



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office

GLENWOOD SPRINGS FIELD OFFICE

Record of Decision
for the Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
for the Roan Plateau
Resource Management Plan Amendment
and Environmental Impact Statement



March 2008

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
Glenwood Springs Field Office**

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APPENDIX

Appendix A Management Actions for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.....A-1

ACRONYMS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
CDNR	Colorado Department of Natural Resources
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COA	Condition of Approval
CSU	Controlled Surface Use
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
GSFO	Glenwood Springs Field Office
IBLA	Interior Board of Land Appeals
LN	Lease Notice
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGD	No Ground Disturbance
NOSR	Naval Oil Shale Reserve
NSO	No Surface Occupancy
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMPA	Resource Management Plan Amendment
ROD	Record of Decision
SSR	Site-specific Relocation
TL	Timing Limitation
USC	U.S. Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

1. INTRODUCTION

This Record of Decision (ROD) by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) documents BLM's decision to designate and manage four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) as part of an amendment to the Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 1988).

This ROD addresses only management decisions for approximately 21,034 acres of BLM-administered lands and resources designated as ACECs in the Roan Plateau Planning Area. Management decisions for the remaining 52,586 acres of Federal lands within the Planning Area are unaltered by this ROD. Those decisions were documented in the Resource Management Plan Amendment/Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMPA/FEIS) and Record of Decision announced in the **Federal Register**, Volume 72, Number 111, on Monday June 11, 2007. The Roan Plateau RMPA also amends the White River Resource Area RMP (BLM 1996).

The Planning Area includes Naval Oil Shale Reserves (NOSRs) Numbers 1 and 3. The Planning Area lies generally north of Interstate 70 (I-70) between the towns of Rifle and Parachute, Colorado and consists of three visually, geologically, and ecologically distinct areas: (1) semi-desert habitats at lower elevations, (2) relatively moist montane and subalpine habitats at higher elevations, and (3) a band of high and mostly unbroken cliffs separating these areas. The four designated ACECs are located entirely in western Garfield County, in Colorado.

The Planning Area shown on Map 1 includes 73,602 acres of Federal mineral estate management of which all but 6,668 acres fall under Federal surface estate management. This ROD documents the BLM's decisions on management of four designated ACECs encompassing approximately 21,034 acres: Anvil Points, Magpie Gulch, Trapper/Northwater Creek, and East Fork Parachute Creek (see Map 2). Decisions made in this ROD apply only to the BLM-administered lands, which include Federal surface estate, subsurface mineral estate, or both. Decisions in this ROD do not apply to surface or subsurface mineral estate over which the BLM has no jurisdiction. Additionally, some of the NOSR and other Federal lands in the Planning Area have already been leased and are undergoing oil and gas development. Stipulations included in this ROD may not apply to existing leases because of valid existing rights.

Concurrent with publication of the June 11, 2007 **Federal Register** notice, a public comment period was announced regarding four proposed ACECs as identified and described in the RMPA/FEIS. The Governor of Colorado requested, and was subsequently afforded, an additional opportunity to review the RMPA decisions. ACEC designations and the management decisions for lands within the ACEC boundaries were made considering all public input received during the development of the RMPA and the additional comment period. Decisions made in this ROD include:

- Designation of four ACECs described in Section 4 of this ROD, along with adoption of management actions for each as found in Appendix A.
- Approval of management decisions for all BLM administered lands within the ACEC boundaries (approximately 21,034 acres).

The RMPA/FEIS and this ROD have been developed in accordance with Public Law 105-85 (Transfer Act), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The Transfer Act conveyed management of NOSRs 1 and 3 from the Department of Energy to the BLM in 1997. The transfer legislation instructed BLM to develop a multiple-use management plan for the area and enter into leases for exploration, development, and production of petroleum (other than in the form of oil shale) on these transferred lands "as soon as practicable." This ROD is based on elements analyzed in the Proposed Plan in the RMPA/FEIS, Alternative III in the Draft RMPA/Draft EIS (DRMPA/DEIS),

Cooperating Agency input, changes made in response to public comments, and changes made in response to protests received on the RMPA/FEIS. The DRMPA/DEIS was released on November 19, 2004. The RMPA/FEIS was released on September 7, 2006.

2. DECISIONS BEFORE THE BLM

In this ROD, the BLM is documenting (1) its decision to designate approximately 21,034 acres of ACECs as proposed in the RMPA/FEIS, and (2) its decision for the management of public lands within the ACEC boundaries. This ROD does not alter management decisions for the remaining 52,586 acres of Federal lands within the Planning Area. Those decisions were documented in the RMPA/FEIS and ROD announced in the **Federal Register**, Volume 72, Number 111, on Monday June 11, 2007.

2.1 What the ROD Provides

Land use plan decisions in this ROD include goals, objectives, and management actions for Federal lands inside the designated ACECs. The primary management decisions are to:

- Designate the four ACECs described in Section 3 of this ROD (approximately 21,034 acres);
- Manage all BLM administered lands within the ACEC boundaries by adopting management prescriptions for each ACEC as described in Section 5 and Appendix A;
- Adopt the applicable management decisions previously described in the Proposed Plan in the RMPA/FEIS and ROD announced in the **Federal Register**, Volume 72, Number 111, on Monday June 11, 2007 (hereafter referred to as the June 2007 ROD). Many management decisions described in the Proposed Plan in the RMPA/FEIS were intended to apply to the entire Roan Plateau Planning area. Many of those decisions also pertain to lands designated as ACECs and are hereby incorporated into this ROD (see Section 4 for examples);
- Manage resources to protect and enhance the special values for which the ACECs were designated such as native vegetative communities, wildlife, fisheries, and visual resources;
- Allow for oil and gas leasing of approximately 21,034 acres of the BLM lands designated as ACECs subject to the above decisions. Subsequent oil and gas development within the ACECs will be subject to statute, regulations, stipulations contained in the leases, other restrictions as described in this ROD and the RMPA, and conditions of approval determined necessary from site-specific impact analysis.

2.2 What the ROD Does Not Provide

This ROD does not contain decisions for the BLM lands outside the ACEC boundaries, or on private surface estate overlying Federal mineral estate within the ACEC boundaries, or other private lands inside the ACEC boundaries. This ROD does not contain implementation decisions such as Travel Management. Travel Management decisions for the Planning Area were analyzed in the RMPA/FEIS and made in the June 2007 ROD.

2.3 Protest Concerns

The BLM received 42 protest letters during the 30-day protest period for the Proposed RMPA/FEIS. One protest issue related to ACEC designation was received which necessitated clarification in the June 2007 ROD. All clarifications and minor modifications made to the PRMPA/FEIS were reflected in the June 2007 ROD. Specifically, clarifications pertaining to No Ground Disturbance and No Surface Occupancy restrictions, limitations on surface disturbance, and allowable production activities were identified in the June 2007 ROD.

2.4 Clarifications

In addition to clarifications made in the June 2007 ROD, minor corrections specifically pertaining to ACECs were made to the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS and are reflected in the ROD and attached Appendix A. Clarifications pertain to Site-Specific Relocation (SSR) and Controlled Surface Uses (CSU) restrictions for soils, visual resources, and special status species plant protections. The following points of clarifications are provided in this ROD:

- The BLM intends to maintain site stability and minimize the potential for erosion by limiting surface-disturbing activities on slopes greater than 30 percent and requiring special design, construction, operation, and reclamation measures through a SSR/CSU restriction. Table 2-2 in the RMPA/FEIS omitted specific mention of stipulation GS-CSU-ROAN-04 to maintain site stability and minimize soil erosion. The ROD is clarified to include the SSR/CSU stipulation in Appendix A.
- The BLM intends to manage changes in the landscape to maintain and protect visual qualities of areas designated as Visual Resource Management Class III by applying a SSR/CSU restriction to retain the existing character of the landscape on all lands above the rim. Table 2-2 in the RMPA/FEIS omitted specific mention of stipulation GS-CSU-ROAN-15 to help retain the existing character of the landscape. The ROD is clarified to include the SSR/CSU stipulation in Appendix A.
- The BLM intends to protect the habitat for hanging garden special status species (*Sullivantia hapemania*) along the East Fork Creek and Trapper/Northwater Creek watersheds above the rim by limiting surface-disturbing activities within these habitats through a SSR/CSU restriction. Table 2-2 in the RMPA/FEIS omitted specific mention of the use of stipulation GS-CSU-ROAN-12 to protect hanging garden habitats and other special status species plants. The text of the RMPA/FEIS does not clearly describe the application of this SSR/CSU to hanging gardens. However, Map 22 of Volume III in the RMPA/FEIS clearly depicts BLM's application of this stipulation for the purpose of protecting hanging gardens special status species. The ROD is clarified to include the SSR/CSU stipulation in Appendix A

3. OVERVIEW OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

3.1 Summary of Alternative ACECs

Five alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, were analyzed in detail and presented in the DRMPA/DEIS (BLM 2004). The BLM accepted and considered input from the public on ACEC values and potential designation during scoping for the RMPA/EIS, during public comment on alternative development, and during the comment period on the DRMPA/DEIS. The alternatives were developed to represent a reasonable range of land uses and management actions for the Planning Area. The alternatives varied in the number and size of potential ACECs. The DRMPA/DEIS considered the designation of no ACECs in Alternatives I and V (zero acres), two ACECs in Alternatives III and IV (11,529 acres in each alternative), and four ACECs (36,184 acres) in Alternative II. Alternative II was described as the “environmentally most protective” alternative in the DRMPA/DEIS and in the RMPA/FEIS. Alternative II placed a greater emphasis on protective restrictions and prescriptive management actions.

Input from the public and cooperating agencies was considered in developing the proposed RMPA/FEIS, which proposes four ACECs totaling approximately 21,034 acres. Select comparisons between the Proposed Plan, the No Action Alternative, and the Preferred Alternatives were presented in the RMPA/FEIS. This ROD designates the four proposed ACECs presented as the Proposed Plan in the RMPA/FEIS. The four designated ACECs and their associated relevant and important resource values are described in Sections 3.2 – 3.5.

In order to be designated as an ACEC, the resources or values within a proposed ACEC must meet the relevance and importance criteria defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2. For all designated ACECs, surface disturbing activities will be limited to protect relevant and important values within the areas. Such activities include oil and gas development, rights-of-way designation, and road construction. Limitations on those activities include no ground disturbance or no surface occupancy prescriptions for activities within the ACECs, as well as site specific relocation or controlled surface use prescriptions. Further, conditions of approval or permitting level requirements may be applied during the application for permit to drill stage. Detailed discussions of the protective measures for the ACECs are presented in the Section 5.1 and Appendix A.

Other valuable resources may be protected within ACECs even though they do not meet relevance and importance criteria. These resources and management decisions are likewise described in Appendix A.

3.2 Anvil Points ACEC

The designated Anvil Points ACEC (approximately 4,955 acres) is located along the southeastern portion of the Roan Plateau, north of Rulison (Map 2). The dominant feature in this designated ACEC is the barren white cliffs along the southern rim of the Roan Plateau. The ACEC contains relevant and important scenic, geologic, wildlife, and botanical values. The designated ACEC also encompasses narrow grasslands and mesic aspen forests above the cliffs and a series of ridges and ravines at the base of the cliffs. The elevations of the ACEC range from 5,277 feet to 9,286 feet.

Anvil Points ACEC contains significant scenic and visual feature in the landscape which are both locally and regionally important. In addition, the qualities and character of this scenic viewshed make it vulnerable to adverse change, thus deserving special management. The Anvil Points ACEC contains a significant cave that is regionally significant and has qualities that make it a unique landscape.

This area also contains important wildlife and botanical resources. Crucial habitat for peregrine falcons, golden eagles, and Townsend's big-eared bat can be found within the ACEC. In addition, the lands below the rim contain unroaded, unfragmented habitats that are rare within the Planning Area. The unroaded nature of these lands provides solitude areas for a variety of wildlife species. The area contains two Candidate and two BLM sensitive plant species that are globally and regionally rare. The site holds a significant percentage of the world's populations of Parachute penstemon and Roan Cliffs blazingstar.

3.3 Magpie Gulch ACEC

The designated Magpie Gulch ACEC (approximately 4,698 acres) is situated on the east and northeast-facing slopes below the Roan Plateau (Map 2). The elevation drops from 9,200 feet at the cliff edge to 6,500 feet in the canyons below. The boundaries of the ACEC follow the eastern cliff edge of the Roan Plateau. To the north and east, the boundary is defined by private property and a powerline right-of-way. The southern boundary is delineated by the JQS Road and private property. There is one 40-acre private inholding in the northern portion of the designated ACEC. The ACEC contains relevant and important natural processes, scenic values and wildlife values. Vegetation on north-facing slopes is dominated by mature to old growth Douglas-fir; south-facing slopes consist of mixed mountain shrub communities at the higher elevations and pinyon-juniper at lower elevations. Benches and terraces along the lower slopes support sagebrush communities.

Magpie Gulch contains significant scenic values as the easternmost portion of the Bookcliffs represents a significant visual feature in the landscape on a regional scale. This value is irreplaceable and deserving of special management. This area also contains several small, but excellent, examples of intact remnant old-growth Douglas-fir communities. Magpie Gulch also

contains significant wildlife habitat values important in maintaining species richness and diversity. Similar to Anvil Points ACEC, the unroaded nature of the area provides security among a range of habitat types important to a diverse array of species. This area is vulnerable to adverse change, which may result in habitat fragmentation and loss of species diversity.

3.4 East Fork Parachute Creek

East Fork Parachute Creek is a small but biologically significant tributary to the Colorado River. The headwaters for this creek begin at approximately 9,000 feet in elevation with gently rolling hills of aspen forests, sagebrush and snowberry shrublands, and grasslands. East Fork Parachute Creek originates near the eastern rim of the Roan Plateau and flows westward, cutting through the Green River Shale to form a deep canyon before plunging 200 feet into a narrow scenic box canyon (Map 2). The resource values within the ACEC are: a scenic 200-foot high waterfall and box canyon, Colorado River cutthroat trout habitat, a BLM sensitive plant species, a Green River Shale endemic plant, and four significant plant communities.

This area contains a genetically pure population of native, wild, naturally reproducing Colorado River cutthroat trout. In addition, the watershed in which these fish live supports vital ecosystem processes and maintains crucial habitats important for the long-term survival of this fish species across the Rocky Mountain region.

The East Fork Parachute Creek ACEC (approximately 6,571 acres) also contains a diversity of rare or uncommon riparian plant and upland plant species and communities. The rare plants and plant communities found in this drainage are of excellent condition and abundance and are vulnerable to adverse change. The Roan Plateau drainages support roughly 62 percent of the total number of hanging garden sullivania occurrences.

3.5 Trappers/Northwater Creek

Northwater Creek and Trapper Creek are smaller tributaries which have their headwaters at the eastern edge of the Roan Plateau and flow four to five miles across the Plateau before merging to form East Middle Fork Parachute Creek. Map 2 displays the location of this ACEC. Both Trapper and Northwater Creek cut through the Green River Shale, albeit more gradually than East Fork Parachute Creek, thus the upper reaches of these drainages have more gentle side slopes. East Middle Fork Parachute Creek continues to cut deeper into the Green River Shale before plunging over a waterfall approximately one mile west of the public land boundary. The riparian vegetation in these three drainages is not as diverse as that in the East Fork; however, East Middle Fork Parachute Creek and the lower segment of Northwater Creek also support hanging gardens.

This area contains a genetically pure population of native, wild, naturally-reproducing Colorado River cutthroat trout. These populations are regionally and nationally important in the overall conservation of the species, and are given the highest priority for management and protection. Trapper, Northwater, and East Middle Fork Parachute Creeks all contain populations of this BLM sensitive species.

The Trapper/Northwater Creek ACEC (approximately 4,810 acres) also contains the Colorado endemic plant, hanging garden sullivania, which is narrowly restricted to calcareous seeps, but is found in abundance in the hanging gardens on the Roan Plateau; the rare Indian ricegrass shale barrens community; and the uncommon plant association, mountain big sagebrush/Thurber fescue. The sagebrush/Thurber fescue site is also important to species conservation because it is the only site documented within the Roan Plateau Planning Area.

4. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS IN DESIGNATING THE ACECs

In developing this ROD, the BLM intends to designate the ACECs and authorize actions for the management of relevant and important values within the ACEC. Those management actions are described in Section 5 and are consistent with the Proposed Plan presented in the RMPA/FEIS. It is also BLM's intent to incorporate the applicable management actions described in the RMPA/FEIS and June 2007 ROD into the management of the ACECs. Examples of management actions that apply to both lands described in the June 2007 ROD and lands within the ACEC boundaries include in part, but are not limited to:

- Riparian area and wetland no ground disturbance and no surface occupancy restrictions to protect habitats (GS-NSO-ROAN-23);
- Watershed management area controlled surface use to protect the area designated as Parachute Creek High Value Watershed (GS-CSU-ROAN-13);
- Wild and scenic river eligibility corridors to protect remarkable and outstanding values for eligible rivers and corridors until a suitability study is conducted (GS-CSU-ROAN-17);
- Wildlife security areas controlled surface use to protect important habitat atop the plateau (GS-CSU-ROAN-09);
- Big game migration corridors to protect habitat connectivity (GS-CSU-ROAN-10); and,
- Big game winter range timing limitations to protect important wildlife habitats (GS-TL-ROAN-13).

These management actions are described in detail in the Proposed Plan in the RMPA/FEIS, shown on maps in Volume III of the RMPA/FEIS, and clarified in the June 2007 ROD.

5. DECISION ELEMENTS

Management decisions in this ROD have been segregated into three major classifications: General Management Decisions, Management Actions, and Stipulations.

- General Management Decisions provide broad goals and objectives for each of the resources or resource uses.
- Management Actions listed in this ROD describe the actions to be taken in order to attain these broader goals and objectives. Management Actions include restrictions that will be applied to protect the respective resources, resource uses, or special designations. Where applicable, measurable standards are identified as part of the Management Actions.
- Stipulations list and describe the specific mitigating measures to be administered to protect, enhance, and/or maintain resource values or uses. Appendix A lists and describes the specific substantial restrictions and associated standards, which have been identified in order to allow environmentally responsible oil and gas leasing and development along with other resource management activities. Other important restrictions not suitable for inclusion as lease stipulations have been identified as management actions.

In the following sections, the term No Ground Disturbance (NGD) applies to all activities but oil and gas leasing and permitting, while the term No Surface Occupancy (NSO) applies to only oil and gas leasing and permitting. Similarly, the term Site-Specific Relocation (SSR) applies to all activities but oil and gas leasing and permitting, while the term Controlled Surface Use (CSU) applies to only oil and gas leasing and permitting. Timing Limitations (TL) apply to all activities. Lease Notices (LN) apply only to oil and gas leasing and permitting, however, similar requirements would be applied during permit or application approval for other activities.

The General Management Decisions, Management Actions, and Stipulations apply to all resource values and uses listed in this section. Provisions for exceptions, modifications, and waivers to stipulations for oil and gas leasing, other land uses, and other management actions are described in the RMPA/FEIS and June 2007 ROD.

5.1 Resources

Resource goals, objectives, and management actions for 21,034 acres of Federal surface estate within the four designated ACECs within the Roan Plateau Planning Area are described in the following section.

5.1.1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

General Management Decisions

Goal: Protect relevant and important values in the four designated ACECs described in Section 3 (see Map 2).

Objective: Provide protective measures in the form of resource use stipulations, permit conditions of approval, and best management practices to prevent and/or mitigate impacts to relevant and important criteria in the four designated ACECs.

Management Actions

Management Action 1: Designate four areas encompassing 21,034 acres as ACECs:

- Anvil Points (4,955 acres)
- East Fork of Parachute Creek (6,571 acres)
- Magpie Gulch (4,698 acres)
- Trapper/Northwater Creek (4,810 acres)

Management Action 2: Apply specific management actions that will protect relevant and important values in the aforementioned ACECs. For specific management actions and stipulations that will serve to protect the relevant and important values in the aforementioned ACECs, see Appendix A (Management Actions for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern).

Management Action 3: Apply as appropriate within the ACEC boundaries, management actions as described in the RMPA/FEIS and June 2007 ROD.

Management Action 4: Allow for oil and gas leasing of approximately 21,034 acres of the BLM lands designated as ACECs. Any subsequent oil and gas development within the ACECs will be subject to statutes, regulations, stipulations (including the NGD, NSO, SSR, CSU and TL described herein), and other restrictions described in the RMPA and this ROD.

5.2 Adoption of Material in Appendices

An appendix is contained in this ROD and is part of the approved RMPA. The decision of this ROD is to adopt all provisions contained in Appendix A – Management Prescriptions for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

6. MITIGATION MEASURES

Management actions to avoid or minimize environmental impacts are described in detail in the RMPA/FEIS. Specific actions used to avoid or minimize potential adverse impacts within the ACEC boundaries are described in Appendix A. The Colorado Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management are used as the standard for assessing the health of the BLM lands within the entire Planning Area, including within the ACEC boundaries. Best Management Practices and Conditions of Approval for oil and gas development are used as applicable and described in detail in the RMPA/FEIS and June 2007 ROD (Appendix A of June 2007 ROD). Reclamation standards and monitoring are used for all ground-disturbing activities in the entire Planning Area (see Appendices C and D of the June 2007 ROD), including within the ACEC boundaries.

7. PLAN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Consistent with the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1, the BLM will monitor plan implementation and effectiveness, and will report annually or as the BLM determines is appropriate on:

- Management actions undertaken;
- Management actions remaining to be undertaken; and
- The effectiveness of those actions toward meeting goals and objectives.

Monitoring strategies will be developed that identify indicators of change, acceptable thresholds, methodologies, protocols, and timeframes that will be used to evaluate and determine whether desired outcomes are being achieved (see Appendix D of the June 2007 ROD).

The RMPA will be periodically evaluated at least every five years as documented in an evaluation schedule. Special or unscheduled evaluations may also be required to review unexpected management actions or significant changes that have the potential to trigger an amendment or revision.

8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The RMPA was prepared in consultation and coordination with interested public individuals and organizations, federal and State of Colorado agencies, and local municipal and county governments. Involvement and input from all of these entities is a vital component of the RMPA process and EIS preparation. Public involvement for the RMPA was conducted in three phases: (1) public scoping, (2) public review and comment, and (3) Cooperating Agency input (including state and local government) on the DRMPA/DEIS and on the Proposed RMPA/FEIS.

The BLM conducted a formal scoping process, inviting the participation of affected federal, state, and local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested persons. Public comments were accepted. Based on scoping comments, the BLM identified the environmental issues of concern that were analyzed in the DRMPA/DEIS and Proposed RMPA/FEIS. The scoping comments also guided the BLM in determining the appropriate depth of analysis for each issue, and which issues were outside the scope of the proposed action.

The BLM released the DRMPA/DEIS for public comment on November 26, 2004. The BLM subsequently extended the public comment period until April 11, 2005. Three informational public meetings were held in the vicinity of the Roan Plateau Planning Area within 30 days of the release of the DRMPA/DEIS and were held in the communities of Parachute (Battlement Mesa), Rifle, and Glenwood Springs. Major points for the DRMPA/DEIS were presented at these

meetings and questions regarding the planning process and Planning Area were answered by BLM representatives. A total of 74,907 comment submissions addressing the DRMPA/DEIS were received by the BLM by the close of the public comment period on midnight, April 11, 2005.

Following closure of the extended public comment period, the BLM initiated additional consultation and work sessions with the Cooperating Agencies to discuss resolution of public concerns and comments regarding the final format and content for the Proposed RMPA/FEIS. This group included those entities with which the BLM initially negotiated Memoranda of Understanding: the City of Rifle, Town of Parachute, Garfield County, Rio Blanco County, and Colorado Department of Natural Resources. The City of Glenwood Springs later requested and was granted the same status as well.

The Cooperating Agency meeting process consisted of six working sessions during July and August 2005. During this process, it became clear that most of the Cooperating Agencies shared the concerns expressed in the majority of public comments regarding impacts to both the sensitive resources and to socially and economically important recreational opportunities on top of the plateau. Other specific concerns generally focused on three components of the lower portion of the Planning Area (below and along the Roan Cliffs): the need to protect deer and elk winter range, the need to protect high-sensitivity viewsheds as seen from local communities and major travel corridors, and the need to maintain existing opportunities for OHV travel. Additional concerns expressed and discussed during the Cooperating Agency meetings included (among others) impacts of oil and gas development on local economies, both directly and indirectly through increased traffic and infrastructure costs to the counties and communities; impacts on the regional culture, including hunting and livestock grazing; and impacts to air quality and local water supplies.

On September 7, 2006 the BLM released its Proposed RMPA/FEIS and opened a 30-day protest period. On June 11, 2007, the BLM published a Federal Register Notice announcing the availability of its RMPA/FEIS decision. The Record of Decision also addressed how protests were resolved. The June 11, 2007 **Federal Register** Notice announcing the RMPA/FEIS and ROD also announced a 60-day comment period regarding four proposed ACECs identified in the RMPA/FEIS, as required by 43 CFR 1610.7-2(b). Final decisions on the proposed ACECs were deferred until comments were analyzed.

The BLM received a total of 529 separate comments addressing ACEC management during the comment period, 336 of which were unique. The rest of the comments are contained in form letters. The main comment issues pertained to the size of ACECs, the level of resource protection within ACECs, oil and gas leasing and development within ACECs, other lands that should be included in ACECs, and the level of public participation. The BLM received many comments that pertained generally to the Roan Plateau but not specifically to ACECs. BLM's response to those comments explained that the BLM focused only on comments related to ACECs. BLM's responses to comments described the following issues:

- Process and procedure for designating ACECs (including boundary decisions);
- Relationship between ACECs and management actions;
- Specific resource protections within the ACECs (such as those for wildlife and special status species plants);
- Transfer Act requirements related to oil and gas leasing and multiple use management;
- Government and public participation;
- Wilderness values and the ACEC process;

- Reclamation standards;
- Site-specific conditions of approval and other site-specific planning requirements;
- Air and water quality; and,
- Livestock grazing considerations.

Comment summaries and BLM's response to comments are available at the Glenwood Springs Field Office, 50629 Highways 6 & 24, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 or on the web (<http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/roanplateau/index.htm>).

The BLM considered the comments and determined that no changes to the proposed ACECs as described in the RMPA/FEIS were necessary. The Secretary of Interior offered the State of Colorado an additional 120-day period in which to further understand the final RMPA decisions before approving this ROD. That 120-day period has elapsed and the BLM has considered the State's recommendations in preparing this ROD for the ACEC portions of the Roan Plateau planning area.

9. AVAILABILITY OF THE PLAN

Copies of this ROD, the June 11, 2007 ROD, and the RMPA are available for download at the "Planning" page of the BLM national website (<http://www.blm.gov>). A CD or paper copy may be requested by contacting the Glenwood Springs Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 50629, Highways 6 & 24, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601.

10. FIELD MANAGER RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL OF ACEC DECISIONS

Having considered a full range of ACEC alternatives, associated effects, and additional public input, I recommend designation of and adoption of management decisions for the Anvil Points, Magpie Gulch, East Fork Parachute, and Trappers/Northwater Creek ACECs.

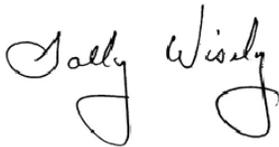


Jamie Connell
Field Manager

March 12, 2008
Date

11. APPROVAL

In consideration of the foregoing, I approve the designation of the four identified ACECs and the adoption of management decisions described in this Record of Decision.

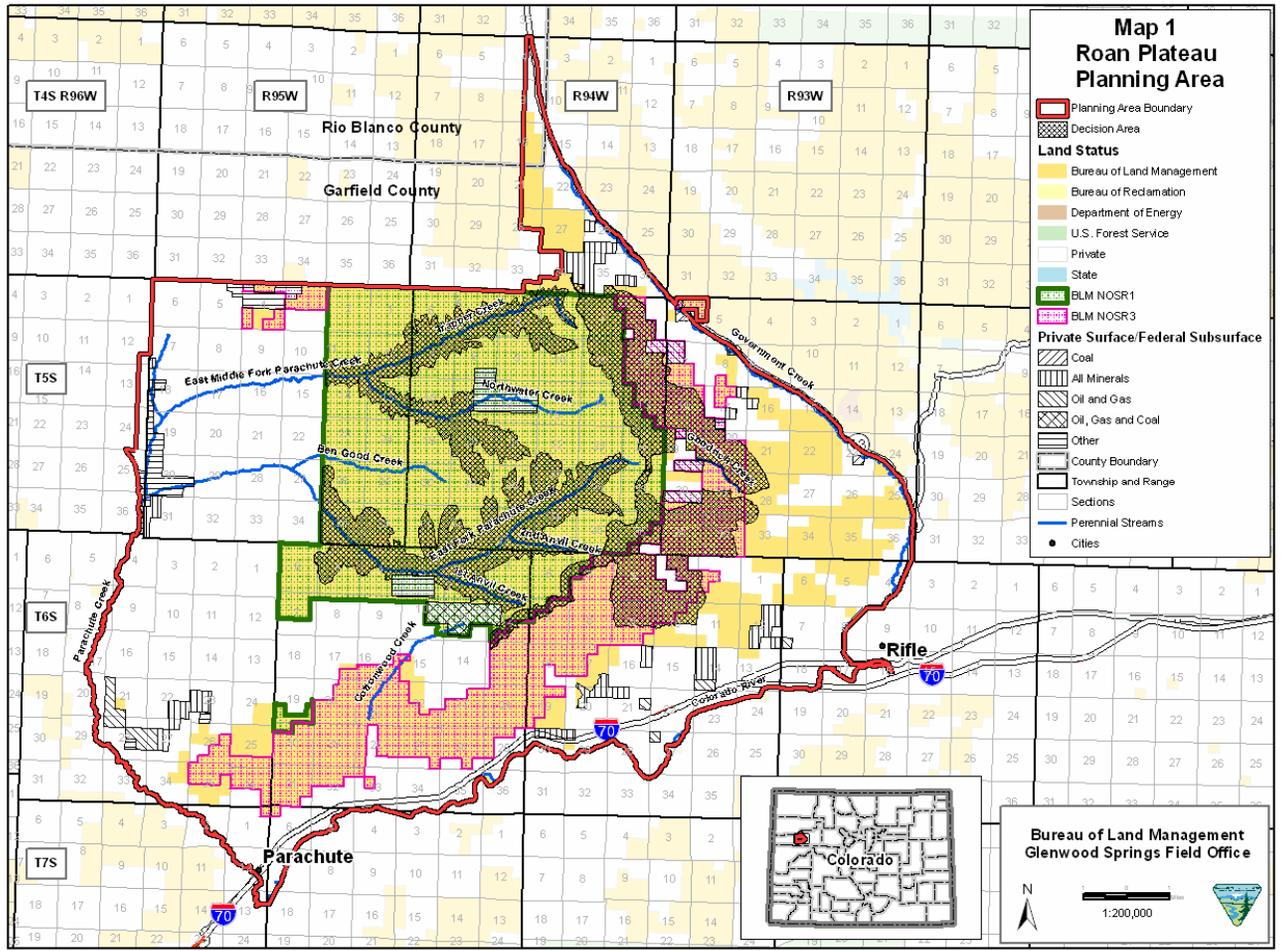


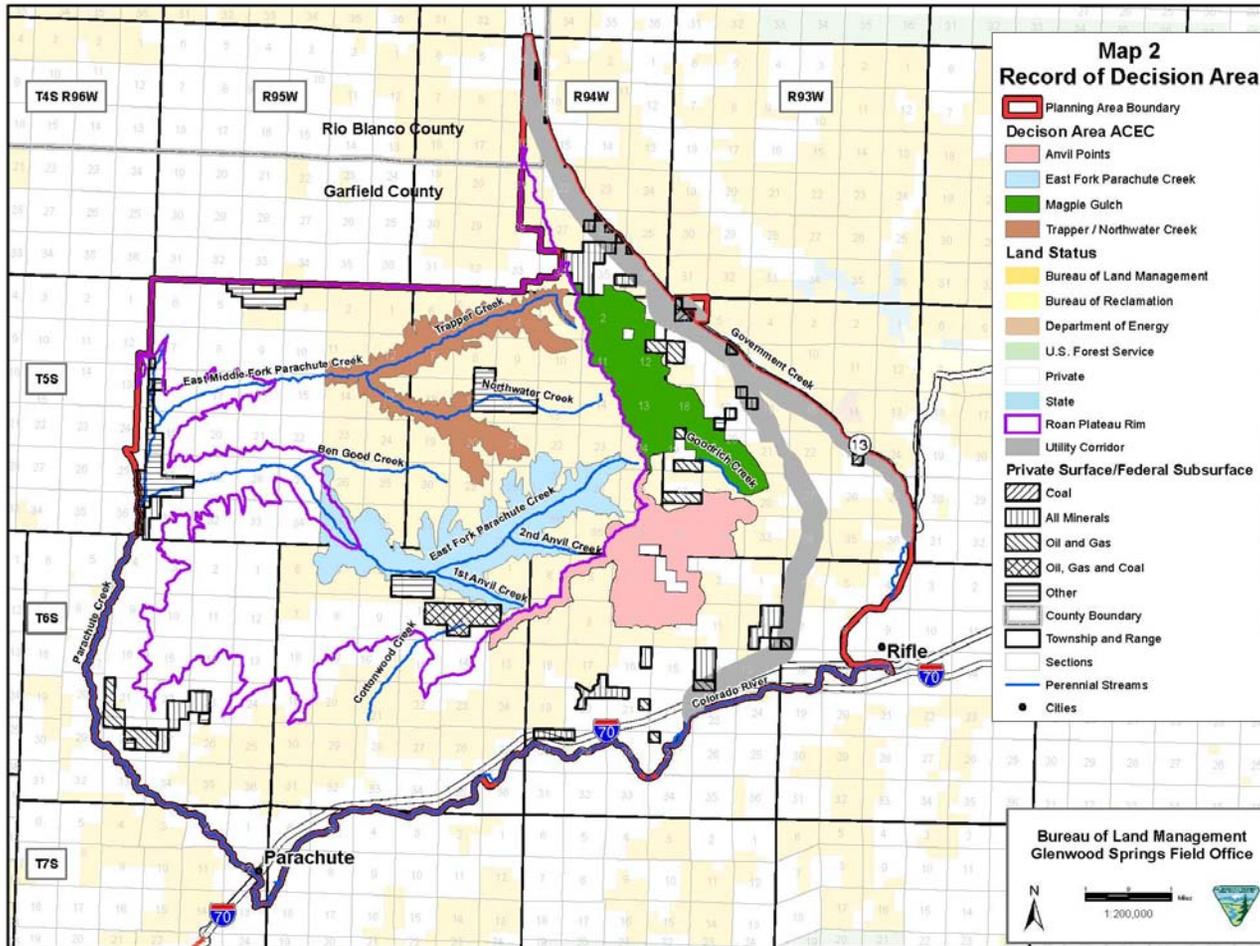
Sally Wisely
BLM State Director

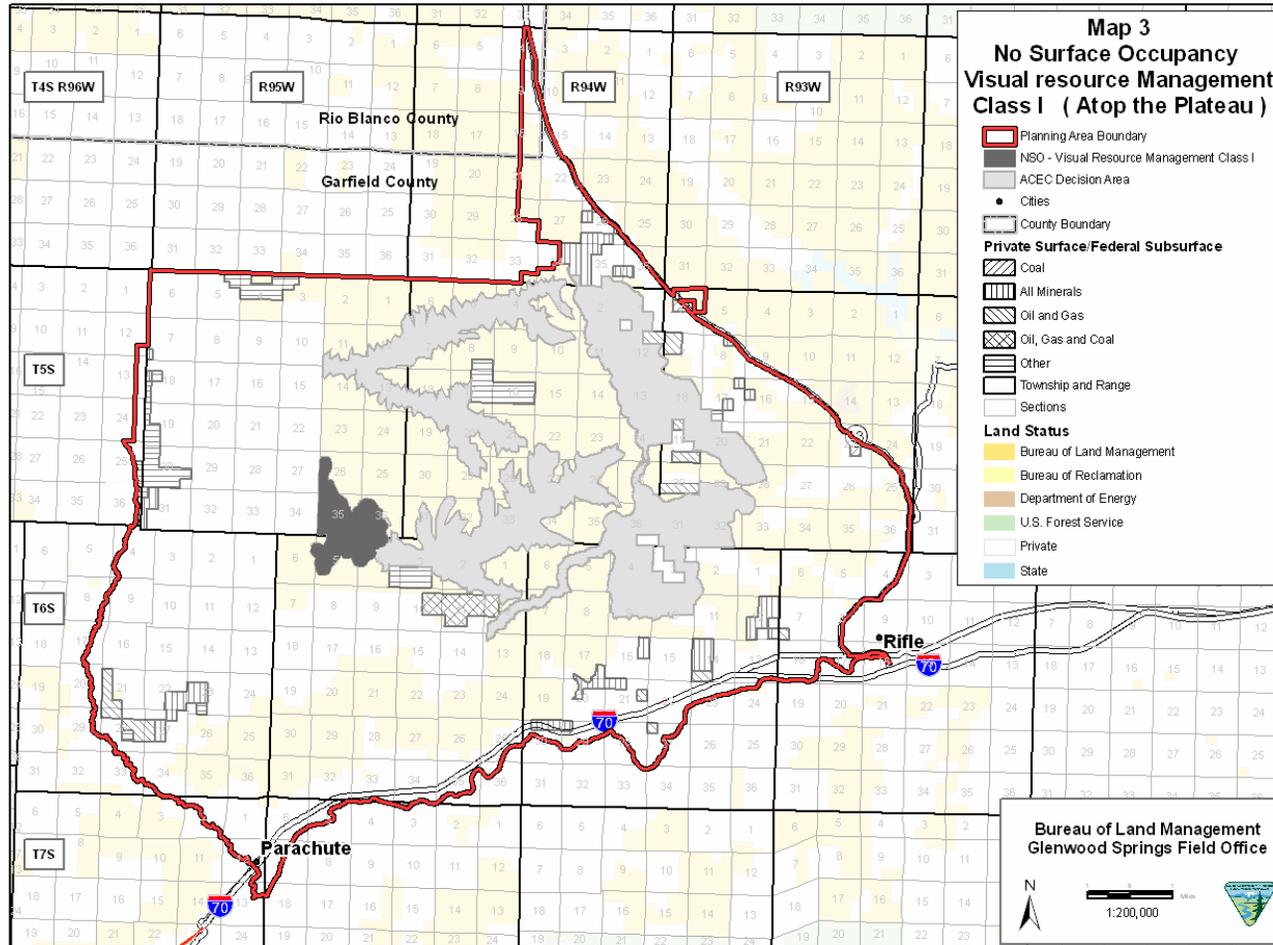
March 12, 2008
Date

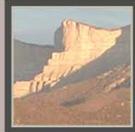
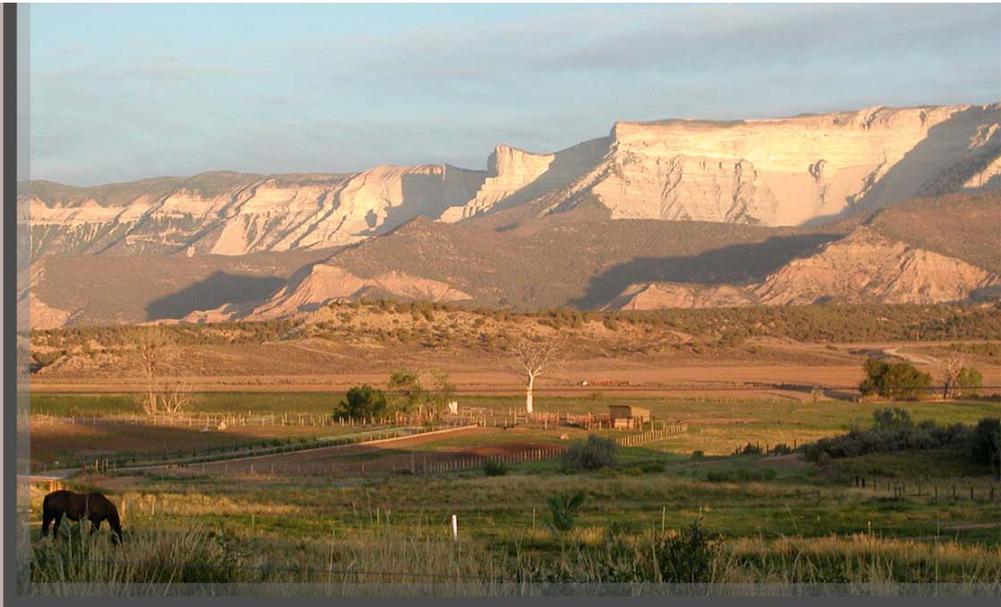
12. REFERENCES

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 1988. Glenwood Springs Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD). Grand Junction District Office, Colorado. U.S. Department of the Interior.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 1996. White River Resource Area, Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement [ROD issued July 1997]. Craig District Office, Colorado. U.S. Department of the Interior.
- Bureau of Land Management. (BLM) 1999. Glenwood Springs Resource Area Oil and Gas Leasing and Development Record of Decision and RMP Amendment (ROD). U.S. Department of the Interior.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2004. Draft Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Glenwood Springs Field Office, Colorado. U.S. Department of the Interior.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2006. Proposed Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment/Final Environmental Impact Statement. Glenwood Springs Field Office, Colorado. U.S. Department of the Interior.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2007. Record of Decision for the Approval of Portions of the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement, Glenwood Springs Field Office, Colorado. U.S. Department of the Interior.









APPENDIX A



Management Actions for
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Appendix A - MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

ANVIL POINTS ACEC	
RELEVANT AND IMPORTANT RESOURCES	
Visual	<p>Objective: Protect visual resources on lands that are most visible from I-70 and where changes to the visual character would be the most noticeable.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO(GS-NSO-ROAN-30) restrictions to lands over 30 percent slopes which are within 5 miles of, and visible from, I-70 to retain the existing natural character of the landscape. The level of allowed change to the characteristic landscape would be low. Management activities may be visible but not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.</p> <p>Objective: Preserve the existing natural character of the landscape on lands below the cliffs to the casual observer.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply SSR/CSU to VRM Class II (GS-CSU-ROAN-14) lands to retain the existing natural character of the landscape. The level of allowed change to the characteristic landscape would be low. Management activities may be visible but not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.</p>
Wildlife	<p>Objective: Protect identified raptor nest sites.</p> <p>Management Actions: For the protection of raptors, apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-25) restrictions within a 0.125-mile radius of nest sites. Raptors include owls, osprey, golden eagles, buteos, accipiters, and falcons except American kestrel. For the protection of peregrine falcon, apply NGD/NSO restrictions within 0.25-mile radius of cliff nesting complexes.</p> <p>Objective: Prevent raptor nest abandonment and reductions in nesting productivity.</p> <p>Management Actions: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-27) within wildlife security areas below the rim. Avoid drilling or other high-disturbance activities within a 0.25-mile buffer around nest sites from February 1 through August 15 (GS-TL-ROAN-14). For protection of peregrine falcons, apply a 0.5-mile buffer around the cliff-nesting complex from March 16 through July 31 to prevent abandonment and desertion of established territories (GS-CSU-ROAN-08 and GS-TL-ROAN-16).</p>

ANVIL POINTS ACEC	
	<p>Objective: Maintain habitat connectivity and avoid displacement of wildlife.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-27) within wildlife security areas below the rim. Allow no new long-term (longer than two growing seasons) human use related ground disturbing activities within the unroaded wildlife habitat located below the cliffs.</p> <p>Objective: Protect and minimize disturbance to wintering big game, and allow for their use of limited winter range habitats during the critical winter months.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply a TL (GS-TL-ROAN-13) to protect wintering big game. Avoid high-disturbance activities (such as oil and gas drilling) from December 1 through April 30 within winter habitat as mapped by the CDOW, unless impacts have been mitigated.</p>
Botanical/ Ecological	<p>Objective: Protect occupied habitat and the immediately adjacent ecosystem processes that support candidate plants.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-24) restrictions within occupied habitat or within the immediately adjacent ecosystem processes that support candidate plants.</p> <p>Objective: Allow for the long-term viability and recovery of candidate plant species, and protect and maintain potential habitat and the ecosystem processes that support them.</p> <p>Management Actions: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-12) restrictions within potential habitat/ecosystem processes for candidate plants.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain the current ecological integrity and function of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Revegetate using locally adapted native species, unless the risk of cheatgrass dominance following disturbance is high and non-natives have been proven to be more effective in competition with cheatgrass.</p> <p>Objective: Allow natural ecosystem processes such as rockslides to continue. Control wildfire only when human safety or property is at risk.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage significant grassland and shrubland communities to retain mid- to late-seral stage condition.</p> <p>Objective: Minimize fragmentation of habitat and the risk of invasion by noxious weeds and other aggressive non-native species, which may compromise ecosystem function and the long-term viability of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Minimize disturbance to habitat and ecosystem processes that support habitat for candidate and rare plants, and significant plant communities. Where practicable, restore to a naturally functioning state any existing human-caused disturbance that is impairing natural ecosystem processes affecting habitat for rare plant species or significant plant communities. Actions may include burying pipelines and utilities in roads or relocation of facilities to minimize impacts.</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Actions: Prohibit collection of plants, plant materials, and seeds, except for scientific or research purposes. Such collection must have no detrimental impact on long-term survival and reproduction of rare species or significant communities.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain healthy native plant communities, minimizing competition from non-native invasive species.</p>

	<p>Management Action: Control noxious weeds using integrated control techniques. Utilize focused control techniques in areas with rare species or significant plant communities to avoid damage to non-target species.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain populations of rare plants and significant plant communities that are healthy, productive, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes. Provide adequate opportunities for recovery, regrowth, and seed dissemination and establishment.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within occupied or potential habitat for rare plants or significant plant communities to promote plant health, maintain sufficient residual vegetation, and sustain overall watershed functions, as defined in the Colorado Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines (BLM 1997a).</p>
ANVIL POINTS ACEC	
OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES	
Steep Slopes	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-22) on slopes greater than 50 percent to minimize impacts on site productivity, to adequately control surface runoff, to reduce accelerated erosion and increase likelihood of successful reclamation.</p>
Soils	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and minimize potential for erosion.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-04) on slopes greater than 30 percent to require special design, construction, operation, and reclamation measures.</p>
Riparian Areas	<p>Objective: Maintain proper hydrologic function and protect adjacent areas that provide habitat for special status fish and wildlife species, important riparian values, water quality, waterfowl and shorebird production, amphibian habitat, and high scenic and recreation values. Allow continued access to and use of these habitats by fish and wildlife species.</p> <p>Management Actions: Roads, transmission lines, storage facilities and similar human-induced surface disturbances will be restricted to an area beyond the outer edge of the riparian vegetation. A SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-07) would apply within 500 feet of the outer edge of the wetland or riparian area.</p>

MAGPIE GULCH	
RELEVANT AND IMPORTANT RESOURCES	
Visual	<p>Objective: Protect visual resources on lands that are most visible from I-70, and where changes to the visual character would be most noticeable.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-30) restrictions to lands with over 30 percent slopes which are within 5 miles of, and visible from I-70 to retain the existing natural character of the landscape. The level of allowed change to the characteristic landscape would be low. Management activities may be visible but not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.</p> <p>Objective: Preserve the existing natural character of the landscape on lands below the cliffs to the casual observer.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-14) to VRM Class II lands to retain the existing natural character of the landscape. The level of allowed change to the characteristic landscape would be low. Management activities may be visible but not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.</p>
Wildlife	<p>Objective: Protect identified raptor nest sites.</p> <p>Management Actions: For the protection of raptors, apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-25) restrictions within a 0.125-mile radius of nest sites. Raptors include owls, osprey, golden eagles, buteos, accipiters, and falcons except American kestrel. For the protection of peregrine falcon, apply NGD/NSO restrictions within 0.25-mile radius of cliff nesting complexes.</p> <p>Objective: Prevent raptor nest abandonment and reductions in nesting productivity.</p> <p>Management Actions: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-27) within wildlife security areas below the rim. Avoid drilling or other high-disturbance activities within a 0.25-mile buffer around nest sites from February 1 through August 15 (GS-TL-ROAN-14). For protection of peregrine falcons, apply a 0.5-mile buffer around the cliff-nesting complex from March 16 through July 31 to prevent abandonment and desertion of established territories (GS-CSU-ROAN-08 and GS-TL-ROAN-16).</p> <p>Objective: Maintain habitat connectivity and avoid displacement of wildlife.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO(GS-NSO-ROAN-27) within wildlife security areas below the rim. Allow no new long-term (longer than two growing seasons) human use related ground disturbing activities within the unroaded wildlife habitat located below the cliffs.</p> <p>Objective: Protect and minimize disturbance to wintering big game, and allow for their use of limited winter range habitats during the critical winter months.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply a TL (GS-TL-ROAN-13) to protect wintering big game. Avoid high-disturbance activities (such as oil and gas drilling) from December 1 through April 30 within winter habitat as mapped by CDOW, unless impacts have been mitigated.</p>

MAGPIE GULCH	
Botanical/ Ecological	<p>Objective: Protect the current extent, ecological integrity, and function of the old-growth Douglas-fir community.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-12) for special status plant species and significant plant communities within old-growth Douglas-fir remnant communities, including removal of any size-class trees.</p> <p>Objective: Protect occupied habitat and the immediately adjacent ecosystem processes that support candidate plants.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO restrictions (GS-NSO-ROAN-24) within occupied habitat or within the immediately adjacent ecosystem processes that support candidate plants.</p> <p>Objective: Allow for the long-term viability and recovery of candidate plant species, and protect and maintain potential habitat and the ecosystem processes that support them.</p> <p>Management Actions: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-12) restrictions within potential habitat/ecosystem processes for candidate plants.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain the current ecological integrity and function of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Revegetate using locally adapted native species, unless the risk of cheatgrass dominance following disturbance is high and non-natives have been proven to be more effective in competition with cheatgrass.</p> <p>Objective: Allow natural ecosystem processes such as rockslides to continue. Control wildfire only when human safety or property is at risk.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage significant grassland and shrubland communities to retain mid- to late-seral stage condition.</p> <p>Objective: Minimize fragmentation of habitat and the risk of invasion by noxious weeds and other aggressive non-native species, which may compromise ecosystem function and long-term viability of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Minimize disturbance to habitat and ecosystem processes that support habitat for candidate and rare plants, and significant plant communities. Where practicable, restore to a naturally functioning state any existing human-caused disturbance that is impairing natural ecosystem processes affecting habitat for rare plant species or significant plant communities. Actions may include burying pipelines and utilities in roads or relocation of facilities to minimize impacts.</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Actions: Prohibit collection of plants, plant materials, and seeds, except for scientific or research purposes. Such collection must have no detrimental impact on long-term survival and reproduction of rare species or significant communities.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain healthy native plant communities, minimizing competition from non-native invasive species.</p> <p>Management Action: Control noxious weeds using integrated control techniques. Utilize focused control techniques in areas with rare species or significant plant communities to avoid damage to non-target species.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain populations of rare plants and significant plant communities that are healthy, productive, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes. Provide adequate opportunities for recovery, regrowth, and seed dissemination and establishment.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within occupied or potential habitat for rare plants or significant plant communities to promote plant health, maintain sufficient residual vegetation, and sustain overall watershed functions, as defined in the Colorado Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines (BLM 1997a).</p>

MAGPIE GULCH	
OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES	
Steep Slopes	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-22) on slopes greater than 50 percent to minimize impacts on site productivity, to adequately control surface runoff, to reduce accelerated erosion and increase likelihood of successful reclamation.</p>
Soils	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and minimize potential for erosion.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-04) on slopes greater than 30 percent to require special design, construction, operation, and reclamation measures.</p>
Riparian Areas	<p>Objective: Maintain proper hydrologic function and protect adjacent areas that provide habitat for special status fish and wildlife species, important riparian values, water quality, waterfowl and shorebird production, amphibian habitat, and high scenic and recreation values. Allow continued access to and use of these habitats by fish and wildlife species.</p> <p>Management Actions: Roads, transmission lines, storage facilities and similar human-induced surface disturbances will be restricted to an area beyond the outer edge of the riparian vegetation. A SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-07) would apply within 500 feet of the outer edge of the wetland or riparian area.</p>

EAST FORK PARACHUTE CREEK	
RELEVANT AND IMPORTANT RESOURCES	
Visual	<p>Objective: Preserve the existing character of landscape for East Fork Falls viewshed to meet VRM Class I objectives.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO to maintain the natural character and scenic quality of the landscape to provide for ecological changes and restrict landscape modifications. Limited activities may be allowed if the basic landscape elements (line, form, color, and texture) are repeated and changes are not evident, and appear natural.</p> <p>Objective: Partially retain the character of the remainder of the landscape within the ACEC.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-15) to partially retain the existing character of the landscape on all lands designated as Class III. Activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the elements found in the natural features of the characteristic landscape.</p>
Fish and Wildlife	<p>Objective: Protect identified raptor nest sites.</p> <p>Management Actions: For the protection of raptors, apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-25) restrictions within a 0.125-mile radius of nest sites. Raptors include owls, osprey, golden eagles, hawks, accipiters, and falcons except American kestrel. For the protection of peregrine falcon, apply NGD/NSO restrictions within 0.25-mile radius of cliff nesting complexes.</p> <p>Objective: Prevent raptor nest abandonment and reductions in nesting productivity.</p> <p>Management Actions: Avoid drilling or other high-disturbance activities within a 0.25-mile buffer around nest sites from February 1 through August 15 (GS-TL-ROAN-14). For protection of peregrine falcons, apply a 0.5-mile buffer around the cliff-nesting complex from March 16 through July 31 to prevent abandonment and desertion of established territories (GS-CSU-ROAN-08 and GS-TL-ROAN-16).</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from direct impacts.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-28) to high and moderate risk habitat areas. Allow no loss or degradation of fish habitat that supports Colorado River cutthroat trout high risk habitat.</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from indirect impacts.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-28) to high and moderate risk habitat areas. Allow no loss or degradation of fish habitat that supports Colorado River cutthroat trout moderate risk habitat.</p> <p>Objective: Minimize direct impacts to streambanks resulting from livestock grazing.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within the ACEC so that streambank damage does not exceed 10 percent of the stream length.</p>

EAST FORK PARACHUTE CREEK	
Botanical/ Ecological	<p>Objective: Maintain the current ecological integrity and function of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Revegetate using locally adapted native species, unless the risk of cheatgrass dominance following disturbance is high and non-natives have been proven to be more effective in competition with cheatgrass.</p> <p>Objective: Allow natural ecosystem processes such as rockslides to continue. Control wildfire only when human safety or property is at risk.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage significant grassland and shrubland communities to retain mid- to late-seral stage condition.</p> <p>Objective: Manage listed, proposed, or candidate threatened or endangered species to comply with the provisions of the ESA and promote their recovery. Protect the habitat for hanging garden special status species along the East Fork Parachute Creek watershed.</p> <p>Management Actions: Apply SSR/CSU restrictions (GS-CSU-ROAN-12) to hanging garden habitat as depicted on Map 22, Volume III of the RMPA/FEIS.</p> <p>Objective: Minimize fragmentation of habitat and the risk of invasion by noxious weeds and other aggressive non-native species, which may compromise ecosystem function and the long-term viability of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Minimize disturbance to habitat and ecosystem processes that support habitat for candidate and rare plants, and significant plant communities. Where practicable, restore to a naturally functioning state any existing human-caused disturbance that is impairing natural ecosystem processes affecting habitat for rare plant species or significant plant communities. Actions may include burying pipelines and utilities in roads or relocation of facilities to minimize impacts.</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Actions: Prohibit collection of plants, plant materials, and seeds, except for scientific or research purposes. Such collection must have no detrimental impact on long-term survival and reproduction of rare species or significant communities.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain healthy native plant communities, minimizing competition from non-native invasive species.</p> <p>Management Action: Control noxious weeds using integrated control techniques. Utilize focused control techniques in areas with rare species or significant plant communities to avoid damage to non-target species.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain populations of rare plants and significant plant communities that are healthy, productive, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes. Provide adequate opportunities for recovery, regrowth, and seed dissemination and establishment.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within occupied or potential habitat for rare plants or significant plant communities to promote plant health, maintain sufficient residual vegetation, and sustain overall watershed functions, as defined in the Colorado Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines (BLM 1997a).</p>

EAST FORK PARACHUTE CREEK	
OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES	
Steep Slopes	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-22) on slopes greater than 50 percent to minimize impacts on site productivity, to adequately control surface runoff, to reduce accelerated erosion and increase likelihood of successful reclamation.</p>
Soils	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and minimize potential for erosion.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-04) on slopes greater than 30 percent to require special design, construction, operation, and reclamation measures.</p>
Riparian Areas	<p>Objective: Maintain proper hydrologic function and protect adjacent areas that provide habitat for special status fish and wildlife species, important riparian values, water quality, waterfowl shorebird production, amphibian habitat, and high scenic and recreation values. Allow continued access to and use of these habitats by fish and wildlife species.</p> <p>Management Actions: Roads, transmission lines, storage facilities and similar human-induced surface disturbances will be restricted to an area beyond the outer edge of the riparian vegetation. A SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-07) would apply within 500 feet of the outer edge of the wetland or riparian area.</p>

TRAPPER / NORTHWATER CREEK	
RELEVANT AND IMPORTANT RESOURCES	
Fish and Wildlife	<p>Objective: Protect identified raptor nest sites. Management Actions: For the protection of raptors, apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-25) restrictions within a 0.125-mile radius of nest sites. Raptors include owls, osprey, golden eagles, buteos, accipiters, and falcons except American kestrel. For the protection of peregrine falcon, apply NGD/NSO restrictions within 0.25-mile radius of cliff nesting complexes.</p> <p>Objective: Prevent raptor nest abandonment and reductions in nesting productivity. Management Actions: Avoid drilling or other high-disturbance activities within a 0.25-mile buffer around nest sites from February 1 through August 15 (GS-TL-ROAN-14). For protection of peregrine falcons, apply a 0.5-mile buffer around the cliff-nesting complex from March 16 through July 31 to prevent abandonment and desertion of established territories (GS-CSU-ROAN-08 and GS-TL-ROAN-16).</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from direct impacts. Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-28) to high and moderate risk habitat areas. Allow no loss or degradation of fish habitat that supports Colorado River cutthroat trout high risk habitat.</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from indirect impacts. Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-28) to high and moderate risk habitat areas. Allow no loss or degradation of fish habitat that supports Colorado River cutthroat trout moderate risk habitat.</p> <p>Objective: Minimize direct impacts to streambanks resulting from livestock grazing. Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within the ACEC so that streambank damage does not exceed 10 percent of the stream length.</p>

TRAPPER / NORTHWATER CREEK	
Botanical/ Ecological	<p>Objective: Maintain the current ecological integrity and function of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Revegetate using locally adapted native species, unless the risk of cheatgrass dominance following disturbance is high and non-natives have been proven to be more effective in competition with cheatgrass.</p> <p>Objective: Manage listed, proposed, or candidate threatened or endangered species to comply with the provisions of the ESA and promote their recovery. Protect the habitat for hanging garden special status species along the Trapper/Northwater Creek watershed.</p> <p>Management Actions: Apply SSR/CSU restrictions (GS-CSU-ROAN-12) to hanging garden habitat as depicted on Map 22, Volume III of the RMPA/FEIS.</p> <p>Objective: Allow natural ecosystem processes such as rockslides to continue. Control wildfire only when human safety or property is at risk.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage significant grassland and shrubland communities to retain mid- to late-seral stage condition.</p> <p>Objective: Minimize fragmentation of habitat and the risk of invasion by noxious weeds and other aggressive non-native species, which may compromise ecosystem function and the long-term viability of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Minimize disturbance to habitat and ecosystem processes that support habitat for candidate and rare plants, and significant plant communities. Where practicable, restore to a naturally functioning state any existing human-caused disturbance that is impairing natural ecosystem processes affecting habitat for rare plant species or significant plant communities. Actions may include burying pipelines and utilities in roads or relocation of facilities to minimize impacts.</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Actions: Prohibit collection of plants, plant materials, and seeds, except for scientific or research purposes. Such collection must have no detrimental impact on long-term survival and reproduction of rare species or significant communities.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain healthy native plant communities, minimizing competition from non-native invasive species.</p> <p>Management Action: Control noxious weeds using integrated control techniques. Utilize focused control techniques in areas with rare species or significant plant communities to avoid damage to non-target species.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain populations of rare plants and significant plant communities that are healthy, productive, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes. Provide adequate opportunities for recovery, regrowth, and seed dissemination and establishment.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within occupied or potential habitat for rare plants or significant plant communities to promote plant health, maintain sufficient residual vegetation, and sustain overall watershed functions, as defined in the Colorado Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines (BLM 1997a).</p>

TRAPPER / NORTHWATER CREEK	
OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES	
Visual	<p>Objective: Partially retain the character of the remainder of the landscape within the ACEC.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-15) to partially retain the existing character of the landscape on all lands designated as Class III. Activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the elements found in the natural features of the characteristic landscape.</p>
Steep Slopes	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply NGD/NSO (GS-NSO-ROAN-22) on slopes greater than 50 percent to minimize impacts on site productivity, to adequately control surface runoff, to reduce accelerated erosion and increase likelihood of successful reclamation.</p>
Soils	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and minimize potential for erosion.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-04) on slopes greater than 30 percent to require special design, construction, operation, and reclamation measures.</p>
Riparian Areas	<p>Objective: Maintain proper hydrologic function and protect adjacent areas that provide habitat for special status fish and wildlife species, important riparian values, water quality, waterfowl shorebird production, amphibian habitat, and high scenic and recreation values. Allow continued access to and use of these habitats by fish and wildlife species.</p> <p>Management Actions: Roads, transmission lines, storage facilities and similar human-induced surface disturbances will be restricted to an area beyond the outer edge of the riparian vegetation. A SSR/CSU (GS-CSU-ROAN-07) would apply within 500 feet of the outer edge of the wetland or riparian area.</p>