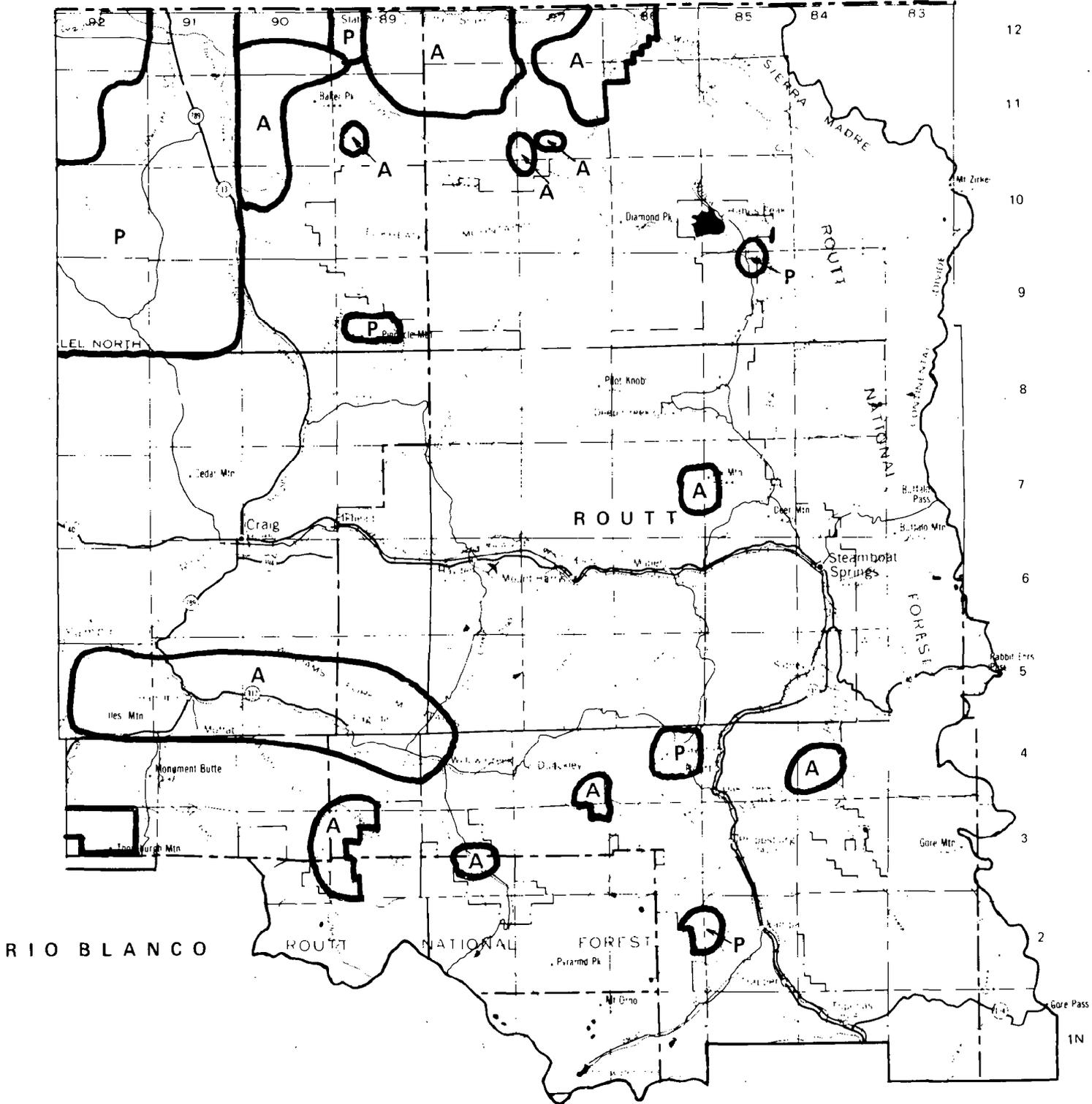
1. The following sites would be designated to protect or enhance the values noted:
 - a. Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA (1,350 acres; remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).
 - b. Irish Canyon ACEC, including the Ink Springs area (11,680 acres; remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, geologic values, cultural resources, scenic quality).
 - c. Lookout Mountain ACEC (6,500 acres; Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).



A - Access Needed (AF areas primarily require access for forestry; the rest of the A areas require recreation access)

P - Posting of Boundaries Needed

Map 1. Access and Boundary Posting Needs



**Table 6
WILDERNESS SUITABILITY ACREAGES**

Wilderness Study Area	Preliminary Suitable Acres	Nonsuitable Acres
West Cold Spring	0	17,682
Diamond Breaks	36,240 *	340
Cross Mountain	14,081	0
Dinosaur Adjacent North WSAs		
Ant Hills	0	4,354
Chew Winter Camp	0	1,320
Peterson Draw	0	5,160
Tepee Draw	0	5,490
Vale of Tears	0	7,420
Total	50,321	41,766

* 1,200 acres added to enhance manageability.

- d. Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC (3,000 acres; threatened and endangered species, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).
2. Management plans would be written for each designated site. Each site would also be monitored.
3. Remnant plant associations would be protected through avoidance stipulations in Ace in-the-Hole, Hells Canyon, G Gap, Vermillion Creek, Vermillion Bluffs, and Horse Draw. (An example of an avoidance stipulation can be found under Threatened/Endangered, Candidate, and Sensitive Plants [Issue 2-3].)
4. Memorandums of understanding or agreement would be developed with the Colorado Natural Areas Program, the Nature Conservancy, and other interested agencies or groups for the purpose of providing recommendations on protecting, managing, and studying the unique resource values found in the designated areas and, as appropriate, elsewhere in the resource area. BLM would retain the sole management responsibility.

Recreation (Issue 3-3)

1. The Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon (19,840 acres) would be administered as a special recreation management area to provide unrestricted flatwater river floatboating in the region. The area would be divided into upper (4,480 acres) and lower (15,360 acres) units. Periodic use supervision would be provided. Access would be negotiated for parking areas at put in and

take out points. Other facilities would be constructed as needed for public sanitation and safety. A map/brochure would be developed to promote visitor health and safety, provide resource protection, and inform the public of available opportunities. Limited signs would be provided for information, direction, and interpretation. A Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan would be developed.

2. The remainder of the resource area would receive limited management as an Extensive Recreation Management Area where recreation use is dispersed and requires only minimal management. Management actions to facilitate recreation use would include providing basic information on public safety and recreation opportunities within the resource area, providing access, and providing minimal facilities as demand warrants.
3. BLM lands within Cedar Mountain (880 acres) would be managed as part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area for environmental education, hiking, and viewing. Trails and signs would be provided for information and interpretation. Leasing of the shooting range site would continue with stipulations for sanitation, visual design, and safety; more public use would be allowed.
4. BLM lands within Cold Spring Management Unit (approximately 54,000 acres) would be managed as part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area, primarily for hunting use. The area would be managed under VRM Class II objectives to maintain scenic quality.
5. BLM lands around Wild Mountain (approximately 21,000 acres) would be managed as part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area, primarily for hunting use. The area would be managed under VRM class II objectives to maintain scenic quality.
6. Access to public lands would be acquired as funding and time permit in the areas listed in Table 7 and displayed on Map 1.

Off-Road Vehicle Designations (Issue 3-4)

Areas would be designated as open, limited, or closed to off-road vehicles, as shown in Table 8. (The map of the revised proposed plan shows the areas listed in the table.)

Cultural Resources (Issue 3-5)

1. All cultural resources would be managed commensurate with the scientific values of the resource.

Table 7
AREAS NEEDING PUBLIC ACCESS

General Location	Public Land (Acres)
Yahoo-Squaw Mountain/West Gilbralter Peak	10,240
Long Mountain	1,200
Bibleback Mountain	2,220
Columbus Mountain	1,100
Serviceberry Mountain	2,800
Crooked Wash/Sagebrush Creek	14,720
Danforth Hills (Escarpment Peak)	3,000
Thornburg Mountain	4,480
Clinker Knob/Coal Mountain	10,000
Iles Mountain	3,000
Williams Fork mountains	3,000
Pole Gulch area	5,760
Four Mile and Willow Creek area (2 tracts)	5,640
Calico Draw	2,560
West Fork Cood Spring	1,600
Blacktail Mountain/Yampa River	1,840
Wapiti Peak and areas south of the peak	1,600
Elk Mountain	1,440
Citadal Plateau	640
North of Little Yampa Canyon	4,480
Juniper Mountain	5,000
Circle Ridge/Beaver Mountain/Piney Mountain/ Three Forks Mountain (scattered tracts)	2,760
Routt National Forest adjacent parcels	3,680
Axial (parcels)	1,820
Total	94,580

See Map 1 for general location of areas.

2. An overall cultural resource management plan would be developed that addresses the prehistoric and historical cultural presence in the resource area.

Paleontological Resources (Issue 3-6)

A program would be developed to systematically inventory, classify, designate, and monitor paleontological resources.

Acquisition/Disposal Areas (Issue 4-1)

1. The BLM lands in the resource area would be divided into general retention and disposal areas (see Map 2):

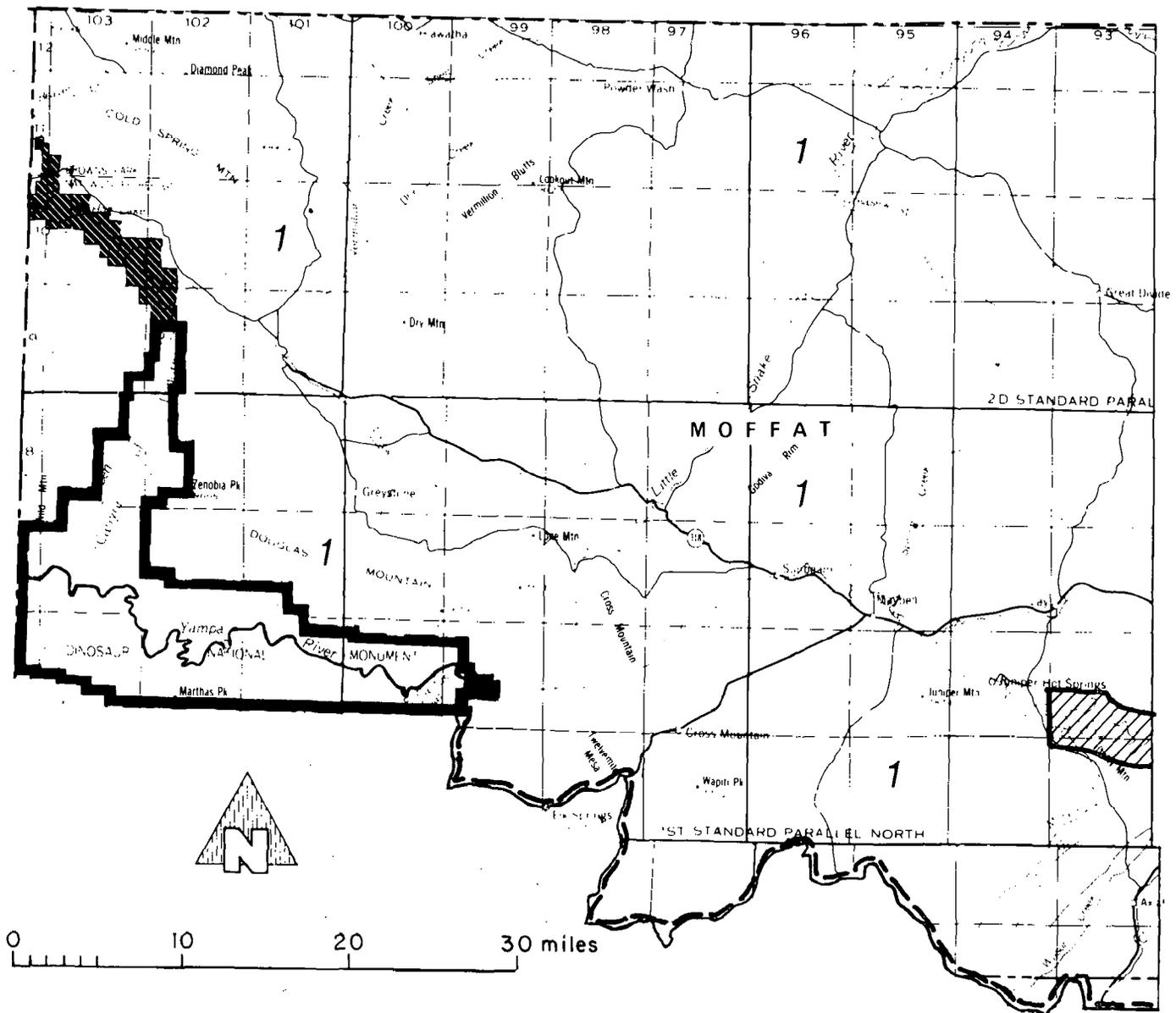
- a. Retention—all land tenure adjustment actions (including recreation and public purposes [R&PP] actions and exchanges), except sales under Section 203 of FLPMA, would be considered on a case-by-case basis, if the public interest would be served. Section 302 leases and permits would be allowed. Conveyance actions would be precluded in wilderness and other special management areas.

New policy revoking authority to authorize sanitary landfills would be applied. This policy is a result of potential federal liability associated with hazardous waste dumping on BLM-administered land. Should operators of existing sanitary landfills, authorized under an R&PP lease, choose to continue operation of the facility upon termination of the existing lease, sales or exchanges could occur.

- b. Disposal—land tenure adjustment actions would be allowed on approximately 6,670 acres of public land that meet the criteria for disposal under applicable authority (see Appendix 24 in the Draft RMP/EIS). This acreage includes land tenure adjustment actions (i.e., disposal by sale under Section 203 of FLPMA) for the existing BLM-authorized sanitary landfill sites near Oak Creek and Maybell located within the retention area. Section 302 leases and permits would also be allowed.
2. Acquisition of land would be pursued based on identified resource values and needs (see Map 2).
 3. BLM would continue to review existing withdrawals and to make recommendations based on resource values and need. Other agency relinquishments would be processed promptly. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service withdrawals are not reviewable. (See Appendix 26 in the Final Little Snake RMP/EIS, Sept., 1986.)

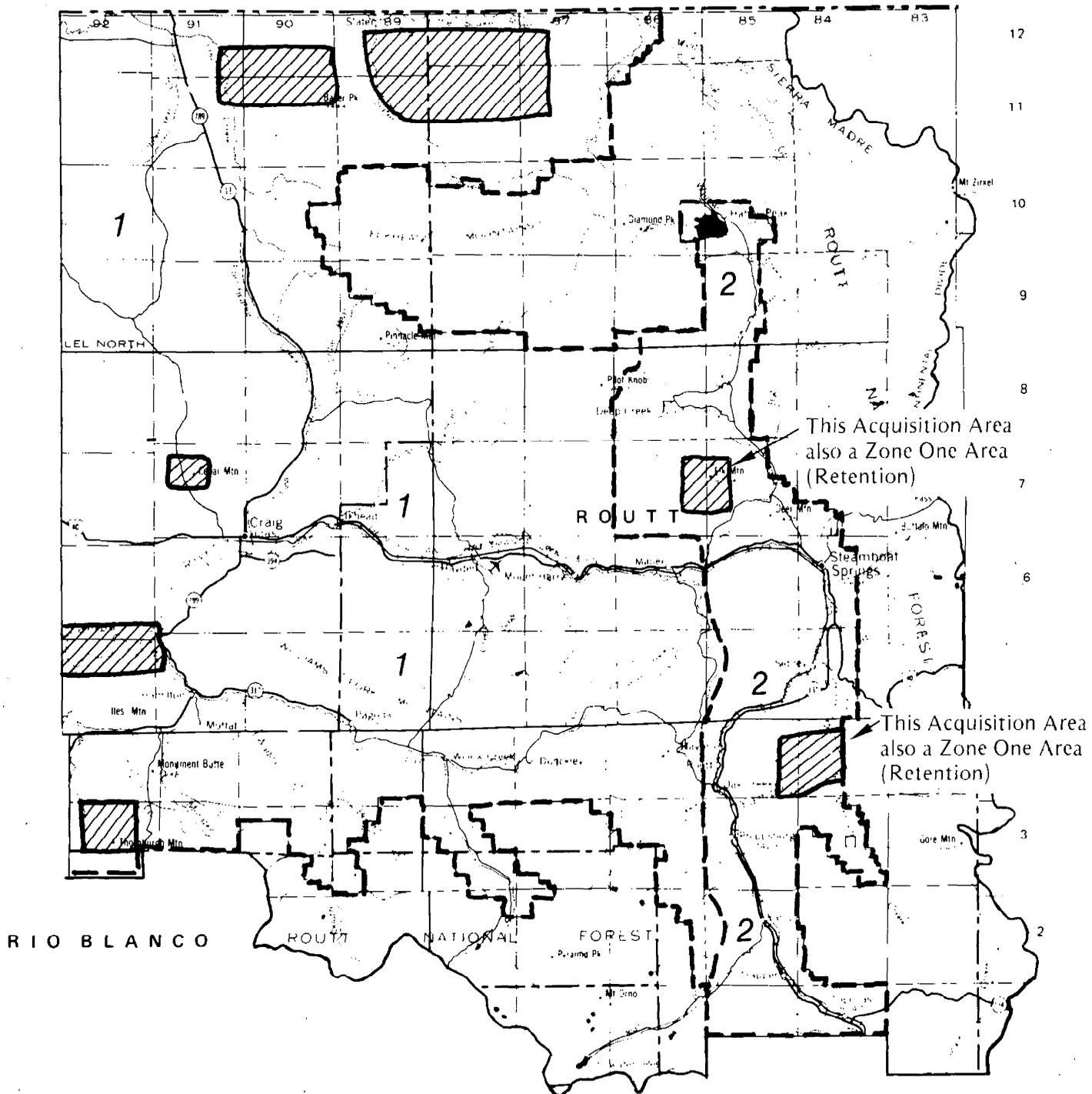
Major Rights-of-Way (Issue 4-2)

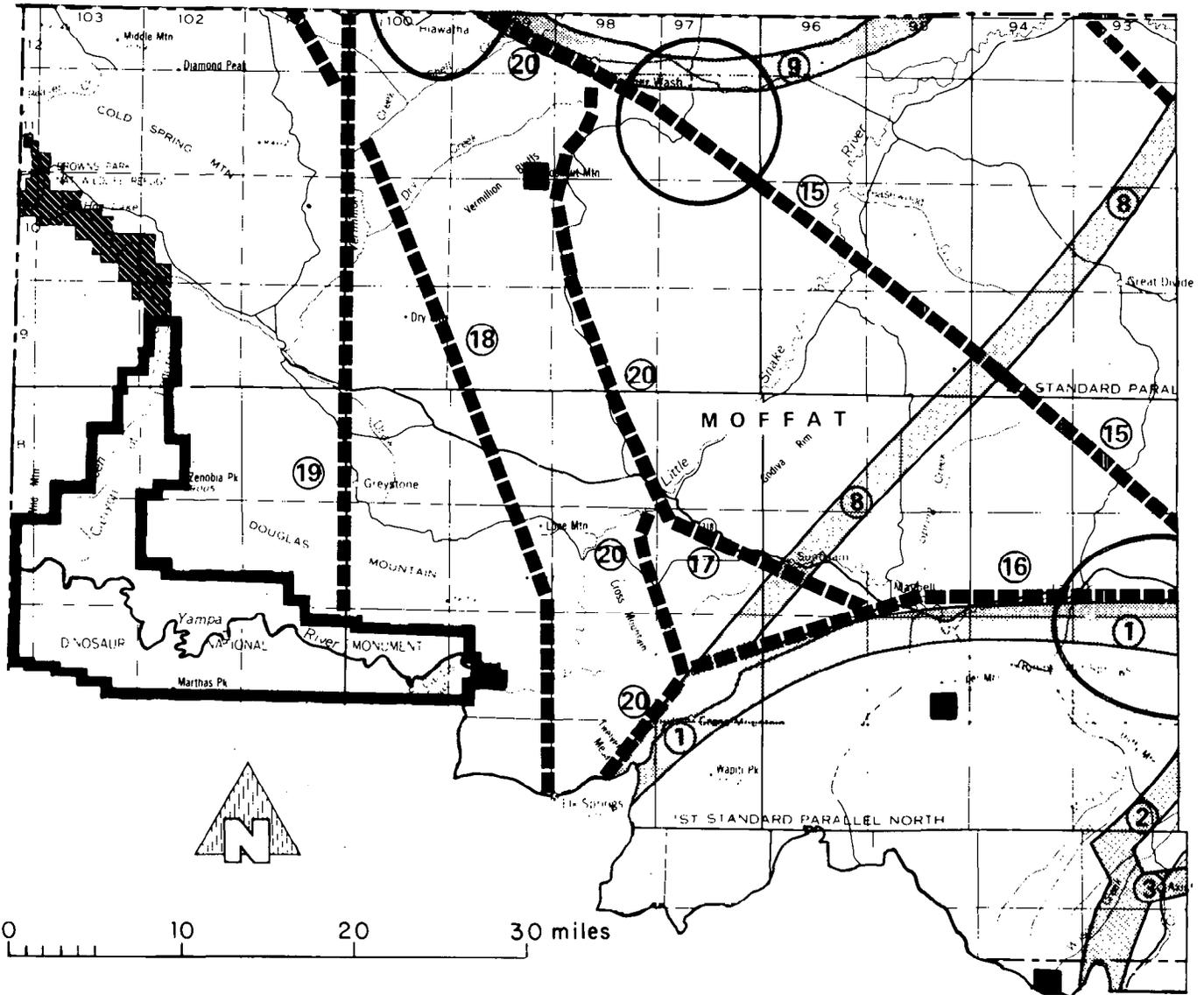
1. No rights-of-way corridors would be formally designated.
2. The existing and potential corridors identified as suitable in Table 9 and displayed on Map 3 would be considered open and would be preferred/encouraged routes.
3. Specific areas unsuitable for major rights-of-way are shown in Table 10.
4. Specific areas that would be sensitive for siting major rights-of-way are shown in Table 11.
5. Minor rights-of-way would be processed on a case-by-case basis, generally guided by the criteria identified for major rights-of-way.



- 1 RETENTION
- 2 DISPOSAL
-  ACQUISITION

Map 2. Retention and Disposal Areas





-  Existing Right-of-Way Corridors*
-  Potential Right-of-Way Corridors*
-  Existing communications sites
-  Area currently supporting a high concentration of minor linear rights-of-Way

*Identified in the 1980 Western Regional Corridor Study

17 See Tables 9, 10 and 11 for suitability discussion

Map 3. Major Rights-of-Way

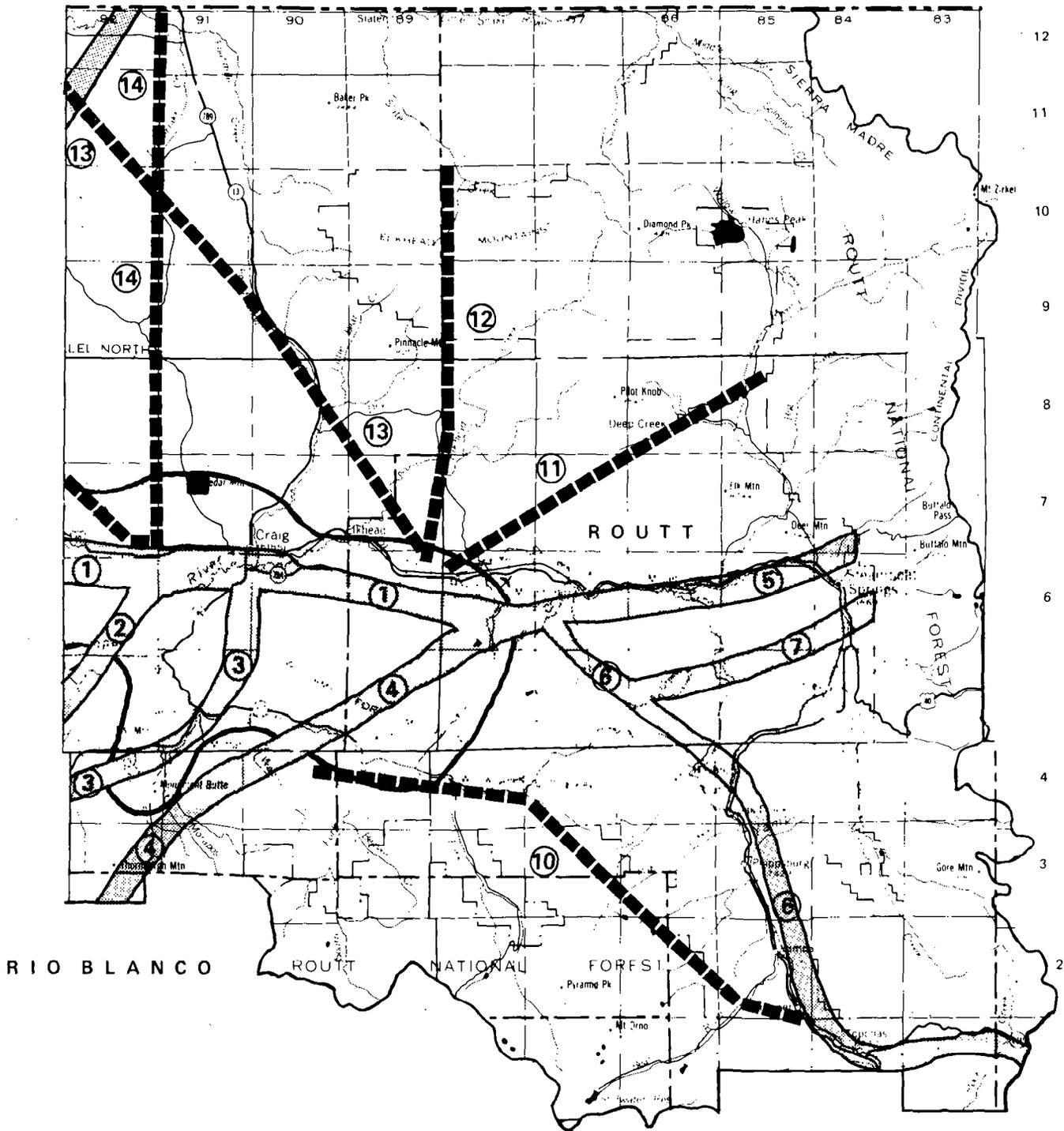


Table 8
VEHICLE USE RESTRICTIONS

Designation*	Area	Acres	Purpose & Restriction
Limited (L)	Cold Spring	54,000	Recreation, wildlife habitat: existing roads & trails, seasonal closures, permitted uses
	Northern Great Divide	99,000	Wildlife habitat: existing roads & trails, seasonal closure, permitted uses
	Cross Mountain Foothills	9,000	Wildlife habitat: existing roads & trails, permitted uses
	Middle Mountain	16,500	Wildlife habitat: existing roads & trails, permitted uses
	Axial Basin	54,000	Wildlife habitat: existing roads & trails, permitted uses
	Sand Wash	8,000	Fragile soils, deteriorating watershed: existing roads & trails, seasonal closures, permitted uses
	Lower Vermillion Creek Drainage	2,900	Fragile soils, deteriorating watershed: existing roads & trails, seasonal closures, permitted uses
	Upper Vermillion Creek Drainage	30,600	Fragile soils, deteriorating watershed: existing roads & trails, seasonal closures, permitted uses
	Irish Canyon	11,680	Area of Critical Environmental Concern: designated roads & trails, permitted uses
	Lookout Mountain	6,500	Area of Critical Environmental Concern: designated roads and trails, permitted uses
	Cedar Mountain	880	Recreation area, eliminate conflicts between motorized/nonmotorized uses: designated roads & trails, permitted uses
	West Red Wash	6,500	Wildlife habitat: existing roads & trails, permitted uses
	Wild Mountain	21,000	Recreation area, reduce conflicts between motorized/nonmotorized uses: designated roads & trails, permitted uses
	Willow Creek	1,000	Wildlife habitat: existing roads & trails, permitted uses
Little Yampa/ Juniper Canyon	19,840	Special Recreation Management Area, reduce conflict between motorized and nonmotorized uses: designated roads & trails, permitted uses	
Total		341,400	
Closed (C)	Diamond Breaks	36,240	Wilderness
	Limestone Ridge	1,350	Research Natural Area: closed except for permitted uses
	Cross Mountain	14,081	Wilderness
	Maybell tailings	10	Public health/safety
	Matt Trail	—	Wildlife, recreation, public safety: closed to vehicle use
Total		51,681	

* See the map of the revised proposed plan.

Table 9
EXISTING AND POTENTIAL RIGHTS-OF-WAY CORRIDORS
 (See Map 3)

Existing Corridors		
No. *	Use	Suitability for Designation **
1	pipeline, electric transmission line, communication line	suitable
2	electric transmission line, communication line	unsuitable—conflicts with coal, recreation, special management area
3	multiple electric transmission lines, communication line	unsuitable—conflicts with coal, low percentage of public land
4	pipeline, multiple electric transmission lines, communication line	unsuitable—conflict with coal, low percentage of public land
5	pipeline, multiple electric transmission lines, electric transmission line, railroad, communication line	unsuitable—low percentage of public land unsuitable—low percentage of public land
7	communication line	unsuitable—low percentage of public land
8	pipeline	suitable
9	pipeline	suitable
Potential Corridors		
No. *	Proposed Use	Suitability for Designation **
10	pipeline	unsuitable—coal management area; low percentage of public land
11	electric transmission line	unsuitable—low percentage of public land
12	pipeline	unsuitable—coal management area; low percentage of public land
13	electric transmission line	unsuitable—low percentage of public land
14	electric transmission line	unsuitable—low percentage of public land
15	electric transmission line	unsuitable—reasonable alternative route previously established ***
16	coal slurry pipeline	suitable—no major conflicts, follows #1 above
17	coal slurry pipeline	suitable—no major conflicts
18	coal slurry pipeline, electric transmission line	unsuitable—crosses sensitive and fragile soil and watershed areas, reasonable alternate route established ***
19	electric transmission line	unsuitable—crosses sensitive and fragile soil and watershed areas and Dinosaur National Monument, suitable alternate route established ***
20	pipeline	suitable ***

* Numbers 1-7 and 9-19 are identified in the 1980 Western Regional Corridor Study.

** Suitability only relates to whether or not a corridor would either be designated or identified as a preferred/encouraged route. The term "unsuitable" is not used to imply preclusion of new facilities, but rather to identify corridors which, under all alternatives, pass through an area containing important resource values. These "unsuitable" corridors would usually be sensitive to the placement of new facilities and would be subject to the special stipulations referred to under each of the alternatives; they would generally be addressed on a case-by-case basis. They may also be considered unsuitable if they cross little or no public surface ownership.

*** Sand Wash Alternative - see Rangely Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Final Environmental Impact Statement, February 1985.

Table 10
AREAS UNSUITABLE FOR SITING MAJOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Reason ¹	Area	Acreage	Percentage of Resource Area ²
Wilderness	Diamond Breaks	36,240	3
	Cross Mountain	14,081	1
Research Natural Areas	Limestone Ridge	1,350	—
Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Irish Canyon	11,680	1
Special Recreation Management Area	Little Yampa/ Juniper Canyon (Lower Unit)	15,360	1
	TOTAL	78,711	6

¹ Valid existing rights would be respected.

² 1,300,000 acres

Table 11
AREAS SENSITIVE FOR SITING MAJOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Reason	Area	Acreage	Percentage of Resource Area ¹	Type of Restrictions ²
Special Recreation Management Area	Little Yampa/ Juniper Canyon (Upper Unit)	4,480	—	No major rights-of-way unless associated with logical development of the Iles Mountain coal tract or compatible with objectives of SRMA
Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Lookout Mountain	6,500	—	Avoidance stipulations
Colorado BLM Sensitive Plants or Remnant Plant Associations	Horse Draw	690	—	Avoidance stipulations
	Vermillion Creek	200	—	
	Ace-in-the-Hole	260	—	
	Vermillion Bluffs	580	—	
	G Gap	275	—	
	Hells Canyon	280	—	
		2,285	—	
Soil/Water Resources	Portions of Vermillion Creek Drainage, and Sand Wash Drainage	38,840	3	Performance standards, seasonal restrictions, avoidance stipulations, soil stabilization measures
	Buffalo Gulch/Twelve Mile Mesa	4,000	—	
	Little Snake River	22,000	2	
	Sand Creek	2,000	—	
	Conway Draw	1,000	—	
	Deception Creek	1,000	—	
			68,840	
Coal	Not available	Not available	Not available	Avoidance of known surface mining areas
Other Minerals	Not available	Not available	Not available	Avoidance of known surface mining areas and known mining claims
TOTAL		82,105	6	

¹ 1,300,000 acres

² Valid existing rights would be respected

6. Rights-of-way would be allowed in all areas if needed to develop valid existing rights.

Access, Boundary Marking, and Road Requirements (Issues 5-1, 5-2, and 5-3)

An access/transportation plan would be prepared that lists areas needing attention, types of access to be acquired, preferred and alternate routes, roads and trails to be closed or constructed, survey and support needs, and construction or maintenance guidelines.

MANAGEMENT UNITS

This is the management unit section which breaks the resource area into seventeen geographic areas. Each of the management units has a narrative description of how resource uses will be managed in that area and under what terms and conditions.

The resource area has been divided into geographical areas called management units. These management units were developed based on opportunities for managing the resource values and uses present to attain the best multiple-use prescriptions to provide maximum benefit to the general public. The following seventeen management units are narratively described to display the location of each unit, the resource use or value of concern in each unit, the management objective of each unit, and management prescriptions of each unit. Table 12 lists each management unit, acreage, and the management objectives for each unit.

In many cases, management unit boundaries depicted on the map of the revised proposed plan have not been located on the ground. Before specific project locations are decided, locations of the management unit boundaries will be determined based on the resource information that was used to place the boundary on the map. For example, a unit objective may be to protect critical winter range and the boundary might be based on a ridge line or a vegetation type. The actual location on-the-ground would be determined by the ridge line or vegetation type boundary.

The management units or other areas depicted on the map may include areas of split-estate (private surface over federal minerals), private, state, or other nonfederal lands. However, the management prescriptions apply only to BLM-managed surface and federal mineral estate. None of the management units apply to private, state, or other lands or minerals not managed by BLM. In addition, management prescriptions do not supersede valid existing rights. Nothing on the map or in this revised Proposed Plan should be interpreted as challenging those

rights (see Valid Existing Rights section in the Introduction).

Management Unit 1: Eastern Yampa River—938,000 Acres—28.8 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 1 is located in the eastern portion of the resource area. The federal lands within this unit are predominately subsurface estate, with private surface ownership. This unit contains the majority of the federal coal planning area to which the coal unsuitability criteria, 43 CFR 3461, have been applied (see appendices 1 and 2 of the Draft Little Snake RMP/EIS). In-place coal resources within the federal coal planning area for this resource management plan have been estimated to be approximately 6.1 billion tons within 3,000 feet of the land surface. This unit is also rated as possessing the highest favorability for the occurrence of oil and gas resources in the Little Snake Resource Area and contains appreciable known reserves of oil and gas.

The management objectives of this unit would be to realize the potential for development of coal, oil, and gas resources. Concurrent development of coal, oil, and gas could occur. Any conflicts arising from concurrent oil and gas and coal development would be settled by the affected operators. Approximately 638,800 acres would be identified as acceptable for further consideration for federal coal leasing, with 457,100 acres acceptable for consideration for surface or underground mining and 181,700 acres for underground mining only. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with coal, oil, and gas resource development objectives. All resource uses would be managed as described in the Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to exploration and development of other leasable minerals and to location of mining claims. Development of other federal leasable minerals and federal materials sales would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing unless coal development was imminent. Range management practices or projects would be permitted consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Wildlife. Wildlife habitats, including threatened or endangered species habitats, would be protected by limits or restrictions placed on the development of federal coal, as the result of the application of the coal unsuitability criteria (see appendices 1 and 2 of the Draft Little Snake RMP/EIS). Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be

Table 12
Management Units

MANAGEMENT UNIT	GROSS ACRES	PERCENT OF RESOURCE AREA
Eastern Yampa River M.U. 1	938,000	28.8
Northern Central M.U. 2	780,000	23.9
Little Snake River M.U. 3	670,000	20.7
Eastern Foothills M.U. 4	330,000	10.1
Douglas Mountain M.U. 5	100,500	3.1
Northern Great Divide M.U. 6	99,000	3.0
Scattered Sands M.U. 7	61,000	1.8
Axial Basin M.U. 8	54,000	1.7
Cold Spring M.U. 9	54,000	1.7
Proposed Wilderness Areas M.U. 10	50,320	1.5
Cross Mountain M.U. 10A*		
Diamond Breaks M.U. 10B		
Recreation Areas M.U. 11	41,720	1.3
Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon M.U. 11A		
Cedar Mountain M.U. 11B		
Wild Mountain M.U. 11C		
Vermillion M.U. 12	26,430	0.8
ACECs M.U. 13	19,530	0.6
Limestone Ridge M.U. 13A		
Irish Canyon M.U. 13B		
Lookout Mountain M.U. 13C		
Cross Mountain Canyon M.U. 13D*		
Middle Mountain M.U. 14	16,500	0.5
Cross Mountain Foothills M.U. 15	9,000	0.3
West Red Wash M.U. 16	6,500	0.2
Willow Creek M.U. 17	1,000	0.1
	3,258,000	100.0

* Acreage for Cross Mountain ACEC included under Proposed Wilderness Areas

managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Forest Lands and Woodlands. Public lands would remain open to harvesting of forest and woodland products consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Limited development of recreation sites would be allowed in areas proposed for underground mining. Recreation development could occur in other areas within this management unit consistent with the management

objectives for this unit. The unit would be open to off-road vehicle use.

Realty Actions. Realty actions such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits, could be allowed on public land consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 2: Northern Central—780,000 Acres—23.9 percent of Resource Area

The majority of Management Unit 2 is located in the northern portion of the resource area with smaller portions located throughout the western half. The lands in this unit are both public lands, administered by the BLM, and private lands. Most of the public and private surface ownership is underlain by federal minerals. State lands are also scattered throughout the unit. Most of the public lands within this unit have been rated as having either highest or high intermediate favorability for the occurrence of oil and gas, with a small portion rated as having a low intermediate favorability. Scattered throughout this unit are small commercial stands of lodgepole or ponderosa pine sawtimber and poles.

The management objectives for this unit would be to provide for the development of the oil and gas resource. Public surface lands with commercially valuable stands of ponderosa or lodgepole sawtimber or poles would be managed for those forest values. The development of other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for oil, gas and forest resources. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to exploration and development of other leasable minerals and to location of mining claims. Development of other federal leasable minerals and federal materials sales would be allowed, consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Wild Horses. Habitat condition would be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130 to 160 wild horses within the Sand Wash Basin and a monitoring program established to determine utilization. Wild horse projects and management practices would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. The unit would be open to off-road vehicle use.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits, could occur, consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 3: Little Snake River—670,000 Acres—20.7 percent of Resource Area

The majority of Management Unit 3 is located in the west central portion of the resource area with smaller portions located throughout. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM with scattered parcels of state and private lands. Public lands within this unit have the potential for enhanced livestock grazing by increased forage production through improvement of soil and water resource values.

The management objectives of this unit would be to improve soil and watershed values, increase forage production, and enhance livestock grazing. Allotment management plans (AMPs), rangeland improvement projects, vegetative land treatments, and water quality and watershed activity plans would be developed to improve the vegetation, soil, and watershed resources and values. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with livestock grazing, forage production, soil, and watershed resource objectives. All resource uses would be managed as described in the Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as performance standards, would be added to permits, licenses, leases or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration. This management unit contains approximately 1,100 acres of the coal planning area. This acreage has had the coal unsuitability criteria, 43 CFR 3461 applied (see appendices 1 and 2 of the Draft Little Snake RMP/EIS). These 1,100 acres would be identified as acceptable for further consideration for federal coal leasing for surface or underground mining.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit. Other funded projects or treatments would be authorized if the proposed project or treatment would have a neutral or beneficial effect on the management objective of the unit and the operator agrees to share benefits to meet objectives of the unit.

Wild Horses. Habitat condition would be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130 to 160 wild horses within the Sand Wash Basin and a monitoring program established to determine utilization. Wild horse projects and management practices would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Forest Lands and Woodlands. Public lands would remain open to harvesting of timber on forest lands and woodlands consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. The unit would be open to off-road vehicle use.

Realty Actions. Realty actions such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits, could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments. Primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served:

Management Unit 4: Eastern Foothills—330,500 Acres—10.1 percent of Resource Area

The majority of Management Unit 4 is located on the eastern boundary of the resource area; several small portions of the unit are located along the eastern end of the southern boundary that borders Routt National Forest. The land ownership pattern consists of nearly all private surface lands interspersed with a few scattered parcels of public surface lands. The mineral ownership is mainly private with some state and federal mineral ownership scattered throughout. The favorability of this unit for the occurrence of oil and gas varies from a rating of “lowest” in the eastern portion of this unit to “highest” in the southwestern portion. This unit contains geothermal occurrences of undetermined significance. Commercial stands of lodgepole pine sawtimber and poles occur on some of the scattered public surface lands.

The management objectives for this unit would be to provide for the development of oil, gas, and geothermal resources. Any conflicts arising from concurrent development of oil, gas, and geothermal resources would be settled by the affected operator. Public surface lands with commercially valuable stands of lodgepole sawtimber or poles would be managed for those forest values. The development of other

resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for oil, gas, geothermal, and forest resources. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to exploration and development of other leasable minerals and to location of mining claims. Development of other federal leasable minerals and federal materials sales would be allowed, consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. Management practices or projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use consistent with the management objectives for this unit. The unit would be open to off road vehicle use.

Realty Actions. Realty actions such as rights of way, leases, and permits could be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Approximately 6,670 acres of this unit are classified for disposal (see Map 2 in the Final RMP/EIS). This disposal would be by sale or exchange.

Management Unit 5: Douglas Mountain—100,500 Acres—3.1 percent of Resource Area

The majority of Management Unit 5 is located on Douglas Mountain, north of Dinosaur National Monument in the southwest part of the resource area. Several small portions of the unit are also found in the southwest part of the resource area. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. Parcels of state and private lands are intermingled with the public lands. This unit contains forest and woodland resources consisting of stands of ponderosa pine sawtimber and stands of posts, poles, and firewood in pinyon-juniper woodlands.

The management objectives for this unit would be to manage the forest and woodland resources to produce a variety of forest and woodland products on a sustained yield

basis. The development of other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for forest and woodland resources. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to exploration and development of other leasable minerals and to location of mining claims. Development of other federal leasable minerals and federal materials sales would be allowed, consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain available for wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with management objectives for this unit.

Wild Horses. Habitat condition would be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130 to 160 wild horses within the Sand Wash Basin and a monitoring program established to determine utilization. Wild horse projects and management practices would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. The unit would be open to off road vehicle use.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits, could occur, consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 6: Northern Great Divide—99,000 Acres—3.0 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 6 is located in the northcentral part of the resource area along the Wyoming border. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by

the BLM. Parcels of state and private lands are intermingled with the public lands. This area supports the largest population of sage grouse and includes the highest number of strutting grounds in the resource area. Associated with the strutting grounds are very important nesting and brood rearing areas. A significant feature of the high quality sage grouse habitat is the cover provided by sagebrush intermixed with meadows and open areas for strutting. It is important that essential cover remains unbroken around these strutting, nesting and brood rearing areas. This management unit is also extremely important for mule deer and pronghorn antelope since it contains considerable critical winter range for both species.

The management objectives for this management unit would be to maintain and improve critical habitat for sage grouse, mule deer and pronghorn antelope. Wildlife habitat management plans (HMPs) and wildlife habitat improvement projects would be developed and implemented to achieve the management objectives for this unit. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. BLM-funded rangeland improvement projects or vegetation treatments, or livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized when compatible with the management objectives for this unit. Livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized if the proposed project or treatment would have a neutral or beneficial effect on the management objective of the unit and the operator agrees to share benefits to meet objectives of the unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Vehicle use in this management unit would be limited to existing roads and trails.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights of way, leases, and permits could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 7: Scattered Sands—61,000 Acres—1.8 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 7 consists of small parcels scattered throughout the northern and western halves of the resource area. Land ownership patterns in these parcels consist of both public lands administered by the BLM and private surface ownership underlain by federal mineral ownership. State lands are interspersed throughout the unit. This unit consists of areas with mining claims and localities having potential for sand and gravel sales and development potential for leasable minerals other than coal, oil and gas, and geothermal resources.

The management objectives for this unit would be to 1) provide for the development of locatable minerals and leasable minerals other than coal, oil, gas, and geothermal resources, and 2) to make areas available to supply and demand for sand, gravel, and other salable mineral materials. The development of other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described on Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Wild Horses. Habitat condition would be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130 to 160 wild horses within the Sand Wash Basin and a monitoring program established to determine utilization. Wild horse projects and management practices would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Forest Lands and Woodlands. Public lands would remain open to harvesting of timber on forest lands and woodlands consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. The unit would be open to off road vehicle use.

Realty Actions. Realty actions such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 8: Axial Basin—54,000 Acres—1.7 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 8 is located in the southcentral part of the resource area south of Iles and Duffy mountains. The majority of the surface lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. The unit also contains some private lands and scattered state lands. This management unit contains critical winter range for mule deer and elk. These species are dependent upon stands of sagebrush, saltbush, and other shrubs for winter forage. There is also a major mule deer migration route and considerable deer fawning habitat in the unit. Sage grouse are common and several strutting grounds and brood rearing areas have been identified within this unit as well.

The management objectives for this unit would be to maintain and improve critical habitats for mule deer, elk, and sage grouse. Wildlife habitat management plans (HMPs) and wildlife habitat improvement projects would be developed and implemented to achieve the management objectives for this unit. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit. The majority of this management unit lies within the coal planning area. The coal unsuitability criteria, 43CFR 3461, have been applied. While some areas would be acceptable for further consideration only for underground mining, the majority of the unit would be acceptable for further consideration for surface or underground mining (see Appendix 2 Draft Little Snake RMP). Further consideration would include consistency with the management objectives of this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. BLM-funded rangeland improvement projects or vegetation treatments, or livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized when compatible with the management objectives for this unit. Livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized if the proposed project or treatment would have a neutral or beneficial effect on the management objective of the unit and the operator agrees to share benefits to meet objectives of the unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Vehicle use in this management unit would be limited to existing roads and trails.

Realty Actions. Realty actions such as rights of way, leases, and permits could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 9: Cold Spring—54,000 Acres—1.7 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 9 is located in the northwest corner of the resource area. The west end of the unit borders Utah. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. Scattered parcels of state and private lands are also found within this unit. This unit supports a highly diverse ecosystem in a relatively undisturbed state. Elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and raptors exist in significant numbers with little disturbance from development activities. The bighorn sheep were introduced in 1983 and require protection from disturbance to maintain a viable population. Beaver Creek is one of the few natural trout fisheries in the resource area and must remain relatively undisturbed in order to maintain its present quality. The area supplies excellent habitat for a tristate elk herd. Cold Spring Mountain also offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Activities include hunting, camping, hiking, backpacking, fishing in Beaver Creek, off-road vehicle use, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has designated much of the area as a quality elk management area where elk hunting is allowed by limited license.

The management objectives for this unit would be to maintain and improve the quality of 1) the habitat for elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, 2) the fisheries in Beaver Creek, and 3) the recreational opportunities which exist here, primarily for hunting use. Wildlife habitat management plans (HMPs) and wildlife habitat improvement projects would be developed and implemented to achieve the management objectives for this unit. The unit would be managed under VRM Class II objectives to maintain scenic quality. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. BLM-funded rangeland improvement projects or vegetation treatments, or livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized when compatible with the management objectives for this unit. Livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized if the proposed project or treatment would have a neutral or beneficial effect on the management objective of the unit and the operator agrees to share benefits to meet objectives of the unit.

Forest Lands and Woodlands. Public lands would remain open to harvesting of forest products on forest lands and woodlands consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Vehicle use in this management unit would be limited to existing roads and trails. The Matt Trail would remain closed to vehicle use for safety.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights of way, leases, and permits, could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation

and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 10: Proposed Wilderness Areas—50,320 Acres—1.5 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 10A: Cross Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA)

Management Unit 10A is located in the southwest portion of the resource area, east of Dinosaur National Monument, and contains 14,081 acres. All lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. The unit possesses outstanding wilderness characteristics. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation primarily in and north of Cross Mountain Canyon. Cross Mountain Canyon has sheer vertical walls and is of geologic and scenic interest. Bighorn sheep and threatened and endangered fish are present. Peregrine and prairie falcons may also be present. The unit also has a high geological potential for the occurrence of oil and gas but insufficient data currently exists to determine whether or not oil and gas resources actually are present.

This management unit (including the proposed Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC) would be recommended as preliminarily suitable for wilderness designation. BLM would recommend that the proposed Cross Mountain wilderness remain open to oil and gas leasing with no-surface-occupancy stipulations (except for Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC which would be proposed for total mineral withdrawal). If Congress does not designate Cross Mountain as wilderness, the area would be managed as a special recreation management area (13,000 acres), along with the Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC (3,000 acres). (See the Draft RMP/EIS Wilderness Technical Supplement, Cross Mountain Preferred Alternative, for more details.)

Management Unit 10B: Diamond Breaks WSA

Management Unit 10B is located on the western border of the resource area with a small portion extending into Utah. The unit contains 32,620 acres in Colorado and 3,620 acres in Utah. All lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. The unit possesses outstanding wilderness characteristics. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit has a unique combination of vegetation and topography.

This management unit would be recommended as preliminarily suitable for wilderness designation. If Congress does not designate Diamond Breaks as wilderness, the Colorado portion of the unit would be managed for its recreation opportunities as part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area; the Utah portion (3,620 acres) would be managed by the Vernal District according to existing management framework plans. (See the Draft RMP/EIS Wilderness Technical Supplement, Diamond Breaks No Wilderness Alternative for more detailed discussion.)

Proposed Wilderness Areas Management

Both units 10A and 10B would continue to be managed in compliance with BLM's Interim Wilderness Management Policy (BLM, Revised July 12, 1983) until they are reviewed and acted upon by Congress.

If one or both units are designated as wilderness by Congress, the unit(s) would be managed in compliance with BLM's Wilderness Management Policy and the Wilderness Act of 1964. Site specific wilderness management plans would be developed for such areas after designation by Congress. In general, wilderness areas would be devoted to recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical values.

Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act prohibits certain activities:

Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness areas designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of the Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

Exceptions. Sections 4(c), and 4(d), and 5 of the Wilderness Act provide special exceptions to the prohibitions in Section 4(c) by providing for the following:

1. Existing private rights.
2. Measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area.
3. Activities and structures that are the minimum necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness.
4. Use of aircraft and motorboats, where already established.
5. Measures necessary for the control of fire, insects, and diseases.
6. Any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources, if carried out in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. (This includes mineral surveys conducted on a planned, recurring basis by the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines.)
7. Water resource developments authorized by the President, where it is determined that such use will better serve the interests of the United States than will its denial.

8. Livestock grazing, where already established.
9. Commercial services necessary for activities that are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.
10. Adequate access to surrounded state-owned and privately-owned lands. If this cannot be provided, such lands are to be exchanged for federally-owned lands.
11. Ingress and egress to surrounded valid mining claims and other valid occupancies.

In addition to the basic management authority in the Wilderness Act, management provisions may appear in the legislation establishing each wilderness area. Specific policy guidance on wilderness management is contained in the BLM publication, *Wilderness Management Policy*, September 1981.

Management Unit 11: Recreation Areas—41,720 Acres—1.3 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 11A: Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon

Management Unit 11A is located in the south central part of the resource area along the Yampa River and encompasses 19,840 acres. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by BLM interspersed with scattered parcels of private lands. The unit provides flatwater river floatboating opportunities in a natural scenic setting which is limited within the region. The unit also provides camping, fishing, and hunting opportunities. A railroad spur is located within Little Yampa Canyon from the east end to Milk Creek.

Management Unit 11A would be managed as a special recreation management area (SRMA). An SRMA is an area where significant recreation issues and management concerns exist for which special or more intensive management may be required. The SRMA would be managed to provide unrestricted flatwater river floatboating in the region. The SRMA would also be managed to meet Visual Resource Management Class II objectives (Appendix 20, Draft RMP/EIS). The SRMA would be divided into upper (4,480 acres) and lower (15,360 acres) units. Periodic patrols would be conducted. Access would be negotiated for parking areas and put-in and take-out points. Other facilities would be constructed as needed for public sanitation and safety. A map/brochure would be developed to promote visitor health and safety, provide resource protection, and inform the public of available opportunities. Signs would be provided for information, direction, and interpretation. All concerns will be addressed in the Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for the SRMA. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases

or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. The majority of this management unit lies within the coal planning area. The coal unsuitability criteria, 43 CFR 3461, have been applied (see Appendix 2, Draft Little Snake RMP). The SRMA would be acceptable for further consideration only for underground mining, with a no-surface-occupancy stipulation.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development, with a no-surface-occupancy stipulation on any new federal leases.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals, with a no surface occupancy stipulation. Mineral material sales would not be allowed. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing, except within developed or intensively used recreation sites. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for the SRMA.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Woodlands. Woodcutting would not be allowed.

Vehicle Use. Vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails, except as associated with valid existing rights.

Realty Actions. Ownership adjustments would be allowed where they would help achieve the SRMA management objectives. Management of the Upper Little Yampa Canyon unit would 1) honor all valid existing rights, 2) allow for necessary maintenance of existing facilities even if such maintenance was outside the existing rights-of-way, and 3) allow for processing of new public land rights-of-way, if associated with development of the nearby Iles Mountain Coal Lease Tract or consistent with the management objectives of the unit. Rights-of-way would be allowed in either unit if associated with valid existing rights or permitted uses. Other rights-of-way would be allowed in either the upper or lower units if they could be designed to be consistent with the management objectives of the SRMA. This is expected to preclude development of major rights of way in the SRMA not associated with valid existing rights or development of the Iles Mountain Coal Lease Tract.

Management Unit 11B: Cedar Mountain

Management Unit 11B is located in the east central part of the resource area, northwest of Craig. The unit encompasses 880 acres, all of which is public land

administered by the BLM. The unit covers most of Cedar Mountain which rises 1,000 feet above the Yampa Valley. Located only six miles from Craig, the mountain offers locally significant recreation opportunities more commonly found at much greater distances from Craig. The mountain receives considerable year-round use for hiking, sightseeing, target shooting, hunting, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling in rural and roaded natural types of settings. The predominate feature is the scenic overlooks, which provide a panoramic view of the Yampa Valley to the south and west and the Rocky Mountains to the east. Opportunities for environmental education in the area are noteworthy, based on the variety of vegetation, geology, and wildlife and the proximity to Craig. Several communication towers, small buildings, and powerlines occupy the high points, which detract somewhat from the overall naturalness exhibited by the area. BLM has leased a small area along Moffat County Road 7 to a private gun club for a developed shooting range. Many nonresident and resident hunters utilize the area each year.

Management Unit 11B would be managed as part of the extensive recreation management area for environmental education, hiking, and viewing. Trails and signs would be provided for information and interpretation. Leasing of the shooting range site would continue, with stipulations for sanitation, visual design, and safety. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. The management unit lies within the coal planning area. The coal unsuitability criteria, 43 CFR 3461, have been applied (see Appendix 2, Draft Little Snake RMP). The unit would be acceptable for further consideration only for underground mining, with a no-surface-occupancy stipulation.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development, with a no-surface-occupancy stipulation on any new federal leases.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals, with a no-surface-occupancy stipulation. Mineral material sales would not be allowed. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing except within developed or intensively used recreation sites. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range

improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Woodlands. Woodcutting would not be allowed.

Vehicle Use. Vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails, except as associated with valid existing rights.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits, could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 11C: Wild Mountain

Management Unit 11C is located on the west end of the resource area between the Utah border and Dinosaur National Monument and encompasses approximately 21,000 acres. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM with some private lands located mainly in the valleys. A variety of recreational settings, opportunities, and experiences are available in this unit, particularly for hunting.

Management Unit 11C would be managed as part of the extensive recreation management area, primarily for hunting use. The area would be managed under VRM class II objectives to maintain scenic quality. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development, consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would

be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with management objectives for this unit.

Forest Lands and Woodlands. Public lands would remain open to harvesting of timber on forest lands and woodlands consistent with management objectives for this unit.

Vehicle Use. Vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails, except as associated with valid existing rights.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits, could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 12: Vermillion—26,430 Acres—0.8 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 12 is located in the northwestern portion of the resource area. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM with scattered parcels of state and private lands. The soils in this unit are very "fragile" and are extremely susceptible to wind and water erosion because of steepness, shallowness, fine texture, and in some areas, high salt concentrations resulting in sparse vegetative cover. The uses of these soils are greatly limited by the severe erosion hazards. Landsliding and other erosive phenomena may undercut structures, hinder construction, destroy road beds, and even pose safety hazards. Other factors, such as high summer temperatures, low precipitation, and high evapotranspiration rates which are typical of the western portion of the resource area, limit the soil for uses associated with forage production and agricultural development.

The management objectives for this management unit would be to prevent any increases in erosion and/or sediment yield. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section providing they met the performance standards described under Item 2, Soil and Water Resources (Issues 2-5 and 2-6), in the preceding section. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration subject to the performance standards.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development subject to the performance standards.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales subject to the performance standards. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained subject to the performance standards.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects and new projects would be subject to the performance standards.

Wild Horses. Habitat condition would be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130 to 160 wild horses within the Sand Wash Basin and a monitoring program established to determine utilization. Wild horse projects and management practices would be subject to the performance standards.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Vehicle use in this management unit would be limited to existing roads and trails.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits, could occur subject to the performance standards. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 13: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)—22,530 Acres—0.7 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 13A: Limestone Ridge ACEC

Management Unit 13A is located in the northwest portion of the resource area, just west and north of Irish Canyon, and encompasses 1,350 acres. All lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. There are five remnant plant associations and one Colorado BLM sensitive plant species found in this unit. Limestone Ridge is also critical winter range for elk and has been identified as an elk concentration area. It has high visual and scenic qualities and is a prominent landmark in northwest Colorado. Views from the top include most of northwest Colorado, northeastern Utah, and southern Wyoming.

The management objectives of this unit would be to protect or enhance remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, and scenic quality. The unit would be designated as an ACEC/research natural area (RNA). Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC/RNA. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Coal exploration would not be allowed.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing with no-surface-occupancy stipulations on new federal leases. Avoidance stipulations to protect the specific values of the ACEC/RNA would be placed on applications for permits to drill for existing federal leases, consistent with lease rights granted. The avoidance stipulation, when applied, would incorporate wording to the effect that "the habitat of known populations of Colorado BLM sensitive plants, remnant plant associations specifically identified, and scenic values would be protected from human induced activities to the extent such mitigation of impacts to these resources does not preclude the exercise of valid existing rights." For Colorado BLM sensitive plants, the area of protection would include the actual location of the population and, if present, adjacent critical sites that affect their habitat.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to locatable mineral entry. Where necessary and allowed by law, avoidance stipulations would be placed on development of locatable minerals and leasable minerals under existing leases (see Oil and Gas above). No-surface-occupancy stipulations would be placed on new federal leases. Mineral material sales would not be allowed.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing and management practices consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC/RNA. Range improvement projects or treatments would not be permitted.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management and wildlife habitat would be protected consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC/RNA. No wildlife habitat development projects or treatments would be allowed.

Woodlands. Woodcutting would not be allowed.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC/RNA. The unit would be closed to vehicle use.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights of way, would be excluded unless associated with valid existing rights. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 13B: Irish Canyon ACEC

Management Unit 13B is located in the northwest portion of the resource area and encompasses 11,680 acres. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM with scattered parcels of state lands. The Irish Canyon area is one of the major landmarks in northwest Colorado and exhibits the most complete record of geologic history in the eastern Uinta Mountains. Good condition examples of three remnant plant associations, as well as Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, occur within the unit. Irish Canyon is the center for significant archaeological

history in the northwest Colorado tristate region. The area encompasses some of the most notable rock art in western Colorado. The scenery of the area is spectacular. A short hike can provide the visitor with superb views of the natural environment. The area is being increasingly used by recreationists for sightseeing, hiking, camping, picnicking, and other activities.

The management objectives of this unit would be to protect or enhance the remnant plant associations. Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, geologic values, cultural resources, and scenic quality. The unit would be designated as an ACEC. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing. Avoidance stipulations to protect the specific values of the ACEC would be placed on applications for permit to drill for new or existing federal leases consistent with lease rights granted. The avoidance stipulation, when applied, would incorporate wording to the effect that "the habitat of known populations of Colorado BLM sensitive plants, remnant plant associations specifically identified, geologic values, cultural resources, and scenic values would be protected from human induced activities to the extent such mitigation of impacts of these resources does not preclude the exercise of valid existing rights." For Colorado BLM sensitive plants, the area of protection would include the actual location of the population and, if present, adjacent critical sites that affect their habitat.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to locatable mineral energy. Where necessary and allowed by law, avoidance stipulations would be placed on development of locatable minerals and leasable minerals under existing leases (see Oil and Gas above). No-surface-occupancy stipulations would be placed on new federal leases. Mineral material sales would not be allowed.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for the ACEC.

Woodlands. Woodcutting would not be allowed.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC. Vehicle use in this unit would be limited to designated roads and trails.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights of way, would be excluded unless associated with valid existing rights. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 13C: Lookout Mountain ACEC

Management Unit 13C is located in the northwest portion of the resource area, north of the Sand Wash Basin, and encompasses 6,500 acres. All lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. There are two remnant plant associations and four Colorado BLM sensitive plant species found in this unit. Lookout Mountain is a prominent landmark with steep slopes and cliffs overlooking much of northwestern Colorado and south central Wyoming.

The management objectives of this unit would be to protect or enhance remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, and scenic qualities. The unit would be designated as an ACEC. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing. Avoidance stipulations to protect the specific values of the ACEC would be placed on applications for permits to drill for new or existing federal leases, consistent with lease rights granted. The avoidance stipulation, when applied, would incorporate wording to the effect that "the habitat of known populations of Colorado BLM sensitive plants, remnant plant associations specifically identified, and scenic values would be protected from human induced activities to the extent such mitigation of impacts to these resources does not preclude the exercise of valid existing rights." For Colorado BLM sensitive plants, the area of protection would include the actual location of the population and, if present, adjacent critical sites that affect their habitat.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to locatable mineral entry. Where necessary and allowed by law, avoidance stipulations would be placed on development

of locatable minerals and leasable minerals under existing leases (see Oil and Gas above). No-surface-occupancy stipulations would be placed on new federal leases. Mineral material sales would not be allowed.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for the ACEC.

Wild Horses. Habitat condition would be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130 to 160 wild horses within the Sand Wash Basin and a monitoring program established to determine utilization. Wild horse projects and management practices would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for the ACEC.

Woodlands. Woodcutting would not be allowed.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC. Vehicle use in this unit would be limited to designated roads and trails.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights-of-way, would be excluded unless associated with valid existing rights. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 13D: Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC

Management Unit 13D is located in the southwest portion of the resource area, along the Yampa River east of Dinosaur National Monument, and encompasses 3,000 acres. All lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. Two Colorado BLM sensitive plant species are found in this unit. The Cross Mountain Canyon area harbors three federally-listed endangered species, the Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, and peregrine falcon, and one state-listed threatened species, the razorback sucker. The Yampa River is on the National Park Service's Nationwide Rivers Inventory List which means that this section of the river has been inventoried and may be eligible for a Wild and Scenic River Study. The area is habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer. Cross Mountain Canyon exhibits steep rock cliffs which tower above the raging Yampa River. It is of high visual and scenic quality and is a favorite recreation spot for outdoor enthusiasts.

The management objectives of this unit would be to enhance or protect Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, threatened and endangered species, and scenic quality. The

unit would be designated as an ACEC. Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC would be recommended for a total withdrawal from mineral entry and new federal oil and gas leasing would not be allowed if withdrawn. If a withdrawal were not obtained from the Secretary of the Interior, minerals would be handled as described below. Other uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section. Special stipulations, such as restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Coal exploration would not be allowed.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing with no-surface-occupancy stipulations on new federal leases if not withdrawn. Avoidance stipulations to protect the specific values of the ACEC would be placed on applications for permits to drill for existing federal leases consistent with lease rights granted. The avoidance stipulation, when applied, would incorporate wording to the effect that "the habitat of known populations of Colorado BLM sensitive plants, remnant plant associations specifically identified, and scenic values (VRM Class I) would be protected from human induced activities to the extent such mitigation of impacts to these resources does not preclude the exercise of valid existing rights." For Colorado BLM sensitive plants, the area of protection would include the actual location of the population and, if present, adjacent critical sites that affect their habitat.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to locatable mineral entry. Where necessary and allowed by law, avoidance stipulations would be placed on development of locatable minerals and leasable minerals under existing leases (see Oil and Gas above). No-surface-occupancy stipulations would be placed on new federal leases. Mineral material sales would not be allowed.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. Management practices or range improvement projects would be permitted and existing range improvements would be maintained consistent with the management objectives for the ACEC.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for the ACEC.

Woodlands. Woodcutting would not be allowed.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for ACEC. The unit would be closed to vehicle use.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights-of-way, would be excluded unless associated with valid existing rights. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 14: Middle Mountain—16,500 Acres—0.5 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 14 is located in the northwest corner of the resource area and borders on Wyoming. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. Parcels of state and private lands are intermingled with the public lands. This management unit supports a highly diverse ecosystem in a relatively undisturbed stage. Elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and raptors exist in significant numbers with little disturbance from human activity. The area supplies excellent habitat for a tristate elk herd that is managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife for hunting.

The management objectives for this unit would be to maintain and improve the quality of the habitat for the elk herd, mule deer, and raptors. Wildlife habitat management plans (HMPs) and wildlife habitat improvement projects would be developed and implemented to achieve the management objectives for this unit. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. BLM-funded rangeland improvement projects or vegetation treatments, or livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized when compatible with the management objectives for this unit. Livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized if the proposed project or treatment would have a neutral or beneficial effect on the management objective of the unit and the operator agrees to share benefits to meet objectives of the unit.

Forest Lands and Woodlands. Public lands would remain open to harvesting of forest products on forest lands and woodlands consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available to dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Vehicle use in this management unit would be limited to existing roads and trails.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits, could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 15: Cross Mountain Foothills—9,000 Acres—0.3 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 15 is located in the southwest portion of the resource area, east of Dinosaur National Monument. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. Scattered parcels of state and private lands are also found in this unit. This management unit, in conjunction with the contiguous Cross Mountain WSA, contains a herd of bighorn sheep that were introduced January 28, 1977. Bighorn sheep require protection from disturbance to maintain a viable population. This unit is also used by elk and contains critical winter range for mule deer.

The management objectives for this unit would be to maintain and improve the quality of the habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer. Wildlife habitat management plans (HMPs) and wildlife habitat improvement projects would be developed and implemented to achieve the management objectives for this unit. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. BLM-funded rangeland improvement projects or vegetation treatments, or livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized when compatible with the management objectives for this unit. Livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized if the proposed project or treatment would have a neutral or beneficial effect on the management objective of the unit and the operator agrees to share benefits to meet objectives of the unit.

Forest Lands and Woodlands. Public lands would remain open to harvesting of forest products on forest lands and woodlands consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Vehicle use in this management unit would be limited to existing roads and trails.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights of way, leases, and permits, could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 16: West Red Wash—6,500 Acres—0.2 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 16 is located along the Little Snake River in the central part of the resource area. The majority of the lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. Parcels of state and private lands are also found in this unit. Before 1910, the Little Snake River supported an extensive cottonwoods-willow buffaloberry riparian ecosystem. Disturbance has since resulted in deterioration of vegetation quality and reduced streambank stability.

The management objectives for this unit would be to protect and restore this riparian ecosystem. A wildlife habitat management plan (HMP) is currently being prepared for this unit and riparian habitat improvement projects would be developed and implemented to achieve the management objectives for this unit. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans, if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. BLM-funded rangeland improvement projects or vegetation treatments, or livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized when compatible with the management objectives for this unit. Livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized if the proposed project or treatment would have a neutral or beneficial effect on the management objective of the unit and the operator agrees to share benefits to meet objectives of the unit.

Wildlife. Public lands would remain open to wildlife habitat management. Existing wildlife habitat projects would be managed and new projects would be designed to be compatible with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available for dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Vehicle use in this management unit would be limited to existing roads and trails.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights of way, leases, and permits, could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.

Management Unit 17: Willow Creek—1,000 Acres— Less than 0.1 percent of Resource Area

Management Unit 17 is located in the northeast corner of the resource area near Steamboat Lake. All lands in this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. The willow riparian areas associated with Willow Creek and Red Creek provide critical nesting and brood rearing habitat for greater sandhill crane, a state endangered species.

The management objectives for this unit would be to maintain and improve critical habitat for greater sandhill crane. A wildlife habitat management plan (HMP) and wildlife habitat improvement projects would be developed and implemented to achieve the management objectives for this unit. Other resource uses/values within this unit would be allowed consistent with the management objectives for this unit. All resource uses would be managed as described in the preceding Management Actions Section of this document. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions described in Table 4 of the Management Actions Section, would be added to permits, licenses, leases, or project plans,

if necessary, to prevent or mitigate impacts resulting from any resource development or use on public lands.

Coal. Public lands would remain open to coal exploration consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Oil and Gas. Public lands would remain open to oil and gas leasing and development consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Other Minerals. Public lands would remain open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Lands would also remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.

Livestock Grazing. Public lands would remain open to livestock grazing. BLM-funded rangeland improvement projects or vegetation treatments, or livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized when compatible with the management objectives for this unit. Livestock operator-funded projects or treatments would be authorized if the proposed project or treatment would have a neutral or beneficial effect on the management objective of the unit and the operator agrees to share benefits to meet objectives of the unit.

Forest Lands and Woodlands. Public lands would remain open for harvesting of forest products on forest lands and woodlands consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Recreation. Public lands would remain available to dispersed recreation use and developed recreation sites could be established consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Vehicle use in this management unit would be limited to existing roads and trails.

Realty Actions. Realty actions, such as rights of way, leases, and permits, could occur consistent with the management objectives for this unit. Land tenure adjustments, primarily through exchanges or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, could occur where the public interest would be best served.