

DRAFT EVALUATION REPORT

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Kanab Resource Management Plan



White Cliffs Potential ACEC

Kanab Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
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EVALUATION REPORT—AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN—KANAB RMP/DEIS

This report documents the process used to evaluate nominations for areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) considered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in developing the Kanab Resource Management Plan (RMP).

In brief, BLM staff evaluated 3 nominations for ACECs, totaling 76,082 acres within the Kanab Field Office. Of these, 3 areas totaling 54,193 acres within the Kanab Field Office met the criteria for relevant and important values and were identified as potential ACECs to be considered further in this RMP.

Additionally, the one existing ACEC (Water Canyon/South Fork Indian Canyon) was reviewed and found to contain relevant and important values on areas outside the current ACEC boundary.

BACKGROUND

BLM is directed by law, regulation, and policy to consider designating and protecting ACECs when developing land use plans.

The Law: FLPMA

In the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary shall...give priority to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern.

—Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), Title II, Sec 202(c) 3

The term “areas of critical environmental concern” (often referred as “ACECs”) means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

—FLPMA, Title I, Sec 103(a)

The Regulation: 43 CFR 1610.7-2

To be a potential ACEC, both of the following criteria shall be met:

- *Relevance:* There shall be present a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value; a fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process; or a natural hazard.
- *Importance:* The above described value, resource, system, process, or hazard shall have substantial significance and values. This generally requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern.

The Policy: BLM Manual 1613

BLM Manual 1613 provides direction for identifying, analyzing, designating, monitoring, and managing ACECs. Key points are as follows:

- The ACEC designation indicates to the public that the BLM recognizes that an area has significant values and has established special management measures to protect those values.
- Designation of ACECs is only done through the resource management planning process, either in an RMP itself or in a plan amendment.
- To be designated as an ACEC, an area must require special management attention to protect the importance and relevance values.
- Potential ACECs are identified as early as possible in the planning process.
- Existing ACECs are subject to reconsideration when plans are revised.
- Members of the public or other agencies may nominate an area for consideration as a potential ACEC. BLM personnel are encouraged to recommend areas for consideration as ACECs.
- No formal or special procedures are associated with nomination.

- An interdisciplinary team evaluates each resource or hazard to determine if it meets the relevance and importance criteria. The field manager approves the relevance and importance criteria.
- If an area is found not to meet the relevance and importance criteria, the analysis supporting that conclusion must be included in the RMP and associated EIS.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Existing ACEC

One ACEC totaling 225 acres currently exists within the Kanab Field Office. The existing ACEC was reviewed in developing the new RMP. It was found to continue to meet mandatory relevance and importance criteria as identified in Attachment 1.

Table 1. Existing ACEC

ACEC Name	Public Land Acres	County
Water Canyon/South Fork Indian Canyon	225	Kane

ACEC Nominations

Three ACEC nominations were received during scoping for the RMP; see Map 1, Nominated ACECs. Nominations were submitted by the Citizens of Kane County and one private individual. Nominations were evaluated in accordance with *BLM Manual 1613, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*. Values meeting mandatory relevance and importance criteria were identified and are the basis for establishing potential ACECs for further consideration in the RMP, (Criteria used for the relevance and importance evaluation are included in Attachment 1.)

Table 2. ACEC Nominations

	Nominated Area	Public Land Acres	County
1	Welsh's Milkweed	3,680	Kane
2	Vermilion Cliffs	26,486	Kane
3	White Cliffs	45,916	Kane
	Total	76,082	

Potential ACECs

Following the evaluation of values for relevance and importance, four areas totaling 57,951 acres were identified as potential ACECs. (See Map 2 Potential ACECs.) Potential ACECs were delineated in two ways:

- The potential ACECs for Welsh's Milkweed, Vermilion Cliffs, and White Cliffs are smaller than the nominated ACECs because the values determined relevant and important are found in only parts of the nominated areas.
- The potential ACEC for the Cottonwood Canyon area is larger than the existing ACEC (Water Canyon/South Fork Indian Canyon) because additional relevant and important values were identified outside the existing boundary.

Table 3. Potential ACECs

	Area Name	Acreage	County
1	Welsh's Milkweed	1,252	Kane
2	Vermilion Cliffs	23,406	Kane
3	White Cliffs	29,535	Kane
4	Cottonwood Canyon	3,758	Kane
	Total	57,951	

Descriptions of the potential ACECs and suggested management are included in Attachment 2.

ACECs Versus Wilderness

- ACECs may be designated within wilderness areas. ACEC designation shall not be used as a substitute for a wilderness suitability recommendation. If an ACEC is proposed within or adjacent to a Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the RMP...shall provide clear direction of the relationship of the ACEC to the recommendations being made for the WSA. The relationship shall be described to the level of detail required to avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation by the public.—*BLM Manual 1613.33D*
- Where ACEC values and wilderness characteristics coincide, the special management associated with an ACEC, if designated, may also protect wilderness characteristics.—*IM-2003-275*

Consideration of Potential ACECs in the RMP/DEIS

Potential ACECs are considered in the Kanab RMP/DEIS, as follows:

- **Alternative A:** Current designation of Water Canyon/South Fork Indian Canyon ACEC (225 acres)
- **Alternative B:** Designate Cottonwood Canyon ACEC (3,758 acres)
- **Alternative C:** Designate Cottonwood Canyon ACEC, Welsh's Milkweed ACEC, Vermilion Cliffs ACEC, and White Cliffs ACEC.
- **Alternative D:** No ACEC's Designated

The environmental consequences of the proposals under each alternative, including threats of irreparable damage, are evaluated in Chapter 4 of the RMP/DEIS.

ATTACHMENT 1: RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE CRITERIA

THE TASK

The task of evaluating the ACEC nominations was done by the land use planning interdisciplinary team. The team's job was to -

- Identify the potentially relevant values in the nominations.
- Evaluate the potentially relevant values to determine which, if any, are truly relevant, based on criteria.
- Evaluate the relevance values to determine if they are important, based on criteria.
- Identify suggested special management needed to protect relevant and important values.
- Map the area(s) of relevance and importance. These maps define the potential ACECs that will be considered in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).
- Consider management of the existing ACEC values with all other resource values and uses to determine if the area should be retained, dropped, or modified in the new RMP.

1) Identifying Potentially Relevant Values

The team reviewed each of the 3 ACEC nominations to identify potentially relevant values. Only the values identified in the nominations were evaluated for relevance.

2) Determining Relevance

Potentially relevant values were evaluated based on guidance in 43 CFR 1610.7-2, *Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*, and BLM Manual 1613, *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*.

Historical, Cultural, and Scenic Values

A historic or cultural value was determined relevant if it was:

- Determined significant by the staff archaeologist
- Has been determined to be eligible to the National Register
- Retains integrity and has research potential, and/or is considered important by local Native American tribes.

A scenic value was determined relevant if it was—

- Inventoried as Class Scenery by BLM.

Fish and Wildlife Values

A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity) was judged relevant if it or its habitat was documented as present within the nominated area.

Sources of information:

- Utah Natural Heritage Program Database, operated and maintained by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
- UDWR habitat maps for game species
- USFWS habitat data maps, recovery plans, and other information

Natural Processes or Systems

Nominated natural processes or systems (e.g., plants, riparian areas, and geologic processes) were considered relevant if they were present within the nominated area and included the following:

- Endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species (documented occurrences and/or habitat within nominated area)
- Rare, endemic or relict terrestrial, aquatic or riparian plants or plants communities (documented occurrences and/or habitat within nominated area)
- Rare geological features.

Sources of information included the following:

- Utah Natural Heritage Program Database operated and maintained by the UDWR.
- UDWR habitat maps for game species
- USFWS habitat data maps
- Riparian area inventories
- Existing management plans
- Wilderness inventory information
- National Natural Landmark Areas Survey (1980)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data

Natural Hazards

A natural hazard was considered relevant if it was so determined by the interdisciplinary team after reviewing the information (about the hazard) on a case-by-case basis.

3) Determining Importance

Only values determined relevant were evaluated for importance. Generally, the value, resource, system, process, or hazard described as relevant had to have substantial significance and values to meet the importance criteria.

Significant Qualities

For a relevant resource (or value, system, process, or hazard) to be judged important, it had to have more than locally significant qualities that gave it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.

Historic and Cultural - A relevant historic or cultural resource was determined more than locally significant if it was—

- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Eligible for listing on National Register of Historic Places
- Otherwise judged more than locally significant as a result of federal laws, regulations, and national BLM policies that mandate consideration and protection of cultural resources.

Scenic - A relevant scenic resource was determined more than locally significant if it was—

- A national or state scenic designation such as State Scenic Byways, National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads or BLM Backcountry Byways
- Otherwise judged more locally significant by the interdisciplinary team.

Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Resources - A relevant fish, wildlife, or plant resource was determined more than locally significant if it was a species protected under federal law, regulation or BLM national policy that mandate the consideration and protection of species:

- Special status species, including—
 - Federally listed threatened or endangered species
 - BLM-sensitive species
 - State of Utah species of concern
- Endemic to nominated area

Riparian Resources - Riparian areas are deemed important because they provide water, food, cover, and travel lanes for many aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species. Native riparian area plants and their root systems contribute to improved water quality and quantity by holding soils in place while filtering sediments, increasing ground water recharge, and protecting stream banks. In the decision area riparian resources encompass less than 1 % of the total acres. Due to its limited nature and relative value all riparian areas are deemed important (Utah Riparian Management Policy IM UT-2005-091).

Natural Hazard - A relevant natural hazard was more than locally significant if so determined by the interdisciplinary team after reviewing the information about the hazard.

Special Values and Threats

The relevant resource (value, system, process or hazard) was important if it had qualities or circumstances in the nominated area that made it—

- Fragile
- Sensitive
- Rare
- Irreplaceable
- Exemplary
- Unique

- Endangered
- Threatened
- Vulnerable to adverse change.

Determinations of special values, threats, and vulnerability to adverse change were made by staff specialists and the interdisciplinary team.

National Priority

The relevant resource (or value, system, process, or hazard) was determined important if it warranted special protection in order to:

- Satisfy national priority concerns
- Carry out the mandates of FLPMA.

Historic and Cultural—Protection of cultural resources is a national priority; therefore, any cultural resource identified as relevant was also determined to be important.

Scenic—A relevant scenic resource that also carried a national designation such as National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads or BLM Backcountry Byways was determined important.

Fish, Wildlife, and Plants—A relevant federally listed threatened or endangered species was also determined important (because of the Endangered Species Act and Executive Order 13186, signed in 2001. This order requires all Federal agencies that might have a measurable negative effect on migratory birds to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to promote the recommendations of North America Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), North American Bird Conservation Act, and other migratory bird programs. The Executive Order further requires Federal agencies to consider the effects that planned or authorized activities will have on migratory birds (Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918) and their habitats and to consider migratory birds in their land use planning efforts).

Riparian Resources— The BLM developed the National Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990's. This initiative established riparian areas as a national priority, developed goals and objectives for managing riparian-wetland resources on public lands and included a strategy to focus management on entire watersheds. The Utah BLM Riparian Management Policy is tiered to this overall national strategy.

Safety and Public Welfare

A relevant resource (or value, system, process, or hazard) was considered important if it had qualities that warranted highlighting it to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.

Threat to Life and Property

The resource (or value, system, process, or hazard) was considered important if it poses a significant threat to human life and safety or property.

4) Special Management

Suggested special management was developed to address, mitigate, or prevent identified threats.

5) Mapping Potential ACECs

Values identified as having relevance and importance provided a basis for the potential ACECs. In all cases where nominations were reviewed, the BLM interdisciplinary team determined the boundary of the potential area to be smaller than the nominated area (see rationale included in Attachment 2). During evaluation of the existing ACEC, additional relevant and important values were identified outside of the ACEC, and the acreage for the potential ACEC was thus increased. All potential ACECs would be designated as ACECs in Alternative C of the draft DEIS/RMP. Other alternatives may involve designation one or more of the potential ACECs. All will be evaluated in the DEIS.

ATTACHMENT 2—EVALUATIONS OF ACEC NOMINATIONS

WELSH’S MILKWEED NOMINATED ACEC

Nominated by Laura Fertig.

Area Considered	Welsh’s Milkweed Nominated ACEC
General Location	About 9 miles west of Kanab, Utah.
General Description	The Coral Pink Sand Dunes area.
Acreage	3,680 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, wildlife, plants, ecologic, geologic

Nominated Area to Potential ACEC

This area was nominated to include 3,680 acres of public land. The BLM interdisciplinary team determined that relevant and important values exist on 1,252 acres that make up the potential ACEC.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—100% of area is Class A scenery.
	No	Cultural—Area was not nominated for this value; significant cultural sites may be present but did not contribute to the nomination of this ACEC.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); documented presence.
	Yes	Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle (candidate for listing).
	Yes	Raptors – Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
	No	Southwestern willow flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered); no documented sightings.
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Mule deer – no crucial winter habitat.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Threatened Plant Species Welsh’s Milkweed.
	Yes	Old growth ponderosa pine—Known occurrence.
	Yes	Vernal pools.
	Yes	Rare Geologic Feature – Fault controlled sand dunes.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value. None known to be present.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar	Yes	Scenery is more than locally significant; Yellowjacket Road is a Utah Scenic Backway.
	Yes	Rare geologic feature is more than locally significant and distinctive.
	Yes	Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
resource.	No	Bald eagle – not a designated winter roost site.
	No	Old growth ponderosa pine—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Raptors, habitat is available in other locations.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Welsh’s Milkweed may be impacted by OHV activity.
	Yes	Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle may be impacted by OHV activity.
	No	Bald Eagle—No identified threats.
	No	Old growth ponderosa pine—No identified threats.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Bald Eagle – not a designated winter roost site.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value. None known to be present.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value. Not present.

Potential ACEC - Summary of Relevant and Important Values: The BLM interdisciplinary team determined that 1,252 acres contain relevant and important values for scenery, rare geologic feature, Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle, and Welsh’s Milkweed.

Suggested Special Management

What special management is required to protect importance values from threats?

FLPMA Section 103. (a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern” means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Relevant and Importance Values	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class II (WSA area is managed as VRM Class I). Oil and gas leasing with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry. No new rights-of-way.

Welsh's Milkweed	Maintain existing management.
Coral Pink Sand Dunes Tiger Beetle	Maintain existing management under current conservation areas.
General Prescriptions	Continue cooperative law enforcement with State Park. No Woodcutting (forest product sales). No wildling collections without a permit. Retain all lands and interest in land in Federal ownership.

VERMILION CLIFFS NOMINATED ACEC

Nominated by Citizens of Kane County.

Area Considered	Vermilion Cliffs Nominated ACEC
General Location	Located north and northeast of Kanab between Highway 89 and Johnson Canyon Road.
General Description	Scenic redrock cliffs that form the backdrop of Kanab.
Acreage	26,486 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, plant, geologic, natural processes and systems.

Nominated Area to Potential ACEC

This area was nominated to include 26,486 acres of public land. The BLM interdisciplinary team determined that relevant and important values exist on 23,407 acres that make up the potential ACEC.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—About 70 percent of the nominated area is Class A Scenery.
	Yes	Cultural – area has high density of complex sites that cover the time span from the Archaic period into the historic period, with an emphasis on pre-Puebloan archaeology.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon – BLM sensitive.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	Yes	Bald Eagle - Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Mexican Spotted Owl, modeled habitat present in only very small area.
	No	Sage Grouse, no documented presence or habitat.
	Yes	Townsend's big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	Yes	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	Yes	Northern Goshawk – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Golden Eagle – Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
	Yes	Fringed Myotis Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Southwestern willow flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered); has migratory habitat.
	Yes	Spotted Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Mule deer – high value winter habitat.
<p>A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	No	Geologic feature, these features are common throughout the Colorado Plateau, few iron concretions within the nominated area.
	Yes	Kanab Thelypody, no documented occurrences, habitat present.
	Yes	Gumbo Milkvetch, no documented occurrences, habitat present.
	No	Arizona Bladderpod, not a Utah sensitive species.
	No	Virgin Phacelia, not a Utah sensitive species.
	Yes	Meager Camissonia, no documented occurrences, habitat present.
	Yes	Stella's Pepperplant, no documented occurrences, habitat present.
	Yes	Kane Breadroot, no documented occurrences, habitat present.
Yes	Riparian.	
<p>Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).</p>	No	Area was not nominated for this value. None present.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic – Highway 89 is a Utah Scenic Byway, Johnson Canyon is a Utah Scenic Backway.
	Yes	Cultural – majority of sites are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
	Yes	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon – BLM sensitive.
	No	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, primarily migratory habitat.
	No	Mule deer – Not more than locally significant, habitat on the fringe of premium hunting area.
	Yes	Bald Eagle - Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Golden Eagle federally protected.
	Yes	Fringed Myotis Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Spotted Bat – BLM sensitive.
	No	Northern Goshawk, transitory, small, and limited habitat.
	Yes	Kanab Thelypody – BLM sensitive species, habitat present.
	Yes	Gumbo Milkvetch – BLM sensitive species, habitat present.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Meager Camissonia, no documented occurrences, habitat present.
	Yes	Stella’s Pepperplant, no documented occurrences, habitat present.
	Yes	Kane Breadroot, no documented occurrences, habitat present.
	Yes	Scenic – May be impacted by oil and gas development, wind energy development, and OHV activity.
Yes	Cultural sites are fragile, sensitive, irreplaceable, endangered, and vulnerable to adverse change. OHV and vandalism are the primary threats to the cultural resources in this area.	
No	Townsend’s big ear bat—No identified threats.	
Yes	Ferruginous hawk – threatened or vulnerable to OHV use and oil and gas development.	

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Peregrine falcon, threatened or vulnerable to OHV use and oil and gas development.
	Yes	Bald Eagle - threatened or vulnerable to OHV use and oil and gas development.
	No	Mexican Spotted Owl – no identified threats.
	Yes	Golden Eagle - threatened or vulnerable to OHV use and oil and gas development.
	No	Fringed Myotis Bat – no identified threats.
	No	Spotted Bat – no identified threats.
	Yes	Kanab Thelypody – BLM Utah Sensitive species, habitat present, OHV impacts.
	Yes	Gumbo Milkvetch, BLM Utah Sensitive species, habitat present, OHV impacts.
	Yes	Meager Camissonia – no documented occurrences, habitat present, and OHV impacts.
	Yes	Stella’s Pepperplant, no documented occurrences, habitat present, and OHV impacts.
	Yes	Kane Breadroot - no documented occurrences, habitat present, and OHV impacts.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Scenic – Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Cultural - majority of the sites are eligible to the National Register, but no sites are currently listed.
	Yes	Bald Eagle - Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Peregrine falcon – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Golden Eagle, federally protected.
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk – Federally listed (threatened).
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value. None known to be present.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value. None present.

Potential ACEC - Summary of Relevant and Important Values: After evaluation of the ACEC proposal, the interdisciplinary team determined that 23,406 acres contain relevant and important values for scenery, cultural, wildlife, and natural processes.

Suggested Special Management

What special management is required to protect importance values from threats?

FLPMA Section 103. (a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern” means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Relevant and Importance Values	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage as VRM Class II or III. Manage OHV as limited to designated roads and trails. Oil and gas leasing with minor constraints or with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry. No new rights-of-way (including communication sites). Retain ACEC in public ownership. Work with SITLA to acquire state inholdings.
Vegetation	Lease notices for flora and fauna.
Recreation	Manage ROS as semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized. Develop interpretive displays. Any new special recreation permits would need to conform to the ACEC. Climbing restriction within ½ mile of raptor nests.
Cultural	Manage OHV as limited to designated roads and trails. Manage grazing activities to minimize impacts to at-risk cultural sites.

WHITE CLIFFS NOMINATED ACEC

Nominated by Citizens of Kane County.

Area Considered	White Cliffs Nominated ACEC
General Location	Approximately 15 miles north and northwest of Kanab between Highway 89 and Johnson Canyon Road.
General Description	Scenic white cliffs as viewed from Highway 89.
Acreage	45,916 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, and plants.

Nominated Area to Potential ACEC

This area was nominated to include 45,916 acres of public land. The BLM interdisciplinary team determined relevant and important values exist on 29,535 contiguous acres that make up the potential ACEC.

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic – About 65% of the nominated area is Class A scenery.
	Yes	Cultural – high site density of complex sites that cover the time span from the Archaic period into the historic period.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Peregrine falcon – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Bald Eagle - Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Mexican Spotted Owl, modeled habitat present.
	Yes	Mule Deer – transitory habitat.
	Yes	Golden Eagle – Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
	Yes	Fringed Myotis Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Townsend’s Big-Eared Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Spotted Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk – Federally listed (threatened), habitat present.
	No	Sage Grouse – no documented presence or habitat.
	No	Kit Fox.
	Yes	Northern Goshawk – BLM sensitive.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Welsh’s Milkweed – threatened species, designated critical habitat.
	Yes	Escarpment milkvetch – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Canaan Mountain beardtongue – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Meager Camissonia – habitat is present, no known individuals.
	Yes	Clarion Pepperplant – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Cronquist’s Phacelia – BLM sensitive.
	No	Geologic – Not uncommon on the Colorado Plateau.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value. None known to be present.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic – Highway 89 is a Utah Scenic Byway, Johnson Canyon is a Utah Scenic Backway.
	Yes	Cultural – Majority of sites are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Bald Eagle - Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Mexican Spotted Owl, modeled habitat.
	No	Mule deer – transitory habitat.
	Yes	Golden Eagle – Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
	Yes	Fringed Myotis Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Townsend’s Big – Eared Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Spotted Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Northern Goshawk – BLM sensitive, primarily winter habitat.
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk – Federally listed (threatened), habitat present.
	Yes	Welsh’s Milkweed – threatened species, designated critical habitat.
	Yes	Escarpment milkvetch – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Canaan Mountain beardtongue – BLM sensitive.
Yes	Meager Camissonia – habitat is present, no known individuals.	
Yes	Clarion Pepperplant – BLM sensitive.	

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Cronquist's Phacelia – BLM sensitive, habitat is present no known individuals.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic – may be impacted by oil and gas development, wind energy development, and OHV activity.
	Yes	Cultural – sites are fragile, sensitive, irreplaceable, endangered, and vulnerable to adverse change. OHV and vandalism potentially threaten the cultural resources.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon– threatened or vulnerable to OHV use and oil and gas development.
	No	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher – no identified threats.
	Yes	Bald Eagle – threatened or vulnerable to OHV use and oil and gas development.
	No	Mexican Spotted Owl – no identified threats.
	No	Mule Deer – no identified threats.
	Yes	Golden Eagle, threatened or vulnerable to OHV use and oil and gas development.
	No	Fringed Myotis Bat – no identified threats.
	No	Townsend's Big-Eared Bat – no identified threats.
	No	Spotted Bat – not identified threats.
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk – threatened or vulnerable to OHV use and oil and gas development.
	Yes	Welsh's Milkweed – threatened species, designated critical habitat, potential OHV impacts.
	Yes	Escarpment milkvetch – BLM sensitive, potential OHV impacts.
	Yes	Canaan Mountain beardtongue – BLM sensitive, potential OHV impacts.
Yes	Meager Camissonia – BLM sensitive, potential OHV impacts.	
Yes	Clarion Pepperplant – BLM sensitive, potential OHV impacts.	
Yes	Cronquist's Phacelia – BLM sensitive, habitat is present, no known individuals, potential OHV impacts.	
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Scenic – not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Cultural - majority of the sites are eligible to the National Register, but no sites are currently listed.
	Yes	Bald Eagle – federally listed.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Golden Eagle – federally listed.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk – Federally listed (threatened).
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value. None known to be present.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value. None present.

Potential ACEC - Summary of Relevant and Important Values: After evaluation of the ACEC proposal, the interdisciplinary team determined that 29,535 acres contain relevant and important values for scenery, cultural, wildlife, and natural processes.

Suggested Special Management

What special management is required to protect importance values from threats?

FLPMA Section 103. (a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern” means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Relevant and Importance Values	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage as VRM Class II. Oil and gas leasing with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry. No new rights-of-way (including communications sites). Retain ACEC in public ownership, work to acquire state sections within the nominated area.
Cultural	Manage OHV as limited to designated roads and trails. Manage grazing activities to minimize impacts to at-risk cultural sites.
Vegetation	Lease notice for flora and fauna.
Recreation	Manage OHV as limited to designated roads and trails. Manage ROS as primitive, semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized. Establish interpretive displays. Any new special recreation permits would need to conform to the ACEC management requirements. Climbing restriction within ½ mile of raptor nests.

COTTONWOOD CANYON ACEC

Re-evaluation of existing ACEC by BLM planning team.

Area Considered		Water and Indian Canyon ACEC
General Location	Approximately 3 miles southwest of Kanab.	
General Description	Canyon complex north of the Kaibab Paiute Reservation.	
Acreage	3,748 public land acres.	
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, natural processes, plant, geologic features.	

Identification Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

Relevance

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic – entire area is Class A scenery.
	Yes	Cultural – high site density and complex sites covering the time span from the Archaic period into the historic period, with an emphasis on pre-Puebloan archaeology. Contains one site listed on the National Register. One of the few areas in the region with cliff-side dwelling sites.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Mexican Spotted Owl – large acreage of modeled habitat.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher –potential habitat present.
	Yes	Bald Eagle - Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Golden Eagle – Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
	Yes	Fringed Myotis Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Spotted Bat - BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Townsend’s big-eared bat - BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk - Federally listed (threatened)
	Yes	Northern Goshawk – BLM sensitive.
Yes	Mule Deer – winter high value and crucial habitat.	
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant	Yes	Geology - Navajo sandstone is an important aquifer for the area, combined with the formation of the canyons provides this unique riparian area.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Ecological – hanging gardens, uncommon feature on the Kanab Field Office.
	Yes	Riparian – a large and unique riparian system functioning properly.
	Yes	Old growth Douglas fir, not normally found at this low elevation.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The area was not nominated for this value. None present.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic – more than locally significant.
	Yes	Cultural – majority of sites are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. One site currently on the register.
	Yes	Mexican Spotted Owl – large acreage of modeled habitat.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher – habitat present.
	Yes	Bald Eagle - Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Golden Eagle – Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
	Yes	Fringed Myotis Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Townsend’s Big-Eared Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Spotted Bat – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk - Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Northern Goshawk – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Mule Deer – winter high value and critical habitat.
No	Geology – not more than locally significant.	

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Riparian – not more than locally significant.
	No	Old growth Douglas fir – not more than locally significant.
	No	Ecological – hanging gardens, not more than locally significant.
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	Yes	Scenic – threats include oil and gas development.
	Yes	Cultural – Sites are fragile, sensitive, irreplaceable, endangered, and vulnerable to adverse change. Threats include unregulated OHV use, grazing impacts to certain site types, and vandalism.
	Yes	Mexican Spotted Owl – threats include rock climbing.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon – threats include rock climbing.
	No	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher – no identified threats, very limited access.
	Yes	Golden Eagle – Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
	Yes	Fringe Myotis Bat – threats include rock climbing.
	Yes	Townsend’s Big-Eared Bat – threats include rock climbing.
	Yes	Spotted Bat – threats include rock climbing.
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk - Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Northern Goshawk – no identified threats.
	No	Mule Deer – no identified threats, very limited access.
	Yes	Geology - Navajo sandstone is an important aquifer for the area, combined with the formation of the canyons provides this unique riparian area.
	No	Ecology – hanging gardens, no identified threats.
Yes	Riparian – threats include oil and gas development.	
No	Old growth Douglas fir – no identified threats.	
<p>Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.</p>	Yes	Cultural – has one site listed on the National Register and many others considered eligible to the National Register.
	Yes	Bald Eagle – Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Peregrine falcon – BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Golden Eagle – Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk – Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Mexican Spotted Owl - Federally listed (threatened).
<p>Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.</p>	Yes	Area contains the watershed for the city of Fredonia, AZ.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	The area was not nominated for this value; none present.

Potential ACEC - Summary of Relevant and Important Values: The interdisciplinary team determined that 3,758 acres contain relevant and important values for scenery, cultural, wildlife, and natural processes.

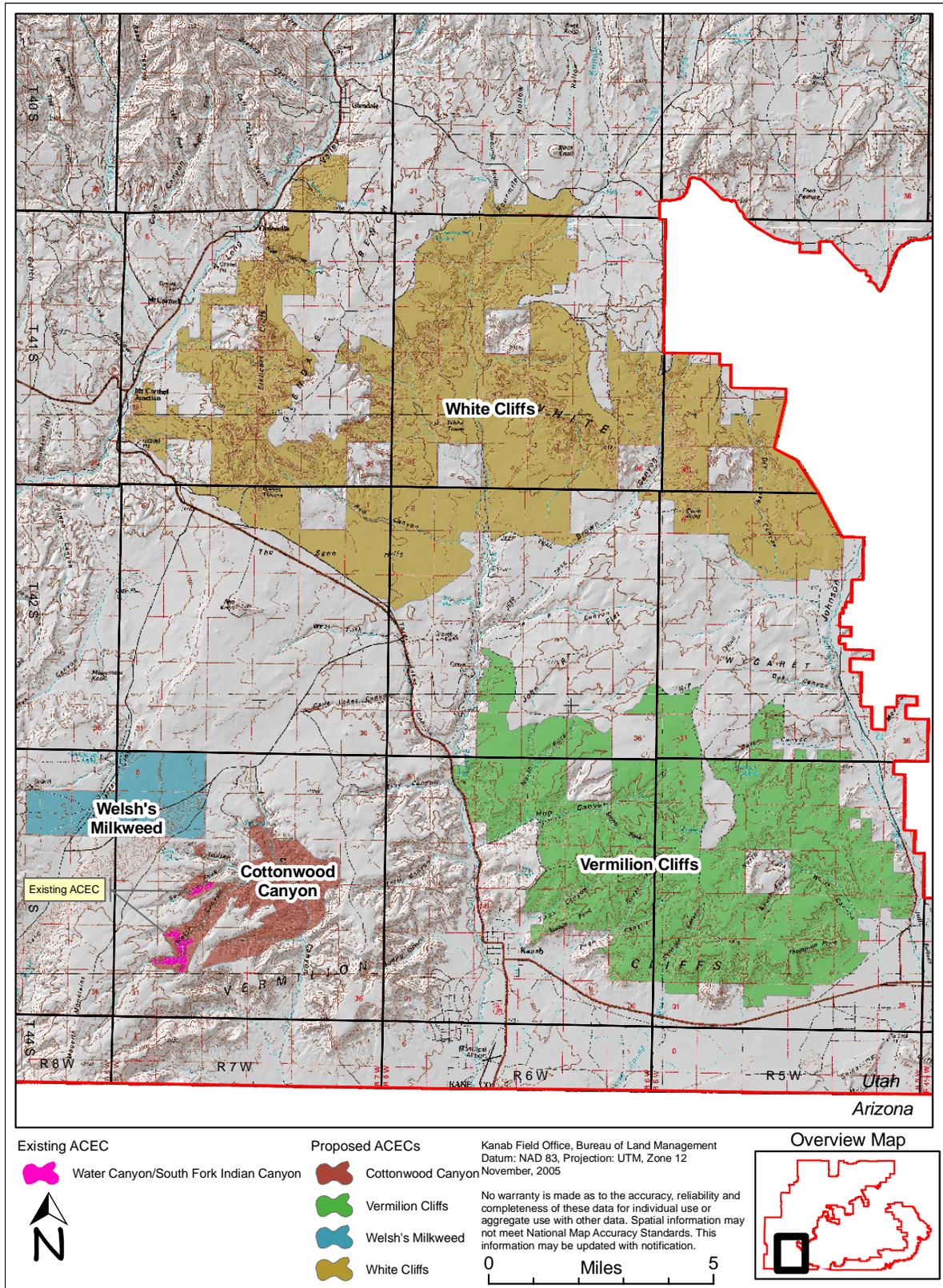
Suggested Special Management

What special management is required to protect importance values from threats?

FLPMA Section 103. (a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern” means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Relevant and Importance Values	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage as VRM Class II. Close area to OHV use or limited to designated roads and trails. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints. Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.
Cultural	Manage OHV as limited to designated roads and trails. Manage grazing activities to minimize impacts to at-risk cultural sites. Monitor specific sites on a regular basis.

MAP 1 NOMINATED AREAS



MAP 2 PROPOSED AREAS

