
Appendix I

Detailed No Action Alternative

APPENDIX I

DETAILED NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Included in this appendix is a list of land use planning decisions included in existing BLM and Forest Service LUPs that could be amended as a result of decisions being considered within the range of alternatives included in this EIS. In general, land use planning decisions that are specific to GRSG would be entirely replaced by new decisions. For example, most land use plans include fluid minerals leasing decisions that place some restrictions on development in important seasonal GRSG habitats or in proximity to occupied leks. Under all action alternatives these decisions would be replaced by new fluid mineral leasing decisions.

Decisions that apply to all lands within a given planning area would not necessarily be replaced by decisions being considered in this EIS, because this EIS is only being used to amend decisions in occupied sage-grouse habitat. Rather than replacing these decisions, they may be modified to include more specific information regarding changes in management in sage-grouse habitat. For example, many vegetation, livestock grazing, and fire management decisions apply to an entire planning area. These decisions would not be amended except where there is overlap with sage-grouse habitat. As another example, many land use plan decisions include a list of areas where there are restrictions or prohibitions on certain allowable uses. The only modification to these decisions would be adding GRSG management areas to the list of areas where there would restrictions placed on specific uses.

CBGA AND PINYON

Habitat Restoration/Vegetation Management

Perform vegetation treatments in a mosaic pattern on 4,552 acres of important mule deer habitat, 10,549 acres of important antelope habitat (Indian Peak Allotment), of which 8,329 acres are important sage-grouse habitat.

Sage-grouse strutting grounds have changed from those protected under the existing categories. There are only 280 acres of the 820 present sage-grouse Category 2 lands that protect presently active sage-grouse strutting grounds. The balance of 540 acres protects abandoned sage-grouse strutting grounds because periodic shifting of strutting grounds occurs. The 2,240 acres of prairie dog towns would remain in Category 1 and could be subjected to exploration

and drilling which could cause collapse of burrows and suffocate young prairie dogs. About 1,700 acres around raptor nests would not be protected from disturbance that may preclude successful hatching of young birds.

Fluid Minerals – Unleased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate

Oil and Gas Category 2 (720 acres) Prohibiting drilling or exploration on sage-grouse strutting grounds from March 1 through May 15

Minerals – Action 1

Apply the revised oil, gas, and geothermal leasing Categories and stipulations as described in Minerals Table 1 and Minerals Map 1. This decision does not apply to geophysical exploration which is administered under the Notice of Intent Process (43 CFR 3045).

Category 2, Stipulations 7

In order to (minimize watershed damage, protect important seasonal wildlife habitat, etc.) exploration, drilling and other development activity will be allowed:

- (1) Seasonally between May 1 and December 30 in critical big game winter ranges (NSO Jan. 1 – April 30.)
- (2) Seasonally between May 2 and March 14 within sage-grouse strutting ground (NSO – ½ mile – March 15 – May 1).
- (3) Seasonally between May 1 – October 31 in T&E – Bald Eagle roost and perch sites (NSO – ¼ mile – Nov. 1 – April 30).

In order to protect important sage-grouse strutting and nesting areas, exploration, drilling, and other development activity will be allowed only during the period from May 16 to February 28. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Exceptions to this limitation in any year may be specifically authorized in writing by the District Manager, BLM.

Upon their renewal or initial granting, Seasonal stipulations will be placed upon geothermal leases for the protection of 3,919 acres of raptor and sage-grouse habitat. A no surface occupancy stipulation for the protection of 2,347 acres of Utah prairie dog habitat and three historical recreation sites will be placed upon geothermal leases in the planning unit. Unneeded seasonal stipulations on 15,360 acres will be dropped.

Lands and Realty

Lands – Action 2.4

Attach the following stipulations to ROWs for electrical transmission lines located within these corridors on lands administered by BLM: (1) Blasting and other surface disturbances would be prohibited within 500 feet of all live springs, reservoirs, or water wells. (2) During critical periods, transmission line construction would cease in deer, Greater sage-grouse, and bald eagle habitat along the transmission lines. Table Lands-2 lists habitat areas and crucial periods. (3) Following the advice of a qualified wildlife biologist as designated by the appropriate federal official, roads, railroads, towers, and other ground-disturbing activities would be located 200

yards from identified active dens, burrows, nests, or roosting sites to protect the species listed below (CBGA RMP):

Species	Concern	Critical Periods
Deer	Crucial Deer Winter Range	Jan 1 – April 30
Utah Prairie Dog	Town Sites	Year-round
Sage-grouse	Strutting Grounds	Mar 15 – May 1
Bald and Golden Eagle	Winter Roost Sites	Feb 15 – June 30

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management

Recreation – Action 3

Develop an OHV Management Plan and designate public lands as depicted on Recreation Map 1 into the following OHV categories by 1987: Open, 1,023,700, and limited to existing roads and trails, 47,700, including 14,200 acres of crucial deer winter range in the Cedar Planning Unit (seasonal limitation between January 1 to April 30), 11,100 acres of crucial Greater sage-grouse strutting grounds (seasonal limitation between March 15-May 1), 4,400 acres of nesting and roosting sites for bald and golden eagles (seasonal limitation between February 15 and June 30), 3,900 acres of critical prairie dog habitat (yearlong limitation), and 14,100 acres of riparian habitat (yearlong limitation) (CBGA RMP)

HOUSE RANGE

Livestock Grazing

Range Management – Action 2

Livestock grazing will remain as an allowable use on approximately 2,197,937 acres (98 percent of the total Federal range) within the resource area. Federal ranges will be closed to grazing only under the authority of emergency conditions or land withdrawals.

Range Management – Action 29

Conduct vegetation treatment projects on 31 priority 1 allotments. The following lists those allotments where vegetation treatment will be done in present priority order:

Range Management – Action 30

Plan seeding mixtures to emphasize watershed stabilization, herbaceous cover, establishment of wildlife browse species, and improved livestock grazing forage.

Wildlife

Manage wildlife habitat to favor a diversity of game and non-game species. Continue to provide forage for current big game numbers and prior stable or long-term management goal numbers should populations increase and habitat improvements occur. Improve habitat in poor and fair condition on crucial and high priority habitat. Protect crucial and high priority habitat from encroachment by incompatible uses. Improve riparian and fisheries habitat currently in poor or fair condition. Protect all T&E and sensitive species habitats.

Overall goals and objectives for wildlife are prioritized in the following order:

- Big Game
- Habitat Management Plans (HMPs)
- T&E Species
- Riparian
- Fence Modification
- Guzzler Development
- Well Modifications

Recreation and Visitor Services

Recreation – Action 7 to 13

ORV designations will be the top priority for the HRRRA Recreation program. Specific actions, to be prepared in an implementation plan, are listed below in priority order.

Little Sahara Recreation Area and Vicinity

- a. ORV use in the Little Sahara Recreation Area would continue to be limited (i.e., restricting ORV use to roads and limiting speeds within campgrounds) on 2,782 acres and closed on 9,604 acres (Rockwell Natural Area).
- b. The remaining portions of Little Sahara Recreation Area and adjoining lands would be established as a competitive events area, subject to present management. Limitations on ORV use in these areas would be required during periods of livestock and wildlife use to protect rangeland, wildlife, and other values (i.e., adjust dates of events, locations, amount of use, etc.). Allotments affected would include Cherry Creek, Death Canyon, Desert Mountain, Maple Peak, Meadow Creek, Riverbed, Sheep, Sheeprock, Sugarville, and the portions of McIntyre and Shearing Allotments outside Little Sahara (415,630 acres). The locations and conditions of roads and trails would be inventoried and monitored.
- c. Three- and four-wheel All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use would be allowed only on sand dune terrain, existing roads, and specially designated trails.
 - 30,700-acres of the Deep Creek Mountains would be closed and 64,969-acres limited to existing roads and trails would continue.
 - ORV use on Swasey Mountain (34,500 acres) would be limited to existing roads, ways, and trails.
 - The sand dunes between the DMAD Reservoir/Oak City would be established as an ORV use area with special emphasis on ATVs.
 - ORV use at Yuba Dam (1,650 Acres) would be limited to existing roads and trails.

Lands and Realty

Lands – Action 1

Prior to any adjustment in land tenure on the 2,245,314 acres of public land in the HRRRA, conformance with the land use plan will be determined. Procedures to be followed will be as defined in the ELM Manual and regulations, in accordance with the type of land tenure adjustment.

Lands – Action 6 to 8

Section 503 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) states:

" . . . Utilization of rights-of-way in common shall be required to the extent practical . . ." The utilization of existing corridors, whether designated or not, will be standard procedure. Rights-of-way will be processed on a case-by-case basis, generally in the order received. Existing major rights-of-way are designated as corridors (see Table 2-4). New rights-of-way will be restricted.

Fluid Minerals

Minerals – Action 1

Offer over-the-counter leases on all areas with the fluid mineral leasing Categories 1, 2, & 3 except for Known Geologic Resource Areas (KGRAs). Map 8 shows locations of geothermal resources.

Minerals – Action 2

Offer by competitive sealed bids, all unleased, cancelled, expired, or otherwise terminated lease areas within KGRAs.

Minerals – Action 3

Lease, by non-competitive procedures, all areas within fluid mineral leasing Category 1, 2, and 3. In the event that oil or gas resources are discovered within the resource area, leases could be issued on a competitive basis within established Known Geologic Structures (KGSs) in accordance with the leasing category system set forth in the plan. Map 9 shows oil and gas categories and locatable minerals. The following special management areas are protected by oil and gas leasing categories:

Locatable Minerals

Minerals – Action 4

The following areas are or will be segregated from all mineral entry: (Table 2-7)

Mineral Materials

Minerals – Action 6

The entire resource area will be open to mineral disposal on a case-by-case basis except for those areas identified as oil and gas leasing Categories 3 & 4.

BOX ELDER

Lands and Realty

Lands Program Decision 1:

Retain a total of 1,003,221 acres of public land as defined by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 in Federal ownership. This land will be retained except for two specific kinds of actions: (1) exchanges and (2) conveyances under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926 as amended (43 USC. 869 et seq.). Proposals for land exchanges shall meet one or more of the following criteria with a higher priority given to those proposals with the greatest net gain in public values:

(1) Acquire areas that have common property lines, not corners, with existing public land, and that increase the efficiency of public land management. The cumulative total of adjoining public lands that would result after acquisition must be at least 1,920 acres.

(2) Acquire areas where there is a net gain of the following values:

- Riparian and aquatic habitat including springs, streams and marshes.
- Public lands within or adjacent to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Visual Resource Management Class II and III areas.

(3) Dispose of areas with serious unauthorized use and boundary dispute problems, if every reasonable attempt under existing law has been made to resolve the problem without a suitable solution and the lands are not needed for any important resource value.

Lands Program Decision 3:

The utilization of rights-of-way in common shall be considered whenever possible. Rights-of-way will, to the maximum extent possible, avoid the following areas:

(1) lands within 0.5 mile of sage-grouse strutting grounds if the disturbance would adversely impact the effectiveness of the lek.

(2) lands within 600 feet of riparian/aquatic habitats.

(3) lands within VRM Class II and III areas.

(4) lands where an above-ground right-of-way would be an obvious visual or physical intrusion such as ridge tops or narrow drainages.

(5) lands with slopes greater than 30 percent.

Exceptions may be permitted based on considerations of the following criteria:

- type and need for facility proposed and economic impact of facility,
- conflicts with other resource values and uses, and
- availability of alternative routes and/or mitigation measures.

Lands Program - Acquired Lands Amendment - Decision 1:

Allow additional disposals/exchanges if following criteria are met:

- (1) Land tenure adjustment (LTA) results in net gain of significant resource values such as important wildlife habitat. Including Threatened & Endangered species, cultural sites, riparian zones, live water, or would include a net gain of recreational opportunities;
- (2) LTA results in improved accessibility of public lands;
- (3) LTA improves manageability of public lands through consolidation of land ownership;
- (4) Disposal of public lands which have lost all significant public values due to on site or adjacent uses;
- (5) Lands acquired by exchanges, donation or other means, will be managed according to management objectives established for adjacent public lands
 - Eliminates configuration and maximum acreage requirements for exchanges.
 - All acquired lands available for exchange on a case by case basis if criteria are met.
 - Acquired lands within the Public Shooting Grounds Wildlife Management Area (WMA) are exchangeable only with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR).

Lands Program Decision 2

The following tracts of public land (see Table 1 and Figure 2) will be disposed: Tracts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 38, 41. They will be disposed of by any appropriate method under the law.

Tracts 5, 6, 7, 25 and 39 will be transferred to the adjoining Federal agency. If that agency indicates in writing that it does not wish to acquire the tract(s) or refuses to take the appropriate steps necessary to begin the acquisition of the tracts within 2 years of the agency being notified of the effective date of this plan, the tracts will be disposed of by any appropriate method under applicable laws.

Tracts 33, 34, 35 and 40 will be transferred to the adjoining Federal agency. If that agency indicates in writing that it does not wish to acquire the tract(s) or refuses to take the appropriate steps necessary to begin the acquisition of the tracts, they will be retained under BLM administration.

All of the above tracts total 8,572 acres.

Lands Program - Acquired Lands Amendment - Decision 2:

Dispose of an additional 5,615 acres. (Lucin, 494 acres and Roselle, 5,121 acres.)

These parcels are identified as suitable for disposal by any appropriate method under the law. See Appendix 2 for Description of these areas.

Lands Program Decision 4

Legal and physical access needs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the access to be obtained, the priority in meeting management objectives, and the availability of sufficient funding.

Lands Program - Acquired Lands Amendment - Decision 5:

Upon acquisition of private, state, or other federal lands, the BLM will manage the lands according to the following criteria;

(1) Forage resources will be utilized to resolve livestock/wildlife conflicts and to improve the condition of watershed and riparian areas. The goal would be to reach objectives for the area based on recommendations of an interdisciplinary team. Animal Unit Months (AUM's) for livestock use would be issued as temporary non-renewable AUM's and permitted at a stocking level, class of livestock, and season of use, that is consistent with other resource objectives for the area. Permanent preference AUM's may be authorized in allotments where monitoring studies show that resource objectives within the allotment are being achieved and the lands are in proper functioning condition.

(2) Land acquisitions within, adjacent or contiguous to the existing or proposed boundaries of an existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) or other special designation areas, which have similar values, will be managed according to the goals and objectives of the existing management plan for the area and have the same restrictions or limitations to the use of those lands as described in the respective plan. Land acquisitions which meet the criteria for designation as ACEC's will be designated as such and a plan developed to direct management of the lands.

(3) Future land acquisitions will be managed in accordance with the Box Elder RMP and subsequent amendments. Land acquisitions will be managed according to the oil and gas categories, land withdrawals, Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications, grazing season of use and class of livestock, OHV designations, and other authorized uses as described for the surrounding public lands as identified in the Box Elder RMP unless otherwise amended.

Fire and Fuels Management**Fire Management Program - Decision 1:**

A fire suppression plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team and will include the following:

(1) Full fire suppression will be implemented in areas:

- where wildfire may result in loss of life.
- where destruction of man-made facilities such as homes, hay yards and power substations could occur.
- where fire would damage important natural resource values, such as the salt desert shrub vegetative type.

(2) Limited suppression will be implemented in areas where:

- resource values may benefit or be increased by fire such as in the pinyon/juniper vegetative type.
- hazards to firefighters, including potential aircraft hazards, exist.
- terrain features cause extreme difficulty in fire suppression, leading to heavy damage of equipment.
- the cost of fire suppression exceeds the benefit.

(3) Prescribed fire will be implemented in areas where resource management objectives can be met by utilizing planned or unplanned ignitions. Within prescribed areas, both wildfires and prescribed fires must fall between predetermined parameters (prescription) including but not limited to weather conditions, fuel type and fire behavior. If these conditions are exceeded, appropriate suppression action will be taken.

(4) Areas of fire suppression responsibilities in Box Elder County will be negotiated among cooperating agencies in cooperative agreements.

Fire Management - Acquired Lands Amendment

Include acquired lands in existing fire suppression plan, in accordance with like area prescriptions (Continuation of existing decision).

Mineral Materials

Minerals Program Decision 1

Continue to process applications for the removal of common variety mineral materials including sand and gravel and leasable minerals other than fluid minerals on a case-by-case basis. Stipulations to protect important surface values will be required based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal.

Fluid Minerals – Unleased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate

Minerals Program Decision 3

Categorize the Federal mineral estate in Box Elder County for fluid mineral leasing in the least restrictive category which will adequately protect other resources and land uses, Lands would be placed in categories as follows (also see Figure 4):

Category 1: Open for leasing 800,732 acres

Category 2: Open with special stipulations 213,726 acres

In order to protect crucial sage-grouse breeding complexes, exploration, drilling and other development activity within 0.5 mile radius of the complexes will be allowed from June 16 to March 14 and not allowed from March 15 through June 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 23,680 acres.

If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer in consultation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Minerals Program - Acquired Lands Amendment - Decision 3

Establish fluid mineral leasing categories as follows:

(These acreages pertain to acquired lands only; existing acreages will be increased by these amounts) See Map I for locations.

Cl : Open; standard stipulations: 5,615 acres

* includes disposal lands

C2: Open w/special stipulations: 11,307 acres

*includes Keg Springs and Grouse Creek areas

In order to protect important wildlife species and habitat values from disturbance, seismic work, well development, rights-of-way, and other disturbance activities excluding maintenance activities would be restricted in the following areas and during the stated time periods.

(3) within 0.5 mile of sage-grouse strutting grounds (leks) between March 15 and June 15 each year or year-long if the disturbance would negatively impact the effectiveness of the lek.

Leased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate

Wildlife Decision 7

BLM will protect important wildlife habitat values from disturbing activities by restricting seismic work, well development, new road construction, rights-of-ways and other disturbing activities excluding maintenance activities in the following areas and during the stated time periods:

(1) within mule deer winter range between December 1 and April 15 each year;

(2) within 0.5 mile of active raptor nest sites between March 1 and July 15 each year;

(3) within 0.5 mile of sage-grouse strutting grounds (leks) between March 15 and June 15 each year or year-long if the disturbance would negatively impact the effectiveness of the lek for more than an off-seasonal basis.

(4) within 600 feet of riparian/aquatic habitats yearlong, if the proposed activity could significantly affect water quality or productivity of the riparian/aquatic zone.

Specific exceptions to the above stated restrictions may be granted by BLM if it can be shown that the proposed activity Will not seriously disturb the wildlife habitat values being protected.

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management

Recreation Program Decision I

Designate all public land in the planning area as open, limited, or closed to motorized vehicle use as follows (see Figure 8):

Open: 999,634 acres

Limited: 12,160 acres

Closed: 0 acres

Recreation Program - Acquired Lands Amendment Decision I

With the exception of land acquisitions which are within fenced areas, or can be managed as separate units, the lands would be placed in OHV classifications based on the classification of surrounding public lands as described within the Box Elder RMP. Exceptions to this would be in wetlands or riparian areas which would be placed within the "Limited" or "Closed" designations.

Open to OHV use: 28,758 acres

Open to existing roads/trails (R/T): 22,981 acres

*includes crucial deer winter range, crucial sage-grouse habitat, riparian areas, the 90 acres fenced in the Sander's exchange and non-wetlands within the CPR and UPR grades

Open to designated R/T: 40 acres

*includes Lahontan trout habitat

Closed to OHV use: 11,970 acres

*includes riparian or wetland areas of the railroad grades, Salt Wells WHA, and Blue Springs WHA. In these areas, use of OHV's would be through permission of the authorized BLM official.

**Closures do not include County Roads.

Refer to Map 2. (These designations apply only to the acquired lands)

The existing roads and trails are as shown by the National Aerial Photography Program (NAPP) black and white photographs of 1993. The referenced aerial photographs are on file at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.

The Donner/ Bettridge designated roads include the unimproved jeep trail which runs in an east/west direction bisecting the SW1/4SW1/4, Section 15, T. 4 N., R. 19 W., SLM.

Detailed OHV designations will be determined through completion of a BLM Activity Plan.

Livestock Grazing

Range Program Decision 4

Authorize the following initial forage use in the Box Elder Planning Area:

Cattle 29,850 AUMs

Sheep 15,539 AUMs

Domestic Horses 315 AUMs

The initial forage use is the current active preference level. Table 4 lists initial authorized use by allotment.

BLM will continue to monitor the allotments to assure that these levels are proper or determine if adjustments from active preference are needed.

On allotments with suspended non-use AUMs (i.e., active preference is below total preference), the suspended AUMs may be reinstated on a temporary, non-renewable basis to the level which current monitoring studies indicate. This temporary non-renewable reinstatement of suspended AUMs may be made permanent after being substantiated by a minimum of 5 years of monitoring data.

On Red Dome and Matlin Allotments, BLM will issue a temporary 60-percent increase in three increments of 20 percent: each. The increase would be in the form of temporary, nonrenewable AUMs and would be issued in the first, third, and fifth years of a 5-year period. If monitoring data support the increase, the increase would be made permanent.

On Peplin Allotment, BLM will grant a temporary, non-renewable increase of 10 percent (28 AUMs) in earlier livestock turn-out time or numbers of animals for 5 years. If 5 years of monitoring data support the increase, it may be made permanent.

After range improvements are accomplished, additional AUMs could be granted in some allotments. The AUMs would be granted on a temporary, non-renewable basis until monitoring data substantiate a permanent adjustment.

Range Program -Acquired Lands Amendment Decision 4:

Improve ecological condition while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.

Use interdisciplinary team to establish goals and objectives for acquired lands.

On the acquired lands, provide 1,124 temporary non-renewable animal unit months (TNR AUM's) consistent with other resource objectives for the area.

Cattle 881 TNR AUM's

Sheep 243 TNR AUM's

Domestic horses 0

Total 1,124 TNR AUM's

Allotments will be monitored so that proper stocking levels can be established, and may be modified from that listed above. Specific rangeland improvement projects will be determined through the development of specific management plans for each area. See Appendix 3 for listing of allotments and forage allocations for livestock.

Continue grazing in Blue Springs and East CPR grade on lands within the Connor Allotment (excluding riparian exclosures)

If grazing permits are relinquished with the Salt Wells WHA, Blue Springs WHA, or the wetland areas of the lands associated with the eastern and western portions of the CRP/UPR grades, then these areas would be closed to grazing to protect the wetland values. Grazing would then only be authorized if the grazing could be used to achieve management objectives.

Range Program Decision 5

Maintain the current livestock seasons-of use on 33 allotments. Change the current seasons-of-use on 25 allotments to better meet the requirements of key species. Table 5 shows the season-of use for all allotments in the planning area.

Range Program Decision 6

Physical access will be constructed, subject to available funds, on public lands within the following legal descriptions (also see Figure 4):

Description	Miles
1. T. 11N., R.13W. Sections 6, 7, 18:	3 miles
2. T. 11N., R.13W. Sections 14, 15, 16:	3 miles
3. T. 11N., R.13W. Section 1	
T.11N., R.12W. Section 6	
T.12N., R.12W. Sections 31, 32, 33, 34:	2 miles

Wildlife

Wildlife Program Decision 7

BLM will protect important wildlife habitat values from disturbing activities by restricting seismic work, well development, new road construction, rights-of-ways and other disturbing activities excluding maintenance activities in the following areas and during the stated time periods:

- (1) within mule deer winter range between December 1 and April 15 each year;
- (2) within 0.5 mile of active raptor nest sites between March 1 and July 15 each year;
- (3) within 0.5 mile of sage-grouse strutting grounds (leks) between March 1's and June 15 each year or year-long if the disturbance would negatively impact the effectiveness of the lek for more than an off-seasonal basis.

(4) within 600 feet of riparian/aquatic habitats yearlong, if the proposed activity could significantly affect water quality or productivity of the riparian/aquatic zone.

Specific exceptions to the above stated restrictions may be granted by BLM if it can be shown that the proposed activity Will not seriously disturb the wildlife habitat values being protected.

Recreation and Visitor Services

PONY EXPRESS

Lands and Realty

Lands Program – Decision 1

A total of 47 tracts totaling 8,924 acres, would be available for disposal. These are listed in Table 1 and 2 and shown in Figure 1. All parcels would be managed for disposal under all available authorities except tracts 13, 69, and 70, which would not be available for Section 203 sales.

Fourteen parcels would be available for disposal subject to certain restrictions on persons or purposes under which a disposal would occur. Table 3 identifies these parcels and applicable limitations.

Lands Program – Decision 2

The remaining public lands (1,581,962 acres) in the Pony Express Resource Area (including revoked withdrawals returned to BLM administration) are available for exchange.

In order to be considered, exchanges of public land in the Pony Express Resource Area must accomplish one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Increase public ownership within those areas of public land which are not available for disposal or any other transfer from Federal ownership and BLM management (see Table 4 and Figure 2).
- (2) Result in a net gain of significant resource values on public land such as important wildlife habitat, cultural sites, riparian zones, live water, and threatened and endangered species.
- (3) Improve the accessibility of the public lands.
- (4) Contribute toward more efficient management of public lands through consolidation of ownership.
- (5) Remove from Federal ownership public lands which have lost all significant public values due to on-site or adjacent uses.

Land exchanges will continue to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Resource values may be incorporated into the fair market value of the land.

Lands Program – Decision 4

Military exercises are discouraged because they tend to preclude multiple use activities and public access. Military activities that result in significant, adverse, long-term impacts or public safety hazards would not be allowed.

BLM will continue to approve military requests for casual use for which no formal authorization is required. Examples of these types of requests are temporary placement of communication equipment along existing roads, search and rescue training involving helicopters and foot patrols, and temporary observation posts.

BLM will continue to consider requests for long-term military uses involving construction or development of facilities. These uses are appropriately authorized under 43 CFR 2500 and include radar or microwave communications sites, and linear facilities, such as roads, power lines, and communication lines.

For requests made by the Utah' National Guard, BLM can issue a permit under 43 CFR 2920. For uses such as a bivouac of troops and off-road travel, requests would be considered through the environmental assessment process to determine the significance of impacts. Public land will not be made available for inappropriate uses such as storage or use of hazardous materials (munitions, fuel, chemicals, etc.) and live artillery firing.

Locatable Minerals**Mineral Materials****Minerals Program – Decision 1**

BLM will continue to process applications for the removal of common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, on a case-by-case basis as regulated under 43 CFR 3600. Stipulations to protect surface values will be required based on review of each proposal.

Fluid Minerals – Unleased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate**Minerals Program – Decision 2**

Categorize the Federal mineral estate in the Pony Express Resource Area for fluid mineral leasing as follows:

	Acres:
Category 1 (open)	1,750.735
Category 2 (open with special stipulations)	245.857
Category 3 (no surface occupancy)	77,003
Category 4 (closed)	0

Table 5 describes the areas and/or resources included in the fluid mineral leasing categories. These areas are shown in Figure 5.

The following special stipulations used in Category 2 areas are in addition to the lease terms and standard stipulations, and are necessary to protect specific resource values on the lease area:

(3) In order to protect crucial sage-grouse breeding complexes, exploration, drilling and other development activity within 0.5 mile radius of the complexes will be allowed from June 16 to March 14 and not allowed from March 15 through June 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 16,900 acres.

Specific exceptions may be granted by the BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb wildlife habitat values being protected. This determination will be made by a BLM wildlife biologist in coordination with the UDWR and, if appropriate, the USFWS. Such a determination may result if the sage-grouse complex has remained inactive over a period of years and it is determined by the BLM and DWR that the population no longer used the complex and no longer requires protection from disturbing activities for fluid mineral leasing and exploration.

Wildlife

Wildlife and Fisheries Program Decision 4

BLM will protect important wildlife habitat values from disturbing activities by restricting seismic work, well development, new road construction, rights-of-way, organized recreational activities, military exercises, and other disturbing activities excluding maintenance activities in the following areas during the stated time periods:

(3) within 0.5 mile of sage-grouse strutting grounds (leks) and crucial sage-grouse nesting habitat between March 15 and June 15 each year and within winter crucial habitat areas December 1 through March 1.

(4) within 1200 feet of riparian habitats.

Specific exceptions may be granted by BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb the wildlife habitat values being protected.

Wildlife and Fisheries Program Decision 5

BLM will improve crucial habitats of present wildlife populations where condition and trend indicate a decline of desirable plant communities. An appropriate wildlife habitat study will be conducted to determine the condition of these areas. This information will help guide BLM in planning improvement projects. Some of the crucial habitats that warrant further study include:

(3) sage-grouse crucial strutting and associated nesting habitat,

(4) sage-grouse crucial winter range,

On these ranges, grazing use will be reviewed for opportunities to reduce conflicts between livestock and wildlife, e.g., domestic and bighorn sheep would be incompatible as disease transmission potential is high. Change of livestock kind could help improve riparian areas when coupled with other measures.

Vegetation treatments such as burning, chaining, reseeding and all other manipulations within crucial ranges of wildlife species will be designed to maintain habitat for those wildlife species most threatened by the practice.

Wildlife and Fisheries Program Decision 10

BLM will continue, to encourage UDWR's proposed reintroduction/transplants of upland game birds (chukar partridge, sage-grouse, sharptailed grouse, ring-necked pheasants, etc.) onto suitable habitat within the Resource Area. Specifics for implementing any such proposed reintroduction/transplants shall be developed in the HMP for the habitat area.

Wildlife and Fisheries Program Decision 12

Rangeland watering facilities will allow for wildlife use. When practical, overflow ponds at water developments will be at least 100 yards from livestock watering sources to allow for a cleaner water source for wildlife. Location of future water developments should minimize conflicts between livestock and wildlife.

All livestock fencing projects will allow for movement of wildlife. Design and specifications will be dictated by terrain, kind of livestock and affected wildlife species.

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management**Transportation and Utility Corridors Decision 1**

Future proposals for major rights-of-way such as pipelines, large power lines and permanent improved roads must utilize identified corridors as shown in Figure 10. Otherwise, a planning amendment and appropriate environmental analysis will be required. Proposals that are not considered major may be sited outside corridors after demonstrating that locating within a corridor is not viable. In all cases, the utilization of rights-of-way in common shall be considered whenever possible. Rights-of-way, whether within or outside a corridor, will avoid the following areas to the maximum extent possible:

- (1) lands within 0.5 mile of sage-grouse strutting grounds if the disturbance would adversely impact the effectiveness of the lek.
- (2) lands within 1200 feet of riparian/aquatic habitats.

Exceptions may be permitted based on consideration of the following criteria:

type and need for facility proposed and economic impact of facility,

conflicts with other resource values and uses, and

availability of alternative routes and/or mitigation measures.

Recreation and Visitor Services**Recreation Program Decision 2**

Designate all public land in the Resource Area as either open, closed, or limited for off-road vehicle use as follows:

Open to ORV use: 1,649,267

Limited for ORV use: 363,439

Closed to ORV use: 0

Also see Table 8 and Figure 7 for specific resource values and areas designated.

Wild Horses and Burros

Wild Horse Program Decision 1

BLM will continue to manage the herd size of the Cedar Mountain Wild Horse Unit at 85 animals (1,020 AUMs) and the Onaqui Mountain Unit at 45 animals (540 AUMs).

Soil and Water

Soil, Water and Air Program Decision 5

BLM will manage riparian areas, wetlands, and other water sources for multiple use purposes such as wildlife, range, watershed and recreation. These areas will be managed to meet the following objectives:

- Each area will be identified and classified for present condition.
- Management intensity levels will be determined and objectives developed for each area based on desired condition.
- The areas will be prioritized for funding and preparation of activity plans. These could include watershed, allotment, habitat and multiple resource management plans.

Seek cooperative efforts with adjoining landowners and other resource management agencies.

Livestock Grazing

Range Program Decision 1

Total forage use by grazing users on public land in Tooele County will continue to be:

Cattle	39,173 AUMs
Sheep	67,001 AUMs
Domestic Horses	125 AUMS
Wild Horses	1,560 AUMs

Range Program Decision 4

BLM will authorize livestock forage use as shown in Table 7 on six allotments in Utah county. Grazing permits on six small, isolated allotments with minimal or no actual livestock use will be cancelled. These allotments are Iso-tract Cook, Iso-tract Ludlow, Iso-tract Willis, Cherry Creek, Scofield, and Genola Hill. Mule deer and elk use will continue at current levels as determined by BLM and UDWR. No seasons-of-use for livestock will be changed. Total forage distribution on public land in Utah County would be as follows:

Cattle	495 AUMs
Sheep	1,820 AUMs

Fire and Fuels Management

Fire Management Program Decision I

All wildfires on public land will receive some level of suppression. The authorized officer has the responsibility to determine the intensity of the suppression effort to meet the overall protection objective to put the fire out with minimum suppression cost and minimal losses, consistent with management objectives.

All facilities, structures or developments that are susceptible to fire damage will receive intensive suppression. The primary objective with this level of suppression is to prevent loss of life, property, or unacceptable resource damage. All other public lands in the Resource Area will be considered conditional suppression. On these lands the intensity of suppression actions is not fixed and will vary with the conditions occurring at the time of start. These conditional suppression areas will be managed on a least cost plus resource loss basis. In these areas, the full spectrum of intensities is to be considered and the determination on which intensity level to initiate suppression is based on the conditions at the time.

Objectives for fire management are planned results which can more than likely be attained and are categorized by vegetation type. Many factors influence these objectives including vegetation (fuel) type, rate of spread, travel distance involved with initial attack, historic fire occurrence, fire weather, and availability of fire suppression resources to name just a few. There are other opportunities to lessen the acres burned, but budget restraints have limited their implementation. They include green stripping, black lining, additional engines at all field stations, and the construction of an additional field station in southern Skull Valley. BLM will prepare vegetation modification plans for Skull Valley and Puddle Valley to reduce wildfire and attempt to stop or reverse the cheatgrass conversion cycle.

BLM can, however, expect some fire occurrence in the Resource Area and, due to current field station location and mix of equipment, anticipate some loss of vegetation. If the acres identified in the objectives are exceeded and resource damage occurs, the above mentioned methods to lessen acres burned may be implemented.

The following objectives are tied to vegetation types per fire occurrence and are common for all periods of the year:

- (1) In the desert shrub/saltbush vegetation type confine fires to 100 acres.
- (2) In the sagebrush/perennial grass vegetation type, including areas of juniper invasion, confine fires to 300 acres.
- (3) In the juniper vegetation type, confine fires to 200 acres.
- (4) In the annual vegetation type, confine fires to 300 acres.

(5) Under burning conditions which would threaten to sterilize soil, confine all fires in all vegetation types to 50 acres.

(6) Where T&E plants are present, design wildfire control measures to protect the species.

Five additional vegetation types are not covered by these objectives. Fire occurrence within these types has been minimal and should be evaluated on an individual basis by the resource advisor. Objective 5 would still apply to these vegetation types*

Prescribed fire will be used as a resource management tool. Figure 11 indicates the fire management and use areas in Tooele County. Prescribed burns within the areas will be used to alter vegetation for the benefit of watershed, livestock grazing and/or wildlife habitat. The areas selected for prescribed burning will have the potential for natural revegetation.

RANDOLPH

Lands and Realty

Range Management Decision 3.4

Dispose of 2,625 acres of public land to facilitate grazing management and administration as specified below. Priority for disposal of this land will be (1) state or private exchange under the provisions of Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 public sale under the provisions of Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

1. Dispose of 867 acres outside of existing grazing allotments according to the following priority: (Refer to Decisions WL-1.6 & L-10.1)
2. Dispose of 637 acres in or near the Middle Ridge, Sessions and Big Creek Grazing Allotments (Refer to Decision L-10.1)
3. Dispose of all Public Land in the Middle Ridge Grazing Allotment (Refer to Decision L-10.1 Restrictions on disposals will be the same as in that decision).

Exchange is the preferred method for disposal of these lands unless otherwise indicated. Exchange of lands-with the State of Utah or private parties will generally result in no loss of Public Land in the county and will allow both BLM and the other party to the exchange to block their land ownership for better management. Should the BLM receive no viable exchange offers, the lands identified in this decision will, as a final resort, be sold at a public sale to the highest bidder.

Non-Energy Leasable Minerals

Minerals M-1.3

Issue prospecting permits and lease applications for phosphate in all of Rich County subject to site specific stipulations. Do not issue prospecting permits and leases in the Laketown Canyon ACEC.

Locatable Minerals

Minerals M-1.1

All of the Federal mineral estate administered by the BLM in Rich County currently open to mineral prospecting, location and development under the 1872 Mining Law will remain open for the present. Existing exclusions of mining on Federal mineral estate under the 1872 law will be reviewed over the next few years to determine if they are still proper.

Mineral Materials

Minerals M-1.2

All possible Federal mineral estate in Rich County will be open to oil and gas leasing and re-leasing subject to the standard lease provisions and the below listed special stipulations:

8. In order to protect sage-grouse strutting grounds, exploration, drilling, and other developmental activity will not be allowed between April 1 and June 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Exceptions to this limitation in any year may be specifically authorized in writing by the District Engineer, U. S. Geological Survey with the occurrence of the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management. (Refer to Decision Wildlife 2.2).

Minerals M-1.4

Convert all existing material sites used by the Rich County Road Department into Free Use Permits during FY-80, and coordinate with the Rich County Commissioners and Maintenance Supervisor to determine which gravel pits are actively being mined and which ones are needed on a long-term basis.

Leased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate

Wildlife WL 2.2

Protect important wildlife habitat values on Public Lands as follows:

2. Protect sage-grouse strutting grounds from surface disturbing activities between April 1 and June 15 each year.

3. Restrict seismic work, well development, new road construction and other surface disturbing activities within 600 feet on either side of riparian zones if that activity could significantly affect water quality and productivity of riparian habitats.

Bear River East Amendment Oil & Gas Leasing (Special Stipulations)

In order to protect important seasonal wildlife habitat, exploration, drilling and other development activity will be allowed only during the period from April 16 to November 30. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Exceptions to this limitation in any year may be specifically approved in writing by the authorized office of the BLM.

Bear River East Amendment Oil & Gas Leasing (Special Stipulations)

In order to protect important sage-grouse breeding and nesting habitat, exploration, drilling and other development activity within two miles of any strutting ground will be allowed only during the period from June 16 to February 28. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. There are no exceptions to this stipulation.

Bear River East Amendment Oil & Gas Leasing (Special Stipulations)

In order to protect important sage-grouse winter habitat, exploration, drilling and other development activity will be allowed only during the period from March 1 to November 30. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Exceptions to this limitation in any year may be specifically approved in writing by the authorized office of the BLM.

Livestock Grazing***Range Management RM 1.1***

Graze all areas in Rich County suitable for livestock grazing. Carrying capacities for each allotment will be based upon the forage production on suitable acreage in each allotment.

Range Management RM 1.2

Make adjustments in stocking rates and season of use and conduct range management activities in accordance with the decisions for each allotment as shown in the attached decision documents.

*Appendix B contains Decision Documents for every allotment within the Randolph MFP.

Range Management RM 1.3

Changes in class of livestock from cattle to sheep will be allowed and are encouraged in areas where sheep forage is available and other resource values are compatible with the change. Changes from sheep to cattle can only be allowed where the present range survey shows that cattle forage is available and all suspended non-use has been restored to cattle operators within the allotment. Conversion from horses to cattle will also be allowed and is encouraged. A conversion rate of one (1) horse animal unit for one and one-half (1½) cow animal units will be used.

These decisions concerning change of class of livestock on public lands will also apply to grazing exchange of use agreements for private lands within an allotment.

Range Management RM 2.1

Allotment Management Plans (AMP's) will be developed and implemented on allotments wherein approximately 2/3 or more of the permittees agree voluntarily to the AMP. Priority for development of AMPS will be as follows:

I. Eleven allotments which do not now have any type of grazing system: Bear Lake, Rabbit Creek, Dry Basin, Duck Creek, Laketown Canyon, Sage Creek, Kearl, New Canyon, Big Creek, Eastman and Stuart.

2. Do not develop AMPS on two allotments - South- Woodruff and Deseret until such time as the Public Lands within those allotments can be consolidated into manageable blocks by exchange. AMPS should be encouraged once this process is completed.

3. Do not develop AMPS on two allotments - Middle Ridge and Sessions. Continue custodial management of these allotments until such time as the Public Lands therein can be disposed of by exchange or public sale for management by the private sector.

Implementation of AMPS will be as funds and manpower permit. AMPS will be developed with multiple use objectives. The development of grazing systems will consider and provide for wildlife, watershed, recreation and other resource needs as well as the needs of the livestock and the individual permittees within an allotment. A priority in AMP development will be to meet the permittees' need for early feed while also meeting the multiple use objectives established in the AMP. AMPS will be designed for individual allotments dependent upon on-the-ground conditions in each allotment. Key species, season of use, utilization levels and the grazing system will be determined on a case-by-case basis. AMPS will be developed in cooperation with the permittees, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the U. S. Forest Service Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Utah State University Extension Service, Salt Lake District – BLM Grazing Advisory Board, and Multiple Use Advisory Council and other agencies and groups as appropriate.

Additional AUMs of forage produced by the implementation of AMP grazing systems will be allocated to permittees only after the forage becomes available and a decision has been made allocating forage between competing uses in a formal Management Framework Plan Amendment. Where applicable, increases will be allocated to the permittees responsible for the increased production.

If at least 2/3 of the permittees in an allotment do not voluntarily agree to an AMP, it may be necessary to take some other actions to improve and maintain the vegetation, soil and water resources within the allotment on a sustain yield basis. Such actions will be based upon the results of future utilization and trend studies and will include implementation of grazing systems by decision and further reductions in season and numbers as appropriate.

Range Management RM 2.2

1. Evaluate the only operating AMP, Woodruff Pastures Allotment, as to whether it is meeting the objective of maintaining and improving the vegetation, soil and water resources on a sustained yield basis while allowing maximum possible livestock use. If it is found that this AMP is not meeting these objectives it should be altered according to the standards for AMPS as contained in RM-2.1.

2. Evaluate the effectiveness of existing grazing systems in the Twin Peaks, East Woodruff, and Meachum Canyon Allotments to see if they are meeting range management objectives. If the existing systems are adequately meeting the objectives, they will be incorporated into formal AMPS as in RM-2.1. If they are not effective, new grazing systems will be developed through the AMP process as outlined in RM-2.1.

Range Management RM 2.3

Increase the amount of desirable vegetation by removing undesirable species through land treatment practices, and make available for grazing use by wildlife or livestock additional Animal Unit Months -AUMS) of forage created by these treatments.

Range improvement, including land treatment, will be planned in Allotment Management Plans (AMPS), and budgeted as part of each year's Annual Work Plan (AWP). Priority for funding of land treatment will be:

1. Where a completed, signed, and fully accepted AMP exists on an allotment.
2. To provide early feed or solve other management problems.
3. On the most productive sites so the greatest benefit can be derived from the investment.
4. To restore suspended non-use.

Prior to initiating any land treatment the following will be agreed upon by the permittees:

1. Rest on seedings will be one full year and an additional growing season. Rest on spraying areas will be for a full year and an additional growing season, however, exceptions may be made where conditions are acceptable as approved by the District Manager. Grazing use within an allotment during treatment rest periods will be adjusted to, the carrying-capacity for those portions of the allotment not being rested. This could result in some reductions in season of use and/or numbers during the rest period.
2. Cooperative agreements will set out maintenance responsibility in accordance with district policy and will be entered into before the project is programmed beginning in FY 1981

Specific criteria for selection of treatment areas and design and implementation of treatments will include:

1. Juniper stands will be left intact to provide cover for doe.
2. Comply with sage-grouse guidelines with the reasonable flexibility that is provided for in these guidelines.
3. Chemical spraying will conform to project design specifications as stated in the Randolph Grazing ES, however, deviations may be made on a case-by-case basis where additional environmental analysis indicates that impacts will not be significantly greater than stated for the proposal in the ES.
4. Consider wildlife food and cover requirements in the planning and design of all treatments. Insure that desirable forage species for wildlife are included in re-seeding where reasonably possible. Range management objectives should include maintaining or improving these species in the composition.

5. The completed Soil Conservation Service (SCS) soil survey will be considered in project design to determine sites with the best chance of success and the greatest long term productivity.
6. Roads will not be constructed to project areas. Exceptions may be approved by the District Manager.
7. Fence lines will not be cleared, with exceptions approved by the District Manager.
8. Water sources will be fenced.
9. Areas disturbed in water developments and other surface disturbance areas will be recontoured and seeded.
10. Project requirements and specifications as set out on pages I-25 and A8 - 1 and 2 of the Randolph ES will be followed except in cases where additional environmental analysis shows that deviation will result in less impact.

These are the minimum standards, and exact design specifications for projects will be determined for each project on a case by case basis.

The overall objective of treatment design will be to create a mosaic effect which will provide a diversity in vegetative types.

Ultimate target compositions for projects in deer winter areas will be:

30-40% Shrubs

10% Forbs

50-60% Grass

Target composition in deer summer range will be:

20-30% Shrubs

10% Forbs

60-70X Grass

Future allocations will not be made until forage actually exists on the ground. When forage has been determined to be available, it will be allocated on a non-renewable basis. Only when range utilization, actual use and trend studies show forage production can be permanently sustained, will a permanent allocation be made.

The allocation between livestock and wildlife will be made when the forage is actually available based on the most realistic demand figures that exist at that time. Wildlife population demand will be consistent with the carrying capacity of private as well as Public Lands.

Range Management RM 3.3

Maintain or insure access on all existing roads crossing Public Land in Rich County to facilitate movement of livestock and maintenance of range improvements and other facilities in accordance with the access policy as stated in Decision Support 2.1. Maintain and/or reconstruct BLM roads as necessary to permit passage by vehicles and in such a manner as to reduce sedimentation and other environmental problems caused by those roads to an acceptable level.

Range Management RM 3.4

Dispose of 2,625 acres of public land to facilitate grazing management and administration as specified below. Priority for disposal of this land will be (1) state or private exchange under the provisions of Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 or (2) public sale under the provisions of Section 203 of the Federal Land

Policy and Management Act.

1. Dispose of 867 acres outside of existing grazing allotments in T. 13 N., R. 6 E.; T. 13 N., R. 7 E.; and T. 14 N., R. 6 E., SLM according to the following priority: (Refer to Decisions WL-1.6 & L-10.1)
2. Dispose of 637 acres in or near the Middle Ridge, Sessions and Big Creek Grazing Allotments in T. 8 N., R. 5 E.; T. 8 N., R. 8 E.; and T. 9 N., R. 5 E., SLM. (Refer to Decision L-10.1)
3. Dispose of all Public Land in the Middle Ridge Grazing Allotment - T. 9 N., Rs. 5 & 6 E., SLM. (Refer to Decision L-10.1 Restrictions on disposals will be the same as in that decision).

Exchange is the preferred method for disposal of these lands unless otherwise indicated. Exchange of lands-with the State of Utah or private parties will generally result in no loss of Public Land in the county and will allow both BLM and the other party to the exchange to block their land ownership for better management. Should the BLM receive no viable exchange offers, the lands identified in this decision will, as a final resort, be sold at a public sale to the highest bidder.

Range Management RM 3.5

Eliminate the "drift" in the Laketown, Big Creek, New Canyon, Duck Creek and Sage Creek Grazing Allotments. In place of this trailing permitted livestock will be licensed at the full number for the full season of use for these allotments is specified in RM 1.2.

Range Management RM 3.6

Adjust existing and future Exchange-of-Use grazing agreements to grazing capacity, concurrent with adjustments in grazing preference, so that the grazing capacity corresponds with the range survey capacity for the land in Exchange-of-Use. Season of use must correspond with the season of use established in the grazing permit for the allotment.

Range Management RM 3.9

Grazing administration including use supervision, trespass control, and monitoring utilization and trend studies will receive top priority for funding within the Range Management program. If full

funding is not available for these activities, funds will be diverted from other range activities, e.g., SVIM inventory, etc.

Wildlife

Wildlife WL 1.1

Improve quality of aquatic-riparian stream habitat on 20.0 miles of Public Land. Accomplish this goal over the short term by fencing 7.4 miles of stream riparian zone to exclude livestock on Laketown Creek, Spring Creek, Big Creek, Randolph Creek and the Middle Fork of Otter Creek. Specific water actions are categorized and listed below:

-Exclude Livestock Grazing-

1. Laketown Creek will be fenced across both sides of the bottom of the canyon. Fence design is to be of a "let-down" type to accommodate wildlife movements. The "V" fence will prevent cattle access to the Laketown Creek riparian zone in the Laketown Allotment because of the extremely steep canyon sides (see overlay M3-WL-1). Stream excluded to cows = 1.7 miles.

2. Spring Creek will be fenced for the entire length of publicly owned land (see overlay M3-WL-1). Stream excluded to livestock = 0.75.miles.

3. Big Creek will be fenced for the entire length of publicly owned land located on Big Creek above the existing enclosure and road crossing (see overlay M3-WL-1). Stream excluded to livestock 0.75 miles.

Randolph Creek will be fenced on all three sections of Public Land (13, 14 and 18), and adequate distance will be left to ensure cattle watering access on-Public Lands (see overlay M3-WL-1). Stream excluded to livestock 2.9 miles.

Middle Fork Otter Creek will be fenced in two sections (3 and 4) on Public Land. On the upper portion fencing will be installed in a triangular shape to produce a mini-watershed for hydrologic investigation of water requirements of rejuvenating vegetation (see overlay M3-WL-1). Stream excluded to livestock = 1.3 miles.

-Spring Fencing-

North Fork Otter Creek will be fenced at three spring sources. Progressing from higher to lower in the watershed, springs located in Sections 2, 1 and 33 will be fenced with forest poles (see overlay M3-WL-1).

-Cattle Trespass-

The Salt Lake District fence maintenance policy shall be strictly enforced in the Laketown Creek area. Both Twin Peaks and Laketown Allotments shall be closely monitored to prevent any trespass cattle from damaging the riparian zone, Close adherence to the RM-3.1 decision is imperative.

-Further Study-

Further study will be conducted on the following streams: North Fork of Otter Creek (the uppermost meadow), North Fork of Otter Creek (the lowest spring to be considered for possible reservoir

development), lower Laketown Creek, Little Creek, South Branch of the Middle Fork of Otter Creek, and the South Fork of Otter Creek. This constitutes an additional 4.8 stream miles which may have potential for fisheries development. Various supplementary riparian portions will be investigated to obtain use either by cooperative agreement, purchase or land exchange. These include spring sources for Laketown Creek, Spring Creek, and other areas such as Randolph Creek which would produce larger contiguous stream mileage.

-Improvement of Remaining Aquatic-Riparian Areas-

Improvement of other areas to be accomplished by designing livestock management systems which rotate, defer, or limit livestock access to riparian zones during the critical period of May 1 to August 30, and by non-riparian location of range improvements to draw livestock away from stream bottoms.

Wildlife WL 1.2

Improve habitat quality for wildlife on 12,704 acres of crested wheatgrass stands in the planning unit by using livestock as the principal management tool. Grazing management will be aimed at grazing these

seedings in a manner which will stimulate natural plant succession towards a mix of desired shrub-and forb species. Those seedings located in critical deer winter range will be managed to obtain a composition of 30 to 40 percent shrubs, 10 percent forbs, and 50 to 60 percent grass. Seasonal deer ranges containing crested wheatgrass seedings will be managed to obtain 20-30 percent shrubs, 10 percent forbs, and 60-70 percent grasses.

Interseeding may be used to obtain the needed mix of preferred species. These seedings will be initiated on an experimental basis to determine costs, and success rate of various plant species. The priority areas for any project which involves experimental interseeding will be Dry Basin and Longhill Pastures, located in the Woodruff Pastures Allotment.

Wildlife WL 1.3

Use prescribed fire as a habitat management tool to produce optimum benefits for wildlife. The use of fire will be coordinated with all other resource activities in order to minimize disruption of ongoing or planned activities.

Wildlife WL 1.4

Thin sagebrush stands and seed with a mix of grasses, forbs, and browse in order to enhance habitat quality for deer, antelope, elk, sage-grouse, and a variety of nongame species, Treatments will be located in priority areas outlined in decision Range Management 2.3. These will be as follows:

- 1) Allotments with signed allotment management plans.
- 2) Allotments where forage for wildlife and livestock is either lacking, in short supply, or is of poor quality to meet present demands.
- 3) Only those range sites with the greatest potential for maximum productivity and diversity will be treated.

In addition, treatments will be designed to meet wildlife habitat requirements on critical and seasonal deer ranges and important sage-grouse habitat. The ultimate composition over breed areas will be 30-40 percent shrubs, 10 percent forbs, and 50-60 percent grasses on critical deer ranges, and 20-30 percent shrubs, 10 percent forbs, and 60-70 percent grasses on seasonal deer ranges. Any projects will be coordinated with other resource activities to minimize conflicts and impacts.

The wildlife program will initiate the sage-grouse monitoring study to identify important sage-grouse habitats. All wildlife initiated projects will be coordinated in order to minimize conflict between resources.

The wildlife program will identify and provide plant species to be included in seeding projects initiated by other programs. Only plant species adapted to a specific range site will be used in treatment projects.

Wildlife WL 1.5

Provide water for wildlife at all wells, developed springs, catchments, and along pipelines during the period May 1-to October 1, or year-round where practical. In addition, improve water quality and enhance wildlife food and cover around all existing springs on Public Land by constructing exclosures sufficient in size to protect the spring source and associated vegetation. The spring protection devices will be constructed so no loss of livestock water is incurred.

Wildlife WL 1.7

Construct diagonal fence exclosures at selected corners away from gates or watering facilities within all grazing allotments in the planning unit. Each exclosure will be constructed so as not to exceed one acre in size - total area enclosed will be about ten acres in thirty separate pastures.

Wildlife WL 2.2

Protect important wildlife habitat values on Public Lands as follows:

1. Restrict seismic work, well development, new road development and other surface disturbing activities in mule deer winter ranges between November 15 and April 30 unless specifically authorized by BLM.
2. Protect sage-grouse strutting grounds from surface disturbing activities between April 1 and June 15 each year.

3. Restrict seismic work, well development, new road construction and other surface disturbing activities within 600 feet on either side of riparian zones if that activity could significantly affect water quality and productivity of riparian habitats.

Recreation and Visitor Services

Recreation R 1.4

Enhance recreation use and enjoyment of Public Lands within Rich County by obtaining legal public access into those specific areas identified through activity and site planning for the various resource activities. Legal public access to Public Land will only be obtained in accordance with the access policy stated in Support Decision 2.1 (listed on this table)

Legal public access to Public Land in Rich County will be identified by the installation of roadside directional signs and will be described in a recreational interpretive guide brochure to be completed for Rich County.

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management

Designate Public Lands as "open" to all vehicle use, or "closed" to all vehicle use, or "limited" to certain roads, trails, season of use, types of vehicles, etc. as outlined in the Draft Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan for the Randolph Planning Unit.

Support SU 2.1

The policy for legal access to Public Land in Rich County is as follows:

1. Resource activity planning will be the primary tool used to identify legal access needs for Public Land. This activity planning will identify important areas where legal access is in the public interest and necessary for resource management. Certain areas where access is not desirable or certain roads which should be closed for resource protection may also be identified through this process.

2. "Legal Public Access" will only be obtained where there is a sufficiently large block of Public Land to insure that said public access is clearly in the public interest and will not unnecessarily jeopardize the interests of adjacent land owners. Exchange of land

(refer to Decision Lands 12.1) will be an important tool used to consolidate Public Land into manageable blocks thereby solving many access problems due to intermingled land ownership.

3. A lesser form of legal access, e.g. administrative access, non-exclusive access, etc., will be obtained into areas where the federal government is a minority land owner. This would include access to isolated parcels of Public Land and Public Land in checker board ownership with adjacent state and private lands.

4. "Legal Public Access" will not be obtained to Neponset Reservoir under any circumstances. Legal access to this area will be limited to access for administrative purposes only; (Refer to Decision Wildlife 3.2).

Develop and implement a transportation management plan that will:

1. Incorporate the road inventory information as developed in the Randolph URA.
2. Provide a priority acquisition schedule for important areas of the Public Lands as identified in activity plans for each resource activity consistent with the access policy as stated above in this decision.
3. Specify the maximum type legal access to be obtained for each area identified in the preceding item.
4. Provide a road maintenance program to meet resource, administrative and other needs. This maintenance program will incorporate cooperative agreements with other federal agencies and Rich County to insure the most efficient, cost effective use of manpower and equipment.
5. Identify and provide for correction of all safety hazards on BLM roads, including the placement of necessary warning, directional and regulatory signs, to insure public safety and resource protection.

PARK CITY AND ISOLATED TRACTS

Locatable Minerals

The unit will remain open to location under the General Mining Laws (Park City).

GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Lands and Realty

Habitat Restoration/Vegetation Management

REV-1

Many factors will be considered when deciding to implement a revegetation or restoration strategy. Each project and area to be treated will be evaluated to determine the appropriate strategy. The following general guidelines can be applied to determine which strategy is the most appropriate and how it will be implemented in order to be consistent with the overall vegetation management objectives.

1. Restoration will be the goal whenever possible (i.e., an attempt will be made to return disturbed areas to conditions which promote a natural array of native plant and animal associations).
2. Species used in both restoration and revegetation projects will comply with the non-native plant policy described above (i.e., native plants will be used as a priority).
3. Revegetation strategies will be used in areas of heavy visitation, where site stabilization is desired.

4. Restoration provisions will be included in all surface disturbing projects including provisions for post restoration monitoring of the area. Costs for these activities will be included in the overall cost of the project and will come out of the entire project budget.

5. Priority for restoration or revegetation will be given to projects where Monument resources are being damaged.

These sites will likely be in areas near development and/or heavy visitor use. Although these areas are more likely to be candidates for revegetation projects, careful evaluation of disturbed sites needs to be conducted to include desired future condition of an area. Restoration or revegetation of areas receiving heavy use may include limits on visitor use in order to promote recovery.

Fire and Fuels Management

The Best Management Practices found in Appendix XX were provided at part of WO IM 2011-138. As such, they would be applied as best management practices to fuels and fire management action as a matter of compliance to BLM policy.

SEED-1

When deciding whether to reseed after fires, there are many factors that should be considered. The overriding consideration is the vegetation management objective and priority to use native plants. In trying to make the

determination of whether seeding will help attain these objectives, there are other considerations: (1) the structure and diversity of vegetation in the area before it burned, and (2) the presence of noxious weeds in the area and the likelihood of such weeds increasing as a result of a fire. Areas with high species diversity and little potential for noxious weed spread will not be reseeded. Areas that had little diversity and little potential for noxious weed invasion will be seeded with native species exclusively. Areas of low diversity and high potential for noxious weed invasion will most likely be seeded, and non-native/native seed mixes could be used if it was determined that timing was critical and non-native species will help prevent weed spread. Each fire will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate actions to meet the established vegetation management objectives. Actions may change over time as a result of new research or other information in accordance with the adaptive management framework outlined in Chapter 3. If seeding with non-natives is deemed necessary, it will be in accordance with the provision stated above (short-lived, nurse crop species with natives in the mix).

KANAB

Special Status Species

- Maintain, protect, and recover habitats of federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate plant, animal, or fish species, and actively promote recovery to the point that provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) are no longer required.
- Maintain, protect, and enhance habitats of the latest Utah BLM State Director's sensitive plant and animal species list to ensure that BLM-authorized or approved

actions are consistent with the conservation needs of the species and do not contribute to the need to list any species under the ESA.

- Cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and other agencies, such as UDWR, in managing special status species and their habitat.
- Allow, initiate, and/or participate in scientific research of listed and sensitive species and their habitats.
- To the maximum extent possible, maintain habitat connectivity and avoid habitat fragmentation for special status plant and animal species.
- Develop and implement conservation measures to minimize long-term habitat fragmentation through avoidance and site-specific reclamation in order to provide the habitat quality and quantity to meet ecological requirements and support a natural diversity of species.

SSS-3

Develop and implement monitoring and conservation measures for listed and non-listed special status species and their habitats where land use and human disturbances have been identified as having potential for adverse impacts.

SSS-7

Avoid, control, or regulate surface disturbing and disruptive activities on a case-by-case basis to minimize impacts on identified crucial habitat for sensitive species for the purpose of protecting these species and their associated habitats.

SSS-8

Should special status species be found, temporarily stop surface disturbing and disruptive activities until species-specific protective and/or mitigative measures are developed and implemented, in consultation with USFWS and/or UDWR when applicable.

SSS-9

Apply BMPs to avoid or reduce fragmenting habitat, including:

- Collocating communication and other facilities
- Employing directional drilling for oil and gas
- Using topographic and vegetative screening to reduce the influence of intrusions.

SSS-10

The BLM will approach compensatory mitigation on an “as appropriate” basis where it can be performed on site, and on a voluntary basis where it is performed offsite, or in accordance with current guidance.

SSS-53

Implement the most current UDWR Strategic Management Plan for Sage-Grouse (UDWR, 2002 and its future revisions), the BLM National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (BLM,

2004), and recommendations from local sage-grouse working groups to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore Greater sage-grouse populations and habitat.

SSS-54

All surface disturbing activities would be prohibited within ½ mile of Greater sage-grouse leks on a year-round basis. Oil and gas leasing would be open subject to major constraints (NSO).

SSS-55

Allow no surface disturbing or otherwise disruptive activities within 2 miles of Greater sage-grouse leks from March 15 to July 15 to protect nesting and brood-rearing habitat. Oil and gas leasing would be open subject to a controlled surface use and timing stipulation.

SSS-56

Allow no surface disturbing or otherwise disruptive activities within Greater sage-grouse winter habitat from December 1 – March 14. Oil and gas leasing would be open subject to a controlled surface use and timing stipulation.

SSS-57

See Appendix 3 for exceptions, modifications, or waivers.

Within ½ mile radius of a Greater sage-grouse lek site:

Manage oil and gas leasing as open subject to major constraints (NSO) within ½ mile of a Greater sage-grouse lek site.

Purpose: To protect occupied lek sites within Greater sage-grouse habitat.

Exception: An exception may be granted by the Field Manager if the operator submits a plan that demonstrates that impacts from the proposed action can be adequately mitigated.

Modification: The Field Manager may modify the boundaries of the stipulation area if (1) portions of the area do not include lek sites, (2) the lek site(s) have been completely abandoned or destroyed, or (3) occupied lek site(s) occur outside the current defined area, as determined by the BLM.

Prohibit surface disturbing activities within 2 miles of a Greater sage-grouse lek in the nesting and brood-rearing habitat from March 15 to July 15:

Allow no surface disturbing or otherwise disruptive activities (e.g., construction and maintenance) within 2 miles of a Greater sage-grouse lek in nesting and brood-rearing habitat from March 15 to July 15.

Purpose: To protect Greater sage-grouse lek in nesting and brood-rearing habitat.

Exception: An exception could be granted if surveys determine that the Greater sage-grouse lek in nesting and brood-rearing habitat is not occupied. An exception may also be granted by the Field Manager if the operator submits a plan that demonstrates that impacts from the proposed action can be adequately mitigated or it is determined the lek sites are not active.

Modification: The Field Manager may modify the boundaries of the stipulation area if portions of the area do not include habitat or are outside the current defined area, as determined by the BLM.

Prohibit surface disturbing activities within Greater sage-grouse winter habitat from December 1 - March 14

Allow no surface disturbing or otherwise disruptive activities in Greater sage-grouse winter habitat from December 1 to March 14.

Purpose: To protect Greater sage-grouse wintering habitat.

SSS-58

Prioritize habitat vegetation treatments to maintain and/or improve habitat function in the following areas (Map 5):

- Sage-grouse nesting and brood-rearing habitat
- Sage-grouse winter range.

Lands and Realty

All LUPs include management actions that require reclamation/restoration of disturbed areas that are no longer used in support of authorized actions.

- Make public lands available for community growth and expansion needs, recreation, and public purposes as well as other infrastructure needs.
- Strive to increase and diversify our Nation's sources of traditional and alternative energy resources, improve our energy transportation network, and ensure sound environmental management in support of minerals and energy development, as required by the President's National Energy Policy and the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- Retain in public ownership public lands that enhance multiple-use management, allow access to public lands, or contain sensitive or rare resources.
- Acquire lands or interests in lands to complement existing resource values and uses.
- Consider for disposal lands or interests in lands that are difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, are no longer needed for a federal purpose, or where disposal would serve important public objectives.
- Resolve any outstanding State Grant entitlements (quantity grants, in-lieu selections).
- Make public lands available for ROWs, permits, and leases. The suitability for these land actions would be judged on a case-by-case basis.
- Consider energy and utility corridors to focus placement of new major ROWs for energy and transportation systems.

LAR-4

Exclude new ROWs (including communication sites) (75,700 acres) in the following areas (Map 11):

LAR-5

Avoid new ROWs (51,570 acres) in the following areas (Map 11):

LAR-6

Preference would be to locate ROW developments in common (within existing ROWs/disturbance areas).

LAR-17

Areas and Lands Available for Land Tenure Adjustment

Public lands, in order to be considered for any form of land tenure adjustment (including exchanges, in-lieu selections, desert land entries, R&PP, easement acquisitions, etc.), except for FLPMA Section 203 sales, must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Is in the public interest; accommodates the needs of state, local, or private entities, including for the economy and community growth and expansion; and is in accordance with other land use goals, objectives, and planning decisions

LAR-18

Habitat for listed threatened, endangered, and candidate species would be retained in federal ownership unless land tenure adjustments would result in a net increase of habitat. All actions involving listed species or their habitat would result in the proper consultation with USFWS. Land tenure adjustments may be considered with the State of Utah and others after consultation with and concurrence by USFWS.

LAR-21

Approximately 6,000 acres of public land would be available for FLPMA Section 203 sales with NEPA compliance and consistent with other decisions in this RMP (Map 13; Appendix 5).

- Results in net gain of important and manageable resource values on public lands such as crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural sites, high-value recreation areas, high-quality riparian areas, live water, special status species habitat, or areas key to maintenance of productive ecosystems
- Ensures the accessibility of public lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained
- Is essential to allow effective management of public lands in areas where consolidation of ownership is necessary to meet resource management objectives

Results in the acquisition of lands that serve a national priority as identified in national policy directives.

LAR-26

Consider proposals for ROWs for wind and solar energy development throughout the decision area with the following exceptions:

- Designated wilderness
- WSAs
- ACECs
- Suitable WSR corridors

Habitat Restoration/Vegetation Management

- Sustain or reestablish the integrity of the sagebrush communities to provide the quantity, continuity, and quality of habitat necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species.
- Manage rangelands to prevent net loss of properly functioning sagebrush steppe habitat.
- Contain or reduce invasive plant species from existing extent; prevent establishment of new invasive species through early detection and rapid response actions.

WL-6

Conduct habitat improvement treatments for species in accordance with current species-specific guidelines and local working group prescriptions.

WL-9

Maintain existing vegetation treatments that benefit wildlife.

WL-10

Prioritize habitat vegetation treatments to maintain and/or improve habitat function in areas of crucial mule deer winter range (Map 5).

VEG-18

Permit commercial seed collection. Areas and species available for commercial collection would be determined on a case-by-case basis as climatic conditions allow, in accordance with statewide guidance and policy.

VEG-23

Apply approved weed control methods to all invasive species in an integrated weed management program (including preventive management; education; and mechanical, biological, wildland or prescribed fire, and chemical techniques).

VEG-30

Treat sagebrush steppe communities to restore natural disturbance processes and a healthy, diverse mosaic of different height and age structures with components of native grasses and forbs and an appropriate pinyon-juniper component for a given ecological site. Mosaics may include stands of young and old sagebrush, openings (ranging from bare ground to short or

sparse vegetation to high-density grasslands), wet meadows, seeps, healthy streamside (riparian) vegetation, and other interspersed shrub and woodland habitats.

VEG-31

Follow the Connelly guidelines (Connelly et al. 2000) for vegetation treatment prescriptions for projects occurring in occupied and/or historic Greater sage-grouse habitat. Adjust and/or modify these guidelines with cooperators (e.g., Utah Division of Wildlife Resources [UDWR], local sage-grouse working group, and Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, as necessary, within the range of variability described in the appropriate ecological site description.

VEG-32

Limit acres of vegetation treatments (e.g., wildlife habitat treatments, watershed treatments, livestock rangeland treatments, wildland fire use, fuels treatments, and stewardship contracting) to an annual average of no more than 22,300 acres (446,000 acres over the life of the plan).

VEG-33

Use the full range of upland vegetation treatment methods and tools (i.e., prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, biological, woodland product removal, and wildland fire use).

VEG-34

Vegetation treatments may be authorized where protection of sensitive resources would be ensured.

Fire and Fuels Management

Major Vegetation Group	DWFC and Actions Needed to Meet DWFC
Pinyon-Juniper Woodland	<p>Where pinyon and juniper occurred historically, the DWFC outside and inside the WUI is open stands of pinyon and juniper with native grass and shrub understory. Where pinyon and juniper did not occur historically, the DWFC is the native shrub, grass, and forest communities that the pinyon and juniper have invaded. The historical role of fire (estimated 15- to 50- year fire-return interval) prevented encroachment of pinyon and juniper into other vegetation communities. Most pinyon and juniper encroachment has occurred in the past 100 years. Follow treatments with seeding in FRCC 2 and FRCC 3 stands that lack native understory vegetation. Historical occurrence of pinyon and juniper is difficult to map, but pre-settlement trees are generally located in shallow, rocky soils and tend to have unique growth form characterized by rounded, spreading canopies; large basal branches; large irregular trunks; and furrowed fibrous bark. Historic fire-return intervals in these protected sites are more than 100 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When possible, allow wildland fire to play its natural role, which mimics the historical fire-return interval and severity in FRCC 1 and FRCC 2 lands that have some cover of native understory vegetation. Due to the high risk of losing key ecosystem components in FRCC 2 (lacking native understory vegetation) and FRCC 3 lands, avoid wildland fires in these areas. Prescribed fires should be applied to pinyon and juniper communities when native surface fuels will carry fire and when there is low risk of invasive species. • Prescribed fire should be used to approximate historical fire-return intervals and promote recovery of the pre-settlement vegetation cover types. Remove most young (less than 100 years old) pinyon and juniper trees through fire or mechanical treatments. In the WUI, construct fuel breaks between BLM and private land or other values at risk. • Following wildfire in FRCC 3 (and some FRCC 2 areas that are lacking native understory vegetation), aggressively seed to reduce invasive species establishment and to restore native communities.
Sagebrush	<p>The DWFC, outside and inside the WUI, is healthy sagebrush defined as diverse age classes with an understory of native grasses and forbs. Research suggests that stand-replacement should be burned every 10 to 100 years depending on the particular sagebrush species and its associated habitat. Fire management actions in sagebrush must be carefully balanced between invasive species concerns, wildlife habitat, and the need to restore fire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When possible, allow wildland fire to play its natural role, which mimics the historical fire-return interval and severity in FRCC 1 and FRCC 2 lands that have a low potential for cheatgrass invasion. Areas with low potential for cheatgrass invasion include higher elevation sites and/or sites that have very low incidence of cheatgrass pre-fire. • Treat dense sagebrush (more than 30 percent) with fire, mechanical, or chemical treatments to reduce sagebrush canopy cover and improve native grass and forb density and cover; an additional objective in treating sagebrush is to remove encroaching pinyon and juniper trees. In the WUI, construct fuel breaks between BLM and private land (or other values at risk) in dense stands of sagebrush.

Major Vegetation Group	DWFC and Actions Needed to Meet DWFC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following wildfire in FRCC 2 and FRCC 3 lands, aggressively seed to promote native understory grasses and forbs and reduce invasion of cheatgrass and noxious weeds. Consider including sagebrush in seeding mixes or planting sagebrush seedlings in high-value wildlife areas following large, high-severity wildfires when natural seed sources would be lacking.
Grassland	<p>Where native grasslands occurred historically, the DWFC outside the WUI is native grass and forb communities. Native grasslands have been lost to pinyon and juniper encroachment, cheatgrass invasion, and non-native plant seedlings (e.g., crested wheatgrass, perennial ryegrass, etc.). Where nonnative grasslands occur, the DWFC is the restoration of the native grassland or shrub community. The historical role of fire in Utah's grasslands is similar to pinyon and juniper and sagebrush community types with fires every 15 to 50 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When possible, allow fire to play its natural role, which mimics the historical fire-return interval and severity. • Treat native grasslands with fire, mechanical, or chemical treatments to reduce encroaching trees (mainly juniper), shrubs, and invasive plants. Fire treatments alone should be avoided where there is potential for cheatgrass invasion (areas below 7,000 feet elevation that have adjacent cheatgrass populations). In the WUI, consider green stripping between BLM and private lands and other values at risk. • Following wildfire in FRCC 2 and FRCC 3 lands, aggressively seed to reduce potential for cheatgrass and other invasive weeds
Riparian Wetland	<p>The DWFC, outside and inside the WUI, is riparian and wetland areas with the appropriate composition of native species (e.g., reduction of tamarisk and other invasive species).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When possible, allow fire to play its natural role, mimicking the historical fire-return interval and intensity. Allow low to moderate severity fire to burn into riparian and wetland areas when natural ignitions are managed as wildland fire use. • Restore native riparian and wetland species through fire and mechanical treatments. Reduce flammable invasive species along riparian corridors (e.g., tamarisk) through mechanical, chemical, biological, and fire treatments. For prescribed fire, allow low intensity fire to back into riparian and wetland areas through ignition outside of these areas. Mechanical treatment as the initial treatment would be emphasized where there is a moderate to high potential for riparian and wetland to be burned to a high severity. • Consider active restoration options when native riparian and wetland communities are unlikely to recover with passive restoration (due to invasive species, stream bank erosion, etc.).

FIRE-3

Wildland fire would be used to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, when possible, would be allowed to function in its natural ecological role. Areas where wildland fire use is appropriate and not appropriate are identified in Table I. The FMP would provide further operational guidance for wildland fire use.

FIRE-4

To reduce risks and to restore ecosystems, the following fuels management tools would be allowed: wildland fire use; prescribed fire; and mechanical, chemical, seeding, and biological actions. As conditions allow, the BLM would employ the least intrusive method over more intrusive methods. For example, wildland fire use is the preferred method of treatment. Where wildland fire use is not feasible, prescribed burning would be the preferred method. Where prescribed burning is not feasible, non-fire fuels treatments would become the preferred method of treatment.

FIRE-10

Wildland fire would be used to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, when possible, would be allowed to function in its natural ecological role. However, due to resource conditions and proximity to values at risk, fire cannot be allowed to resume its natural role on public lands. The DWFC is that as lands are transitioned from a higher FRCC to a lower FRCC, the applicability of wildland fire use would increase. Therefore, fire managers would periodically assess the FRCC following changes in vegetation due to management actions and natural

changes. This alternative authorizes wildland fire use as a tool, when appropriate, to reach the DWFC.

FIRE-11

Wildland fire use would be an appropriate management response to naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined designated areas. Operational management of wildland fire use is described in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan. This alternative attempts to in general clarify the types of areas that are not suitable for wildland fire use while leaving other areas open for possible wildland fire use.

FIRE-12

Although specific areas for wildland fires use would be identified in the FMPs, wildland fire use may be authorized for all areas, except when the following resources and values may be negatively impacted and there are no reasonable Resource Protection Measures to protect such resources and values:

- WUI areas
- Areas that are known to be highly susceptible to post-fire cheatgrass or invasive weed invasion
- Important terrestrial and aquatic habitats
- Non-fire adapted vegetation communities
- Sensitive cultural resources
- Areas of soil with high or very high erosion hazard
- Class I air-shed areas and particulate matter (less than 10 microns in diameter) (PM10) non-attainment areas
- Administrative sites
- Developed recreation sites
- Communication sites
- Oil, gas, and mining facilities
- Above-ground utility corridors
- High-use travel corridors, such as interstates, railroads, and/or highways.

FIRE-13

The appropriate management response for areas containing these resources or values may be wildland fire use, but Resource Protection Measures would be necessary to protect these values if they are threatened. Additional protection actions may include employing strategies and tactics to avoid these values (e.g., using fire retardant to reduce fire spread in certain areas). In fire situations where these resources or values would not be impacted, wildland fire use may still not be employed due to other parameters (weather, personnel availability, etc.). In these situations, the appropriate management response—from aggressive initial action to

monitoring—would be used. The DWFC would be to restore fire to ecosystems when feasible; therefore, fuel treatments should focus on protecting the resources and values listed above so future wildland fire use actions could be more easily implemented.

FIRE-17

Protection of human life is the primary priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources would be based on human health and safety, the values to be protected, and the costs of protection. Priorities for all aspects of fire management decisions and actions would be based on the following:

- WUI
- Maintain existing healthy ecosystems
- High priority sub-basin (Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 4) or watershed (HUC 5)
- Special status species
- Cultural resources and cultural landscapes.

The Best Management Practices found in Appendix XX were provided at part of WO IM 2011-138. As such, they would be applied as best management practices to fuels and fire management action as a matter of compliance to BLM policy.

FIRE-18

Resource Protection Measures for fire management practices to protect natural or cultural resource values are described in Appendix 8:

V-1 When restoring or rehabilitating disturbed rangelands, non-intrusive, non-native plant species are appropriate for use when native species: (1) are not available; (2) are not economically feasible; (3) cannot achieve ecological objectives as well as non-native species; and/or (4) cannot compete with already established native species (Noxious Weeds Executive Order 13112 2/3/1999; BLM Manual 9015; BLM ROD 13 Western States Vegetation Treatment EIS 1991).

FW-6

Create small openings in continuous or dense sagebrush (more than 30 percent canopy cover) to create a mosaic of multiple-age classes and associated understory diversity across the landscape to benefit sagebrush-dependent species.

FW-7

On sites that are currently occupied by forests or woodlands, but historically supported sagebrush communities, implement treatments (fire, cutting, chaining, seeding, etc.) to reestablish sagebrush communities.

FW-9

Use the ESR program to apply appropriate post-fire treatments within crucial wildlife habitats, including sage-grouse habitats. Minimize seeding with non-native species that may create a

continuous perennial grass cover and restrict establishment of native vegetation. Seed mixtures shall be designed to reestablish important seasonal habitat components for sage-grouse. Leks shall not be reseeded with plants that change the vegetation height previously found on the lek. Forbs shall be stressed in early and late brood-rearing habitats. In situations of limited funds for ESR actions, prioritize rehabilitation of sage-grouse habitats

Minerals

MIN-9

Approximately 35,538 acres (Map 15) are determined to be unsuitable for surface mining and surface operations incident to an underground mine as stated in 43 CFR 3400.0-5(mm) based on the 20 criteria identified in Appendix 6.

MIN-10

Additional areas could be found unsuitable based on site-specific analysis (Appendix 6).

MIN-13

In addition to the 24,591 acres withdrawn, recommend withdrawing the following areas (9,500 acres) from mineral entry (Map 12).

MIN-14

Allow mineral material disposals on a case-by-case basis subject to site-specific environmental analysis excluding the following areas (105,000 acres) (Map 16).

MIN-4

Manage fluid mineral leases as shown on Map 14:

- Open to leasing subject to standard terms and conditions: 95,400 acres
- Open to leasing subject to moderate constraints (seasonal and CSU): 296,200 acres
- Open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO): 83,400 acres
- Closed to leasing: 79,000 acres.

Prohibit surface disturbing activities within 2 miles of a Greater sage-grouse lek in the nesting and brood-rearing habitat from March 15 to July 15:

Allow no surface disturbing or otherwise disruptive activities (e.g., construction and maintenance) within 2 miles of a Greater sage-grouse lek in nesting and brood-rearing habitat from March 15 to July 15.

Purpose: To protect Greater sage-grouse lek in nesting and brood-rearing habitat.

Exception: An exception could be granted if surveys determine that the Greater sage-grouse lek in nesting and brood-rearing habitat is not occupied. An exception may also be granted by the Field Manager if the operator submits a plan that demonstrates that impacts from the proposed action can be adequately mitigated or it is determined the lek sites are not active.

Modification: The Field Manager may modify the boundaries of the stipulation area if portions of the area do not include habitat or are outside the current defined area, as determined by the BLM.

Waiver: A waiver may be granted if it is determined the habitat no longer exists or has been destroyed.

Prohibit surface disturbing activities within Greater sage-grouse winter habitat from December 1 - March 14

Allow no surface disturbing or otherwise disruptive activities in Greater sage-grouse winter habitat from December 1 to March 14.

Purpose: To protect Greater sage-grouse wintering habitat.

Exception: An exception could be granted if surveys determine that the Greater sage-grouse lek in winter habitat is not occupied, and that snow depths in the area allow continued sage-grouse use. An exception may also be granted by the Field Manager if the operator submits a plan that demonstrates that impacts from the proposed action can be avoided, sufficiently minimized, or adequately mitigated.

Modification: The Field Manager may modify the boundaries of the stipulation area if portions of the area do not include habitat or are outside the current defined area, as determined by the BLM.

Waiver: A waiver may be granted if it is determined the habitat no longer exists or has been destroyed.

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management

TRC-1

Management of motorized access would balance protection of resources while providing for resource use needs. Area designations would be as follows (Map 9):

- Open to cross-country OHV use: 1,000 acres
- Limited to designated routes: 528,000 acres
- Closed to OHV use: 25,000 acres.

TRC-5

Areas Closed to OHV Use

Designate the following areas as closed to OHV use:

- Paria SRMA—both RMZs
- Designated wilderness (by Congressional designation)

- In and through islands of vegetation in Welsh's milkweed designated critical habitat (790 acres)
- Suitable "wild" river corridors.

TRR-2

Consideration of route and trail modifications (new or existing) will be conducted on a case-by-case basis in accordance with resource/use objectives and after appropriate NEPA review and analysis (Appendix 7).

Recreation and Visitor Services**REC-45**

SRPs will be subject to the following restrictions unless specifically authorized:

- No collection of natural resources (not including firewood for personal onsite use).
- No SRP activities will be authorized in bald eagle winter roost areas from November 15 through March 15 during critical roosting hours (from 1 hour after sunset to 9 a.m.).
- If surveys reveal the presence of nesting Southwestern willow flycatchers, authorize no SRP activities in these locations between May 15 and June 30.
- No Greater sage-grouse lek areas will be advertised by SRP holders or the BLM.
- Implement seasonal/area closures during Greater sage-grouse breeding (March 1 to April 30) and/or wintering (November 1 to February 28) seasons if BLM biologists determine that breeding or wintering is being impacted by SRP activities.

Livestock Grazing

- Maintain or restore healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems to meet BLM Utah's Standards for Rangeland Health and to produce a wide range of public values such as wildlife habitat, livestock forage, recreation opportunities, clean water, and functional watersheds.
- Integrate livestock use and associated management practices with other multiple-use needs and objectives to maintain, protect, and improve rangeland health.
- Reduce or eliminate livestock-related rangeland resource problems on all allotments not meeting rangeland health standards while maintaining a production goal of livestock forage in the long term.

GRA-1

Manage livestock grazing allotments within the decision area as available for livestock grazing.

GRA-4

Allocate forage for livestock as noted in the grazing allotment forage allocation table (Appendix I4).

GRA-6

Use livestock grazing to enhance ecosystem health and/or help accomplish resource objectives (e.g., noxious/invasive weed control and hazardous fuel reduction) on allotments where authorized by the authorized officer on a case-by-case basis.

GRA-14

Give emphasis to changes in grazing management practices (e.g., changing season of use and fencing) before reducing AUMs on allotments to resolve conflicts with other uses.

GRA-16

Complete land treatments to maintain or provide additional AUMs needed to meet the demand for livestock forage and divide the AUMs proportionally among all operators within the affected allotments.

Wildlife**WL-32**

The BLM will approach compensatory mitigation on an “as appropriate” basis where it can be performed on site, and on a voluntary basis where it is performed offsite, or in accordance with current guidance.

PRICE**Lands and Realty****LAR-1**

Transfer only lands out of federal ownership and/or acquire non-federal lands where needed to accomplish important resource management goals or to meet essential community, State, or county needs.

LAR-2

Dispose of lands as specifically identified for lease or disposal under various authorities (FLPMA 203, 206, R&PP).

LAR-11

Consider land ownership changes on lands not specifically identified in the RMP for disposal or acquisition if the changes are in accordance with resource management objectives and other RMP decisions, determined to be in the public interest, and will accomplish one or more of the following criteria:

The changes are determined to be in the public interest. The public benefits from land resources coming into public ownership, while accommodating the needs of local and State governments, including the needs for public purposes, community growth, and the economy.

The changes result in a gain of important manageable resources on public lands such as crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural sites, mineral resources, water sources, listed species by habitat, and areas key to productive ecosystems.

The changes ensure public access to lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained.

The changes promote more effective management and meet essential resource objectives through land ownership consolidation.

The changes result in acquisition of lands that serve regional or national priorities identified in applicable policy directives or legislation.

The changes in federal ownership result in “no net loss” of wetlands and/or riparian areas.

If none of the above criteria are met, proposed land ownership changes will not be approved or will require a plan amendment.

LAR-13

Acquire fee title or interest in non-federal lands (e.g., water rights, scenic easements, and Greater sage-grouse leks) with priority placed on lands with critical resource values.

LAR-14

Lands identified for potential disposal through sale are identified and listed in Appendix R-11 and Map R-19. All potential disposals through sale must meet the goals and objectives of other resource programs.

LAR-23

Lands identified for potential disposal through sale are identified and listed in Appendix R-11 and Map R-19. All potential disposals through sale must meet the goals and objectives of other resource programs.

LAR-25

In development of new utility corridors, avoidance areas will include (Map R-22):

Dry Lake Archaeological District ACEC

Interstate 70 ACEC

Muddy Creek ACEC

San Rafael Canyon ACEC

Segers Hole ACEC

The five non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect, preserve, and maintain their wilderness characteristics.

LAR-26

In development of new utility corridors, exclusion areas will include (Map R-22):

Range Creek SRMA

Big Flat Tops ACEC

Bowknot Bend ACEC

Rock Art ACEC

San Rafael Reef ACEC

Heritage Sites ACEC

LAR-28

Additional ROWs will be granted consistent with RMP goals and objectives.

LAR-29

Preference for communication ROWs will be given to applications using existing designated communication sites (e.g., Cedar Mountain and Bruin Point). Existing communication management plans prescriptions will be adhered to.

LAR-30

In development of new discretionary ROWs, avoidance areas will include (Map R-22):

Dry Lake Archaeological District ACEC

Interstate 70 ACEC

Muddy Creek ACEC

San Rafael Canyon ACEC

Segers Hole ACEC

The five non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect, preserve, and maintain their wilderness characteristics.

LAR-31

In development of new discretionary ROWs, exclusion areas will include (Map R-22):

Range Creek SRMA

Big Flat Tops ACEC

Bowknot Bend ACEC

Rock Art ACEC

San Rafael Reef ACEC

Heritage Sites ACEC

LAR-32

Any wind energy exploration and development will be subject to a site-specific NEPA analysis. Wind energy development is granted under a ROW. The BLM will consider proposals for ROWs for wind energy exploration and development on a case-by-case basis.

LAR-33

The BLM will encourage wind energy development in areas where impacts on vegetation coverage and other resources will be minimized.

LAR-34

The BLM will not permit wind energy development in NSO areas or areas unavailable to leasing for oil and gas, VRM Class I and II areas, and migratory bird breeding habitat and raptor nesting complexes.

Habitat Restoration/Vegetation Management

- Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush habitats within the planning area to provide the quantity, continuity, and quality of habitat necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species.
- Restore, sustain, or enhance the health of ecosystems through the implementation of the *Standards for Rangeland Health* and *Guidelines for Grazing Management*.
- Identify the amount (and location, where possible) of sagebrush habitat that should undergo restoration and/or rehabilitation throughout the life of the plan, and initiate restoration and/or rehabilitation.

VEG-1

Allow vegetation manipulation with restrictions to achieve the desired vegetation condition. Treat areas determined to need vegetation reestablishment using methods such as introductions, transplants, augmentation, reestablishments, and restocking with attention to diversity and habitat. These areas will be treated with a variety of plant species that are desirable for wildlife habitat, livestock, watershed management, and other resource values while maintaining vegetation species diversity (Map R- 4).

VEG-2

Design sagebrush treatment projects (including fire and fuels vegetation treatments) conducted in Greater sage-grouse occupied or historic habitat to meet prescriptions necessary for the seasonal use habitat requirements (i.e., winter, nesting/brood-rearing). Prescriptions will follow the Connelly guidelines (Connelly et al. 2000) or will be adjusted or modified by the BLM and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), with local Greater sage-grouse working group and

Utah Partners for Conservation and Development input, for projects occurring in occupied or historic habitat.

VEG-3

Use the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, local Greater sage-grouse working groups, and other interested governmental and non-governmental organizations to identify

sagebrush habitat locations and amounts that should undergo restoration and/or rehabilitation. Initiate restoration and/or rehabilitation of sagebrush habitat locations by (1) maintaining large patches and reconnecting sagebrush habitats with emphasis on those patches occupied by stronghold and isolated populations of Greater sage-grouse; and (2) enlarging the size of sagebrush patches with emphasis on areas occupied by Greater sage-grouse and/or other sagebrush dependent species.

VEG-5

In areas where multiple resources are potentially affected by surface disturbance (e.g., crucial wildlife habitat, livestock pastures, threatened and endangered [T&E] and special status species habitat, and occupied wild horse and burro range), coordinate implementation of any offsite mitigation with other affected agencies and the overlapping resource values. This strategy will enable identification of a suitable mitigation method and location to best accomplish the objective of offsetting the impacts and to ensure that benefits of the mitigation are distributed among all users and resources affected. The BLM will approach compensatory mitigation on an “as appropriate” basis where it can be performed onsite, and on a voluntary basis where it is performed offsite, or, in accordance with current guidance.

VEG-7

Mitigate impacts on vegetation on the public lands from disturbance activities. Implement short and/or long-term actions or projects to replace or enhance resources that will be impacted. Priority will be given to mitigation measures that benefit multiple resource issues within the immediate area of the impacts (within the livestock allotment, occupied wild horse and burro range or habitat for wildlife, T&E or special status species).

VEG-11

Vegetation manipulations (i.e., mechanical, biological, manual, prescribed fire, or chemical) will be prescribed on a case-by-case basis to achieve and/or maintain *Standards for Rangeland Health*.

VEG-13

Sagebrush communities will be managed and maintained for natural composition and age class distribution in a manner that accommodates key habitat condition for listed T&E or special status species or within sagebrush community areas determined on a case by case basis.

VEG-16

Commercial and noncommercial collection of vegetation products (e.g., seed and live plant) will be allowed by permit. Collection will be limited to areas and species determined on a case-by case basis and evaluated on a rangeland health basis as needed.

Fire and Fuels Management

The Best Management Practices provided at part of WO IM 2011-138 would be applied as best management practices to fuels and fire management action as a matter of compliance to BLM policy.

Fire-1

Minimize wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush communities where Greater sage-grouse habitat objectives will not be met if fire occurs.

Fire-2

To reduce risks and restore ecosystems through fuels management, allow the following fuels management tools throughout the planning area unless otherwise restricted: wildland fire use; prescribed fire; and mechanical, chemical, seeding, and biological actions.

Minerals**MLO-2**

In addition to the 328,600 acres currently withdrawn, 92,700 acres will be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry (Map R-20). See Lands and Realty - Withdrawal Areas.

MLE-9

Oil and gas leasing management will be conducted shown on Map R-25.

Areas open to leasing subject to the standard terms and conditions of the lease form (1,161,000 acres)

Areas open to leasing subject to moderate constraints (timing limitations; CSU, and lease notices) (467,000 acres)

Areas open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO) (282,000 acres)

Areas unavailable to leasing (569,000 acres)

MLE-12

Geophysical operations will be allowed consistent with existing regulations for geophysical exploration, except in the five non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed in this alternative, which will be closed to activities related to geophysical operations.

MSA-1

Areas that will be closed for mineral materials disposal are indicated on Map R-27 (820,000 acres).

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management**TRV-3**

Allow for reasonable access to non-BLM-managed lands within the PFO

Recreation and Visitor Services**REC-68**

The Price Field Office ERMA (1,362,760 acres) will be managed as identified below and as further described in Appendix R-9.

REC-69

Signs, trails, and facilities will be used to facilitate use and enjoyment of the ERMA.

REC-72

The BLM will issue SRP as a discretionary action subject to NEPA analysis (Appendix R-10).

Additionally, commercial SRPs will also be issued to provide a fair return for the commercial use of public lands.

REC-73

SRPs will be issued according to established evaluation factors described in Appendix R-10. The factors identified will primarily examine the sensitivity of the proposed site and the nature of the proposed use.

OHV-5

OHV recreation will be managed according to the following open, closed, and limited to designated route categories (Map R-17):

0 acres open

557,000 acres closed

1,922,000 acres limited to designated routes

Livestock Grazing**GRA-3**

Base changes in levels of use or continuance of permitted use on current laws, policy, and monitoring data, and analysis in accordance with NEPA. The analysis process will consider LUP program decision objectives and priorities in relation to livestock grazing and achievement of *Standards for Rangeland Health* on a case-by-case basis.

GRA-4

Provide for the development and maintenance of range improvement projects and livestock facilities on a case-by-case basis. Construct range improvement projects to BLM specifications. Document access routes for the range improvements in the individual project files

GRA-6

Continue livestock forage allocations as noted in Appendix R-8.

GRA-7

Authorize livestock (cattle and/or horses) grazing within this area on a prescription basis. Grazing will be used as a management tool for the benefit of resource values—watershed, riparian, fisheries, and wildlife. Grazing will also be used to reduce the potential risk of wildland fires because of accumulation of vegetation fine fuel loads.

GRA-12

Increases or decreases in available forage will be adjusted among livestock, wild horses and burros, and wildlife as determined on a case-by-case basis.

GRA-13

Lands acquired after adoption of this plan will be managed consistent with the purposes for which it was acquired or historic use.

Wild Horses and Burros

The AML will be periodically evaluated and subject to adjustment in HMA plans and Environmental Assessments for gathers based on monitoring data and best science methods.

WHB-8

Range Creek HMA; 55,000 acres; 75–125 (horses)

WHB-12

3,000 animal unit months (AUMs) will be allocated for wild horses, and 420 AUMs will be allocated for wild burros.

WHB-13

Increase or decrease in available forage will be adjusted on a case-by-case basis to support Standards for Rangeland Health.

Wildlife**WL-5**

Continue existing Habitat Management Plans (HMP). Allow or participate in research of all wildlife species and their habitats.

WL-10

Emphasize the use of mechanical, chemical, and biological methods, as well as fire and livestock grazing, to achieve the desired plant community for fish and wildlife habitats.

WL-11

Maintain sustainable forage levels for livestock and wildlife.

WL-14

Big game winter range will be managed to maximize browse production, using kind of livestock and season of use.

WL-15

Current livestock grazing prescriptions will continue, and where opportunities exist, will be adjusted to enhance forb production on pronghorn ranges

WL-18

Increase or decrease in available forage will be adjusted on a case-by-case basis to support rangeland health objectives.

WL-19

If UDWR acquired additional habitat or forage, or if studies indicated that additional forage was available naturally, the BLM will consider providing forage to support increased population objectives for wildlife.

WL-20

Dates of seasonal closures for surface disturbing activities within all crucial habitats (Map R-8) will be revised and implemented to provide consistency across the entire planning area (Appendix R-3).

WL-22

Land uses within these priority habitats will be managed to promote regeneration, diverse age class distribution, and preservation or restoration of diverse understory to include forbs, grass, and shrub species.

Special Status Species

- Maintain, protect, and enhance habitats (including but not limited to designated critical habitat) and actively promote recovery, maintenance, protection, and enhancement of populations and habitats of BLM, non-listed, special status plant and animal species to ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out do not contribute to the need for these species to be listed as T&E under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

SSS-4

Prohibit surface disturbances that may affect listed species or critical habitat of listed or candidate plants or animals without consultation or conference (ESA, Section 7) between the BLM and USFWS.

SSS-7

Implement the most current *UDWR Strategic Management Plan for Sage-Grouse* (UDWR 2002 and its future revisions), the *BLM National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy* (BLM, 2004), and recommendations from local sage-grouse working groups to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore Greater sage-grouse populations and habitat. All surface disturbing activities will be prohibited within ½ mile of Greater sage-grouse leks on a year-round basis. Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO) (Map R-6). Allow no surface disturbing or otherwise disruptive activities within two miles of a known Greater sage-grouse lek from March 15 to July 15 to protect nesting and brood-rearing habitat. Oil and gas leasing will be open subject to a controlled surface use and timing stipulation. Allow no surface disturbing activities or otherwise disruptive activities within GRSG in winter habitat from December 1 to March 14. Oil and gas leasing will be open to a controlled surface use and timing stipulation. See Appendix R-3 for exceptions, modifications, or waivers.

Fire and Fuels Management

- Manage fire and fuels to protect life, firefighter safety, property, and critical resource values.

- Using Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC), establish landscape-level fire management initiatives that include a description of areas and the identification of acreages to illustrate where fire suppression actions are warranted; where fire may be restored to the ecosystem through wildland fire use for resource benefit; and where treatments may be used involving prescribed fire and non-fire fuel reduction, maintenance and/or rehabilitation.

Fire-1

Minimize wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush communities where Greater sage-grouse habitat objectives will not be met if fire occurs.

Fire-2

To reduce risks and restore ecosystems through fuels management, allow the following fuels management tools throughout the planning area unless otherwise restricted: wildland fire use; prescribed fire; and mechanical, chemical, seeding, and biological actions.

Fire-3

As conditions allow, employ the least intrusive fire suppression method over more intrusive methods. For example, wildland fire use is the preferred method of treatment. Where conditions are not appropriate for wildland fire use, prescribed burning will be the preferred method. Where prescribed burning is not feasible, non-fire fuel treatments will become the preferred method of treatment.

Fire-5

Use fuel management strategies (e.g., prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, biological, hand treatments, and wildland fire) to meet desired future conditions.

Fire-6

The general DWFC is to have ecosystems that are at a low risk of losing key ecosystem components following wildfire and that function within their historical ecological range. In terms of FRCC, the DWFC outside the WUI will be to trend to a lower FRCC using the least intrusive method possible. When possible, wildland fire use is the preferred method of treatment to move toward FRCC I; when conditions do not allow wildland fire use, prescribed fire and then nonfire fuel treatments will be considered. Inside the WUI, the general DWFC is to have less potential for values to be threatened by wildland fire, usually through some modification of fuels.

Fire-10

Specific areas for wildland fire use will be identified in the Moab Fire District FMP. However, wildland fire use could be authorized for all areas except when the following resources and values may be negatively affected and there are no reasonable measures that could be employed to protect such resources and values:

- Areas that are known to be highly susceptible to post-fire invasion by cheatgrass or noxious weeds
- Important terrestrial and aquatic habitats

- Non-fire adapted vegetation communities

Fire-11

The appropriate management response for areas containing these resources or values may be wildland fire use, but measures to protect these values will be necessary to avoid threats to these values. In fire situations where these resources or values will not be affected, wildland fire use might still not be employed because of other conditions, such as weather, personnel availability, or ongoing fire activity.

Fire-13

Unauthorized wildland fire ignitions will be prevented through coordination with partners and affected groups and individuals. The full range of prevention and mitigation activities (e.g., personal contacts, mass media, law enforcement, signing, and defensible space) will be used.

Fire-14

Implementation of fire prevention activities will take priority in the following areas:

- WUI areas
- Major travel corridors Recreation sites
- Public lands as a whole

Fire-18

Implementation of fuels management action will take priority in the following areas:

- WUI areas
- Areas with fuel loading that could potentially result in catastrophic wildfires
- Resource improvement areas

RICHFIELD**Lands and Realty****LAR-1**

For any form of land tenure adjustment (including, but not limited to, exchanges, in lieu selections, state grants, desert land entries, R&PP patents, easement acquisitions, etc.), except for FLPMA Section 203 sales, ensure it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Is in the public interest and accommodates the needs of state, local, or private entities, including needs for the economy, community growth and expansion, and be in accordance with other land use goals, objectives, and planning decisions
- Results in a net gain of important and manageable resource values on public lands such as crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural sites, high-value recreation areas, high-quality riparian areas, live water, SSS habitat, or areas key to maintenance of productive ecosystems

- Ensures the accessibility of public lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained;
- Is essential to allow effective management of public lands in areas where consolidation of ownership is necessary to meet resource management objectives
- Is not suitable for management by another federal department or agency
- Results in the acquisition of lands that serve a national priority as identified in national policy directives.

LAR-4

Habitat for listed and candidate T&E species are generally required to be retained in Federal ownership. Consider exceptions in disposal actions with the State of Utah and others with consultation with and concurrence of the USFWS.

LAR-9

Pursue land acquisitions from willing sellers when lands:

- Are within or adjacent to WSAs, ACECs, WSRs, or other special designations
- Are associated with key fisheries or wildlife habitats and riparian zones
- Provide linkage or public access to other public lands
- Have significant paleontological or cultural resources
- Provide high recreation or other significant resource or public values
- Are needed to improve manageability of public lands.

LAR-15

Retain habitat for federally listed and candidate species in federal ownership. Exceptions may be considered in exchanges with the State of Utah and others after consultation with and concurrence with the USFWS.

LAR-16

Make approximately 13,400 acres of public land available for FLPMA Section 203 sales (as listed in Appendix 5 and shown on Maps 17 through 22) subject to NEPA compliance and consistent with other decisions in this RMP.

LAR-29

Consider exceptions in the avoidance areas on a case-by-case basis if the proposed ROW would:

- Not create substantial surface disturbance or would cause only temporary impacts
- Be compatible with the resource values being protected by the goals and objectives of the avoidance areas
- Be consistent with management prescriptions for ACECs and WSRs and pose no irreversible or irretrievable impacts

- Be consistent with the goals and objectives of the identified non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

LAR-31

Consider proposals for wind and solar energy development throughout the RFO except within the following areas...

LAR-33

To minimize adverse environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate ROWs, use common ROWs whenever possible, including collocation of new utility transmission lines and other facilities within existing utility and highway corridors.

Habitat Restoration/Vegetation Management

- Manage for a mix of vegetative types, structural stages, and landscape and riparian functions, and provide for native plant, fish, and wildlife (including SSS) habitats.
- Sustain or reestablish the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of the Greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush-dependent wildlife species.

VEG-1

Treat areas determined to need reseeding with a variety of plant species that are desirable for wildlife habitat, livestock, watershed management, and other resource values while maintaining vegetation species diversity.

VEG-2

Where appropriate, require on-site mitigation when surface disturbance cannot be avoided on a site-specific basis. The BLM will approach compensatory mitigation on an "as appropriate" basis where it can be performed on-site, and on a voluntary basis where it is performed off-site, or, in accordance with current guidance.

VEG-3

Maintain existing vegetative treatments to provide suitable habitats for wildlife and adequate forage for livestock.

VEG-4

Maintain existing vegetation treatments and implement additional treatments (e.g., prescribed fire and wildland fire use, mechanical, biological, manual, and chemical) to achieve or maintain Standards for Rangeland Health and desired vegetation condition. Vegetation treatments (e.g., wildlife habitat treatments, watershed treatments, livestock grazing treatments, fuels treatments, stewardship contracts, etc.) could be conducted on up to 1,472,000 acres over the life of the plan. (An annual average of 73,600 acres would need to receive treatment to reach the total treatment acreage. Actual annual treatment acreage would vary depending on conditions, staffing, etc. These acreage figures include all vegetation and fire fuels treatments.

VEG-5

Allow temporary non-renewable use of targeted grazing to reduce site-specific fuels and/or noxious and invasive weeds (e.g. cheat grass).

VEG-6

The use and perpetuation of native species would be emphasized. However, when restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands, non-intrusive, non-native plant species may be used where native species:

- Are not available
- Are not economically feasible
- Cannot achieve desired conditions, desired plant communities (DPC), or other ecological objectives as well as non-native species, and/or
- Cannot compete with already established non-native species.
- Non-native forbs and perennial grasses could be used in preference to monocultures of non-native annuals.

Non-Energy Leasable Minerals**MIN-28**

- Areas closed to leasing: 447,300 acres
- Areas open to leasing subject to standard conditions of approval: 608,700 acres
- Areas open to leasing subject to CSU and/or timing limitations: 917,500 acres
- Areas open to leasing subject to NSO: 154,500 acres

Locatable Minerals**MIN-31**

Continue existing withdrawals (154,700 acres). Recommend withdrawing the following areas from mineral entry:

- Developed recreation sites, including Lonesome Beaver Campground, McMillan Spring Campground, Starr Springs Campground, Dandelion Flat Picnic Area, Hog Springs Picnic Area, Otter Creek Reservoir Recreation Sites, Kingston Canyon Recreation Site, and Koosharem Picnic Area
- North Caineville Mesa ACEC
- Old Woman Front ACEC
- Fremont Gorge Suitable WSR (within one-quarter mile of the high water mark of each bank of the river).

The proposed new withdrawals would encompass 21,500 acres.

Total acres: 176,200

MIN-35

Areas closed to mineral material disposals: 601,800 acres

MIN-36

Areas open to disposal of mineral materials subject to standard conditions of approval: 608,700 acres

MIN-37

Areas open to disposal of mineral materials subject to CSU and/or timing limitations: 917,500 acres

Fluid Minerals

MIN-10

Area closed to leasing: 447,300 acres

MIN-11

Manage fluid mineral leases as shown on Map 23:

- Areas open to leasing with standard lease terms: 608,700 acres
- Areas open to leasing subject to CSU and/or timing limitations: 917,500 acres
- Areas open to leasing subject to NSO: 154,500 acres

Mineral Split Estate

MIN-13

Lease split-estate lands according to BLM RMP stipulations for adjacent or nearby public lands or plans of other surface management agencies, consistent with federal laws, 43 CFR 3101, and the surface owner's rights.

Solid Minerals - Coal

MIN-24

In the Wasatch Plateau coal field, 18,672 acres of National Forest, and in the Emery coal field, 9,624 acres of BLM lands and 3,542 acres of National Forest are acceptable for consideration for leasing by underground mining methods.

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management

TRC-7

Open: 9,890 acres

TRC-8

Limited: 1,908,210 acres

TRC-9

Closed: 209,900

SSS-25

Limit OHV use to designated routes and/or seasonal closure of designated routes in all Greater sage-grouse habitats, including: breeding (leks), nesting, brood-rearing, and wintering habitats.

TRC-24

Designate routes to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Give special attention to protecting SSS and their habitats.

TRC-25

Designate routes to minimize conflicts between OHV use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.

Recreation and Visitor Services**REC-31**

Continue to issue current SRPs according to site-specific analysis already completed and according to existing permit stipulations. (SRPs are currently in place for commercial uses such as canyoneering, rock climbing, backpacking, hiking, guided hunting, and vehicle tours.)

REC-32

Prior to completing the activity plan, issue additional similar SRPs, subject to the following stipulations:

- Within one-half mile of canyon rims and below the rim, limit group size to 12 or fewer. Allow no commercial or organized group larger than 12 to operate in this area.
- Allow only one commercial group to occupy the same side of the canyon at any one time.
- Review itineraries prior to each operating season.
- Allow no camping within one-half mile of Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers. Require all activities be consistent with the guidelines in the Mexican spotted owl recovery plan.
- Allow no camping within the 100-year floodplain or 330 feet on either side from the centerline, whichever is greater, of any spring or water sources in Desert bighorn sheep use areas during the lambing season (April 15–June 15).
- Stipulate additional requirements, if needed, to protect sensitive species and their critical habitats

Livestock Grazing

Maintain healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems and restore degraded rangelands to meet Utah's Standards for Rangeland Health and to provide a wide range of public values, such as wildlife habitat, livestock forage, recreation opportunities, clean water, and functional watersheds.

GRA-7

Handle on a case-by-case basis voluntary relinquishment of grazing permits and preference, in whole or in part, by a permittee in writing to the BLM. The BLM would not recognize as valid, relinquishments that are conditional on specific BLM actions, and BLM would not be bound by them. Relinquished permits and the associated preference would remain available for application by qualified applicants after BLM considers whether such action would meet Rangeland Health Standards and would be compatible with achieving LUP goals and objectives. Prior to re-issuance of the relinquished permit, the terms and conditions may be modified to meet RMP goals and objectives and/or site-specific resource objectives. However, upon relinquishment, BLM may determine through a site-specific evaluation and associated environmental analysis that the public lands involved would be better used for other purposes. Grazing may then be discontinued on the allotment through an amendment to the RMP. Any decision issued concerning discontinuance of livestock grazing would not be permanent and may be reconsidered and changed through future LUP amendments and updates

GRA-8

Permit livestock use on those allotments shown on Map 12 and in Appendix 7.

Acres available for grazing: 1,989,048

Acres unavailable for grazing: 138,952

Available AUMs: 146,202

GRA-12

Consider the following actions if livestock grazing is contributing to declining range conditions:

- Shorten the grazing period
- Temporarily suspend use
- Implement or change grazing system
- Authorize non-use until conditions improve.

GRA-14

Consider changes to permitted use if:

- Change is supported by monitoring data, field observations, ecological site inventory, or other acceptable data.
- Conflicts with other uses are identified.
- There is a change in public land ownership (increase or decrease).

- Protection of other resources is required.
- Changes are required by 43 CFR 4180 (Rangeland Health regulations).

Special Status Species

SSS-6

Maintain the integrity of SSS habitat to provide the quantity, continuity, and quality of habitat necessary to maintain SSS populations.

SSS-7

Conduct habitat improvement treatments for SSS. Future consultation would be needed for biological controls in SSS habitat.

SSS-8

Retain habitat for federally listed and candidate species in federal ownership. Exceptions may be considered in exchanges with the State of Utah and others after consultation with and concurrence from the USFWS.

SSS-9

Consider SSS habitat in all wildfire suppression efforts.

SSS-14

Implement the specific goals and objectives of recovery plans, conservation agreements and strategies, and approved activity-level plans.

SSS-20

Use strategies to avoid or reduce habitat fragmentation when possible, including:

- Co-locating communication and other facilities
- Employing directional drilling for oil and gas
- Closing and reclaiming roads
- Landscape scale evaluations
- Using topographic and vegetative screening to reduce the influence of intrusions.

SSS-21

Mitigate the effects of proposed projects that have the potential to cause long-term or permanent habitat impacts or losses by enhancing, restoring, or creating other habitat within the project's region of influence. Consider protecting the habitat when the habitat type is rare and under severe development pressures. Protection should only be a portion of the mitigation and must contain elements of restoration or enhancement.

SSS-22

Use species-specific buffers and seasonal, temporal, and spatial restrictions to conserve habitat for SSS (Appendix I I and Appendix I 4).

SSS-25

Limit OHV use to designated routes and/or seasonal closure of designated routes in all Greater sage-grouse habitats, including: breeding (leks), nesting, brood-rearing, and wintering habitats.

SSS-26

Implement the most current *UDWR Strategic Management Plan for Sage-Grouse* (UDWR, 2002 and its future revisions), the *BLM National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy* (BLM, 2004), and recommendations from local sage-grouse working groups to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore Greater sage-grouse populations and habitat.

- All surface disturbing activities would be prohibited within ½ mile of Greater sage-grouse leks on a year-round basis. Oil and gas leasing would be open subject to major constraints (NSO).
- Allow no surface disturbing or otherwise disruptive activities within 2 miles of Greater sage-grouse leks from March 15 to July 15 to protect nesting and brood-rearing habitat. Oil and gas leasing would be open subject to a controlled surface use and timing stipulation.
- Allow no surface disturbing or otherwise disruptive activities within Greater sage-grouse winter habitat from December 15 – March 14. Oil and gas leasing would be open subject to a controlled surface use and timing stipulation.

See Appendix II for exceptions, modifications, or waivers.

Wildlife

Manage habitat to prevent additional listings of species under the federal ESA, or the State of Utah's Species of Concern List.

WL-6

Coordinate with UDWR to address population dynamics and habitat conditions for major habitat types that support a wide variety of game and non-game species.

WL-7

Use strategies to avoid or reduce habitat fragmentation, such as collocating facilities, employing directional drilling, reclaiming redundant roads, and reclaiming roads no longer serving intended purpose, reducing road densities, and using topographic and vegetative screening to reduce influence of intrusions.

WL-8

The BLM will approach compensatory mitigation on an "as appropriate" basis where it can be performed onsite, and on a voluntary basis where it is performed off-site, or, in accordance with current guidance.

WL-11

Use prescriptive grazing to favor forage production for big game crucial winter range.

WL-13

Accomplish habitat treatments to meet terrestrial, aquatic, and riparian habitat objectives through the use of prescribed and/or wildland fire, chemical, biological, and mechanical methods.

Fire and Fuels Management

Manage fire and fuels, where appropriate, to restore natural systems to their desired future condition, considering the interrelated social and economic components.

FIRE-4

Implement appropriate management response (AMR) according to General Risk Categories (GRC), as contained in Appendix 6. The GRCs contain criteria for managing dynamic vegetation communities. Wildland fire use would not be appropriate in the following areas:

- Administrative sites
- Developed recreation sites
- Communication sites
- Oil and gas facilities
- Mining facilities
- Above-ground utility corridors
- High-use travel corridors
- Crucial wildlife habitats where fire is unwanted
- GRCA, such as desert scrub communities.

FIRE-6

Adhere to specific fire suppression directions within Potential ACECs for protection of identified relevant and important values from irreparable damage.

FIRE-7

Give specific considerations when implementing suppression activities to SSS habitats and cultural resource sites.

FIRE-8

Manage fire and fuels through treatments conducted on up to 1,472,000 acres over the life of the plan. Use the full range of treatment types (e.g., prescribed and wildland fire use, mechanical, chemical, biological, and cultural treatments). An annual average of 73,600 acres would need to receive treatment to reach the total treatment acreage listed. Actual annual treatment acreage would vary depending on conditions, staffing, etc. These acreage figures include all vegetation and fire fuels treatments.

FIRE-11

Undertake ESR efforts to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, and safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

VERNAL**Special Status Species****WL-5**

Reduce habitat fragmentation (see Figure 19a) by requiring oil and gas field development plans and encouraging such activities as well clustering, multiple drilling from a single pad, utilization of existing routes and pipelines, and other measures to minimize surface impacts.

Lands and Realty**LAR-3**

The BLM will retain lands within its administrative jurisdiction, except where necessary to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- Improve management of natural resources through consolidation of federal, state and private lands.
- Secure key property necessary to protect special status species including threatened and endangered species, promote biological diversity, increase recreational opportunities, and preserve archaeological, paleontological and historical resources.

LAR-6

The following criteria will be used when evaluating proposed land use authorizations:

- Land use authorizations will not be approved in any designated exclusion areas.
- Land use authorizations in avoidance areas may be authorized provided they are considered consistent with the current management objectives; those that are not will either be rejected or will necessitate a plan amendment prior to approval.
- Habitat for listed T&E species will be retained in federal ownership. Exceptions may be considered in exchanges with the State of Utah and others with consultation and concurrence with the USFWS.

LAR-20

Land ownership changes will be considered on lands not specifically identified in the Approved RMP (Figure 6a) for disposal or acquisition if the changes are in accordance with resource management objectives and other RMP decisions, determined to be in the public interest, and will accomplish one or more of the following criteria:

- The changes are determined to be in the public interest. The public will benefit from land resources coming into public ownership, while at the same time accommodating the needs of local and state governments, including the needs for public purposes, community growth and the economy.
- The changes result in a gain of important manageable resources on public lands such as crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural sites, mineral resources, water sources, listed species by habitat, or areas key to productive ecosystems.

- The changes ensure public access to lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained.
- The changes will promote more effective management and meet essential resource objectives through land ownership consolidation.
- The changes result in acquisition of lands that serve regional or national priorities identified in applicable policy directives or legislation.

LAR-22

Non-federal lands located within sensitive areas will be acquired through donation, purchase, or land exchange. Land acquisitions will be negotiated from willing landowners.

LAR-23

Acquire fee title or interest in non-federal lands with priority placed on lands with critical resource values (e.g., water rights, scenic easements, Greater sage-grouse leks).

LAR-40

This Approved RMP is consistent with existing right-of-way (ROW) corridors, including the Western Utility Group (WUG) updates to the Western Regional Corridor Study (Figure 6a), and will designate additional corridors subject to physical barriers, and sensitive resource values. Sensitive resource values include, but are not limited to:

- ACECs
- Areas possessing high scenic quality
- Cultural and paleontological resources
- Riparian areas
- Sensitive soils
- Threatened and endangered species habitat

LAR-48

The following areas are recommended for locatable mineral withdrawal:

- Book Cliffs Mountain Browse Instant Study Area (400 acres)
- Green River Scenic Corridor in Browns Park (8,208 acres)
- Lears Canyon relict vegetation areas (1,375 acres)
- White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (6,720 acres)
- White River SRMA (2,831 acres)
- Developed and potential recreation sites (5,000 acres)

Habitat Restoration/Vegetation Management

- Provide, maintain, enhance, and protect habitats for a diversity of fish and wildlife species within the VPA.

- Maintain, restore, enhance, and protect crucial habitats for all fish and wildlife species and restore degraded habitats. Manage for unfragmented blocks of continuous habitat that will provide the life cycle requirements of a variety of wildlife species.
- Identify species and habitats most in need of conservation.
- Ensure that management of native and naturalized plant species enhances, restores, and does not reduce the biological and genetic diversity of natural ecosystems.
- Protect special status plant species and their habitats.

VEG-4

Manage the vegetation to attain the ecological stage that will benefit wildlife in crucial habitat and livestock grazing. Manage vegetation in remaining areas that results in high vegetation species diversity.

VEG-9

Manage the vegetation to attain the ecological stage that will:

- Ensure sustainability
- Meet authorized use allocations (livestock, wildlife).
- Ensure species diversity

VEG-13

Restore or rehabilitate up to 200,000 acres of sagebrush-steppe habitat over the life of the plan. Such vegetation treatment plans will consider the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Guidelines for Management of Sage-grouse Populations and Habitats and State and Local Conservation Plans.

Forage

- Restore, maintain, and/or improve rangeland conditions and productivity to maintain, meet or make substantial progress towards meeting *BLM Utah Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management* while meeting forage obligations in grazing permits and grazing preference decisions, as well as wildlife habitat.

RNI-2

Part or all of the following measures will be implemented to meet resource objectives for habitat enhancement:

- Fencing (69 Miles)
- Vegetation Treatment (34,640 Acres)
- Water Developments:
- 812 Guzzlers/Reservoirs
- Pipeline (38 Miles)

- 51 Wells/Springs

Fire and Fuels Management

- The primary goal and objective of fire management is to help restore natural systems to their proper functioning condition by restoring fire to its legitimate role in the ecosystem, including managing wildland fire for other resource benefits.

The Best Management Practices provided at part of WO IM 2011-138 would be applied to fuels and fire management action as a matter of compliance to BLM policy.

FIRE-3

Following any wildland fire event, the BLM will select an Interdisciplinary Emergency Stabilization and Restoration (ES&R) team that will evaluate any burned areas to determine if ES&R treatments are needed. ES&R treatments will follow the procedures outlined in the BLM Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook (H-1742-1) (dated 02/12/2007). If the interdisciplinary team determines that ES&R treatments are necessary, the team will develop an ES&R plan with site-specific measures designed to minimize resource losses, both on-and off-site, following the wildfire. Consideration will be given to sensitive resource values in preparation of the ES&R plan, including WSAs, special emphasis areas, critical soils, cultural resources, and special status species habitat. ES&R treatments may include, but will not be limited to seeding, seedbed preparation practices, fencing, chemical applications, water retention structures, and control of livestock, and wildlife grazing. Site-specific ES&R plans will be tiered to the existing Normal Fire Year Rehabilitation Plan for the VPA. Criteria for developing ES&R actions are determined by:

- Areas where the risk of imminent soil loss is high
- Areas that contain T&E Species or state sensitive species habitat
- Areas that contain municipal watersheds; and areas where there is a high potential for invasive species establishment

FIRE-5

Criteria for developing hazardous fuel reduction priorities will consist of the following:

- Areas of Fire Regime Condition Class 2 and 3
- Areas where the potential risk of losing keystone ecosystem species is present
- Areas where threats to private/public property exist

FIRE-9

The VPA is divided into fire management categories. Fire suppression activities and the Appropriate Management Response (AMR) will be implemented through the guidance developed under the ABCD polygons as outlined in BLM Land-Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1). Criteria used in development of the categories were determined through an Interdisciplinary Team of resource specialists. Criteria for each category are described below:

- Category A – Areas where unplanned fire is not desired at all. This category includes the salt desert shrub vegetation type where the risk of cheatgrass invasion is high following fire events. Also included are the major river corridors where fire results in the loss of Fremont cottonwood, a keystone species in present decline. Other constraints to fire management activities include cultural resource sites, high recreational use, and highly developed oil and gas fields.
- Category B – Areas where unplanned fire is not desired because of current conditions. Prescribed fire use is allowed to obtain resource management objectives; mechanical/chemical treatments will be utilized where social and/or resource constraints preclude the use of prescribed fire. This category includes the five identified WUI areas for the VFO, including adjacent urban interfaces, cultural resources, crucial deer winter range, and crucial Greater sage-grouse habitat. Within this habitat, Wyoming sagebrush is identified as a keystone species, which has been in a continual state of decline due to widespread drought and invasive species encroachment.
- Category C – Areas where wildland fire is desired. Prescribed fire is allowed and may be extensive to obtain resource management objectives; mechanical/chemical treatments will be utilized where social and/or resource constraints preclude the use of prescribed fire. This category contains the pinyon-juniper vegetation type, along with aspen/Douglas fir, mountain browse, and non-crucial areas of sagebrush. Other constraints to fire management activities include a limited amount of oil and gas development, non-crucial Greater sage-grouse habitat, a limited amount of T&E species habitat, and a limited amount of cultural resources.
- Category D – Areas where wildland fire is desired, and there are few or no constraints for its use. This category contains non-crucial Greater sage-grouse habitat, a limited amount of T&E species habitat, non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and a limited amount of cultural resources.

Fluid Minerals

MIN-2

Mineral and energy resource exploration and development surface-disturbing activities will be allowed in the VPA unless precluded by other program prescriptions. The stipulations identified for surface-disturbing activities in Appendix K will generally apply to these activities.

MIN-7

Mitigation of oil and gas impacts developed under the Approved RMP and applied to leases issued after the date of this RMP in the form of stipulations will adhere to the BLM's standard format. Stipulations necessary to protect the resource will contain provisions/criteria to allow for the waiver, exception, or modification of the stipulation if warranted.

MIN-8

The Approved RMP will provide for a variety of oil and gas operations and geophysical explorations. These activities will be allowed in the VPA unless precluded by other program

prescriptions. The stipulations identified for surface-disturbing activities in Appendix K will generally apply to these activities.

MIN-10

Approximately 750,131 acres will be open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form.

MIN-11

Approximately 890,280 acres will be open to leasing subject to moderate constraints, such as TLs and CSU.

MIN-12

Approximately 86,789 acres will be open to leasing subject to major constraints such as No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations.

MIN-13

Approximately 190,434 acres will be administratively unavailable for leasing.

Appendix K**Surface Stipulations Applicable to All Surface-Disturbing Activities**

No surface-disturbing activities within ¼ mile of active sage-grouse leks year round.

Exception: None

Modification: None

Waiver: None

Leasable Minerals**MLE-1**

36,846 acres along 172 miles of Gilsonite veins will be available for prospecting, leasing, and

development of Gilsonite (additional veins located through field study or prospecting not shown on Figure 9a will also be available if such are within "open" category lands).

MLE-2

76,208 acres will be open to phosphate prospecting, leasing, and development with standard and special stipulations within the phosphate occurrence areas.

Locatable Minerals**MLO-1**

Operations on lands open to mineral entry (as well as on claim locations that pre-date withdrawal) must be conducted in compliance with the 43 CFR 3809 and 3715 regulations. The three level of operations under these regulations include casual use, notice and, plan of operation. A plan will have to be filed for operations usually conducted under notice in:

- Areas in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and areas designated for potential addition to the system
- Designated ACECs
- Areas designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and administered by the BLM
- Areas designated as “closed” to OHV use as defined in 43 CFR 8340-5
- Any lands or waters known to contain federally proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or their proposed or designated crucial habitat
- National Monuments and National Conservation Areas administered by the BLM; see 43 CFR 3809.11(c)
- A plan must be submitted for any bulk sampling of 1,000 tons or more of presumed ore for testing; see 43 CFR 3809.11(b)

Saleable Minerals

MSA-3

389,788 acres will be available for mineral material disposal with standard and special stipulations.

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management

TRC-1

In collaboration with interested parties, the BLM will make future route adjustments based on access needs, recreational opportunities, and natural resource constraints. These adjustments will occur only in areas with open and/or limited route designations and will be analyzed at the activity planning level.

TRC-4

The BLM will impose limitations on types of vehicles allowed on specific designated routes if monitoring indicates that a particular type of vehicle is causing disturbance to the soil, wildlife habitat, cultural or vegetative resources, especially by off-road travel in an area that is limited to designated routes.

TRC-13

OHV travel will be limited to designated routes or closed except for managed open areas as follows:

- Acres that will be open to OHV travel: 6,202
- Acres that will be limited to OHV travel: 1,640,725
- Acres that will be closed to OHV travel: 75,845

Livestock Grazing

- Achieve appropriate utilization of the range by livestock and wildlife through management prescriptions and administrative adjustments.
- Maintain, restore, improve, protect, and expand riparian-wetland areas so they are in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) and meet BLM Utah Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for their productivity, biological diversity, and sustainability, and achieve an advanced (late-climax seral stage) ecological status, except where resource management will require an earlier ecological status for such purposes as vegetation diversity.
- PFC is the minimum acceptable riparian goal. However, PFC may not provide the streamside and aquatic conditions to meet goals for other resources. These include, but are not limited to, fisheries habitat, migratory bird habitat, unique recreational values, and/or forage. Specific objectives and management actions such as those stated below will be implemented in order to meet riparian goals.
- Site-specific plans, where appropriate, will be prepared in collaboration with affected livestock operators, the UDWR, the Central Utah Water Conservancy Districts, and other interested parties, agencies, or organizations to identify desired plant communities, establish specific management objectives, and recommend practices to be employed to achieve desired results.
- Monitoring and evaluation strategies will be implemented to measure progress in accordance with BLM Utah Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management.
- Certain situations may occur that will allow the BLM to modify specific grazing objectives set forth in this plan.

GRA-1

Requests from permittees to convert class of livestock will be handled as follows:

- On crucial deer winter ranges, cattle are preferred.
- In areas where fencing will be required, conversion will be contingent upon signed fence agreement and fences will be in place prior to issuance of permit to graze. The applicant(s) requesting the conversion will be responsible to fund the fencing and cattle guards/gates and to construct and maintain fences. (Consistent with Vernal District Grazing Advisory Board and Vernal BLM joint Rangeland Improvement (RI) Policy dated 12/08/1992).
- In areas where grazing will be along paved routes, evaluate and determine the need for fencing. Applicants will be required to fence the road if it is determined necessary to protect human and livestock health and safety.
- Areas with riverine/lotic systems may require additional management actions such as, but not limited to, fencing of streams.

GRA-2

As opportunities arise, such as voluntary relinquishment, consider changes to livestock use to assure management objectives are met.

GRA-4

Identify criteria for acceptable levels of livestock grazing use along river bottoms (see Riparian Resources decision).

GRA-5

If grazing is causing resource degradation, to the extent that BLM Utah Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management are not being met and progress is not being made, monitoring data show that livestock grazing is the most significant factor, and all other options have been exhausted, close those riparian areas that do not satisfactorily respond to changes in management.

GRA-7

Voluntary relinquishments of grazing permits and preference, in whole or in part, by a permittee in writing to the BLM will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The BLM will not recognize as valid, relinquishments which are conditional on specific BLM actions and the BLM will not be bound by them. Relinquished permits and the associated preference will remain available for application by qualified applicants after the BLM considers if such action will meet *BLM Utah Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management* and is compatible with achieving LUP goals and objectives. Prior to re-issuance of the relinquished permit, the terms and conditions may be modified to meet LUP goals and objectives and/or site-specific resource objectives.

GRA-8

However, upon relinquishment, the BLM may determine through a site-specific evaluation and associated NEPA analysis, that the public lands involved are better used for other purposes.

Grazing may then be discontinued on the allotment through an amendment to the existing LUP or a new LUP effort. Any decision issued concerning discontinuance of livestock grazing is not permanent and may be reconsidered and changed through future LUP amendments and updates.

GRA-9

Prior to approving changes in permitted seasons of use, the following will be mandatory:

- Compliance with the standards for range management (see *BLM Utah Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management*)
- Preparation, signature, and implementation of a monitoring plan
- Signature of permittee accepting the grazing management practices determined necessary by the Authorized Officer to approve the change
- Agreement by permittee to management practices that provide for the physiological requirements of desired plants

GRA-10

Requests from a permittee to change seasons of use will be a priority if all of the following criteria were met:

- Changes enhance or meet resource objectives contained in the Vernal RMP
- Allotment(s) are scheduled for assessment the same year a request is made
- Funding for the assessment is voluntarily provided by sources other than the BLM

GRA-11

Develop management plans and/or grazing agreements for livestock allotments to allow flexibility in grazing management which may include consolidation of allotments, change in seasons of use, and reduction and/or consolidation of grazing allotments and pastures (Figure 7a).

GRA-13

Livestock grazing will be allowed under the discretion of the VFO in Area 1.

GRA-14

Livestock grazing will be allowed from 6/1 through 10/31 or 5/1 with a deferment in Area 2.

GRA-15

Livestock grazing will be allowed from 5/1 through 12/31 in Area 3.

GRA-16

Livestock grazing will be allowed from 5/1 through 6/1 in Area 4.

GRA-17

Livestock grazing will be allowed from 5/1 through 6/1 and 10/1 through 2/28 in Area 5.

GRA-18

Livestock grazing will be allowed from 10/1 through 4/1 or 5/1 with a deferment in Area 6.

GRA-19

Livestock grazing will be allowed from 4/1 through 5/31 and/or 9/1 through 10/31 in Area 7.

Forage

- Maintain or improve the total forage resource using techniques that are compatible with the use and development of other resources and that will maintain, meet, or make substantial progress towards meeting BLM Utah Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management.

FOR-1

Monitoring will be used in all localities to determine the amount of forage available for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses until the wild horses are gathered and removed. Results of monitoring will be used to adapt management strategies to prevent deterioration of rangelands, to achieve desired resource conditions, and to meet other resource objectives.

FOR-3

Increases or reductions for all localities associated with joint monitoring of base allocations will be evaluated against the established grazing permits and UDWR herd unit objectives to determine needed adjustments to animal numbers, adjustments in seasons of use, etc. Unless specified elsewhere in the plan, changes in forage allocation will be as follows:

- When all other management options have been exhausted and it is determined that BLM Utah Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management are not being met, reductions will be made to the species of grazing animal shown to be causing the problem.
- Increases in available forage resulting from conservation practices, improved range condition, or development of improvements by the livestock permittee, DWR, or other organizations, will be credited to that entity unless specified elsewhere in the plan.

FOR-5

AUMs will be adjusted downward for livestock, wildlife, or wild horses (or any combination thereof) in all localities when monitoring shows that rangeland objectives are not being met and that the long-term forage availability is not adequate to support the permitted uses.

FOR-6

If it is determined through monitoring that livestock grazing in all localities is beneficial to other resource values, it will be allowed on 16 miles of river corridor along the Upper Green River in Browns Park following an adequate evaluation and assessment. If such use is allowed, it will be of short duration and will not detract from recreation and/or riparian values along the river.

FOR-9

Up to 50% utilization of forage on uplands for all localities will be allowed, unless otherwise specified by a management plan.

FOR-10

AUMs will be allocated for all localities as follows:

- 138,402 AUMs for livestock
- 104,865 AUMs for wildlife
- 2,340 AUMs for wild horses

FOR-12

If additional forage allocation is available, forage increases will be divided proportionately in the Bonanza locality between livestock and big game. Wildlife AUMs that are made available will go to pronghorn and deer.

FOR-14

If forage allocation reductions are needed to progress toward rangeland health, sheep and/or cattle and pronghorn allocations in the Bonanza Herd Area will be reduced proportionately. Pronghorn use will not be reduced below 239 AUMs.

FOR-15

In the Bonanza locality if additional forage allocation is available, forage increases will be divided proportionately between sheep and wildlife. Wildlife AUMs that are made available will go to pronghorn and deer.

FOR-16

1,325 unallocated AUMs in the Book Cliffs locality that were acquired by acquisition of private lands (Cripple Cowboy) will be reserved for watershed. Although wildlife and livestock will not be excluded from utilizing these lands in the Book Cliffs locality, no additional AUMs will be allocated to wildlife or livestock.

FOR-19

If monitoring shows that reductions are necessary because of wildlife and livestock conflicts, reductions in grazing use will be divided proportionately between livestock and big game in the Book Cliffs locality.

FOR-20

In the Book Cliffs locality outside of the Winter Ridge Herd Area and Hill Creek Herd Management Area, additional forage in cattle allotments will be allocated as follows:

- 60% of the additional forage will be allocated to reinstate suspended cattle AUMs and 40% of the additional forage will be allocated for wildlife.
- After restoring all suspended AUMs, additional forage will be allocated proportionately between livestock and wildlife.

FOR-21

In the Book Cliffs locality outside of the Winter Ridge Herd Area and Hill Creek Herd Management Area, additional forage in sheep allotments will be divided proportionately between sheep and big game.

FOR-22

In the Winter Ridge Herd Area and Hill Creek Herd Management Area, additional forage will be divided proportionately between livestock and big game. If big game does not need additional forage, it will be given to livestock.

FOR-23

If monitoring indicates forage assignments cannot be met, then livestock permitted use and wildlife use will be reduced proportionately in the Blue Mountain locality. The first year livestock reductions will be made with an initial 10% adjustment. Five-year agreements will be developed and signed outlining the process for phased reductions to the desired level.

FOR-24

If in the Blue Mountain locality, additional AUMs are realized through management changes and/or livestock-oriented vegetation treatments will be divided proportionately between livestock and big game.

FOR-25

If monitoring indicates forage assignments cannot be met, then livestock and wildlife use will be reduced proportionately in the Diamond Mountain locality. The first year livestock reductions will be made with an initial 10% adjustment. Five-year agreements will be developed and signed outlining the process for phased reductions to the desired level.

FOR-26

In the Diamond Mountain locality, additional AUMs will be provided as follows:

- In the northern half of the Diamond Mountain locality (Diamond Mountain and Browns Park), additional AUMs will be provided to livestock until wildlife demands require them.
- In the southern half of the Diamond Mountain locality (Ashley Valley and Myton Bench), forage increases will be divided proportionately between livestock and big game on non-crucial wildlife areas.

Wildlife**WL-1**

The BLM will consider habitat banking (i.e., off-site mitigation) as a method to compensate for habitat loss due to surface-disturbing activities.

WL-5

Reduce habitat fragmentation (see Figure 19a) by requiring oil and gas field development plans and encouraging such activities as well clustering, multiple drilling from a single pad, utilization of existing routes and pipelines, and other measures to minimize surface impacts.

WL-8

The BLM will approach compensatory mitigation on an “as appropriate” basis where it can be performed on-site, and on a voluntary basis where it is performed off-site, or, in accordance with current guidance.

WL-12

Existing Habitat Management Plans (e.g., Browns Park [1987], Myton [1979], and Diamond Mountain-Ashley Creek [1983]) will continue to be implemented and revised, and new ones will be developed as necessary.

WL-14

Encourage coordination with oil and gas companies to inform the BLM and USFWS of plans for workovers in order to protect species from disturbances during critical time periods.

WL-16

Modify existing fences on public lands where wildlife are adversely affected. Work with other surface management agencies or surface owners toward modifying wildlife-restricting fences that border public lands to improve natural movement of wildlife.

WL-29

Acquire and protect crucial wildlife habitat through sale or exchange.

Appendix H

Table 14. Mineral Development Land Categorization Proposed In Greater Sage-Grouse Wintering Habitat

Oil and Gas

- Standard Stipulations - 98,067 acres (41%)
- Timing and Controlled Surface Use - 98,679 acres (42%)
- No Surface Occupancy - 4,832 acres (2%)
- No Leasing - 35,095 acres (15%)

Other Minerals (Open)-

- Mineral Material-71,668 acres (87%)
- Phosphate-16,100 acres (64%)
- Gilsonite-148 acres (100%)

Appendix H

Table 15. Mineral Development Land Categorization Proposed In Greater Sage-grouse Brooding Habitat

Oil and Gas Development

- Standard Stipulation-288,942 acres (36%)
- Timing and Controlled Surface Use-412,653 acres (51%)
- No Surface Occupancy-21,092 acres (3%)
- No Leasing-91,085 acres (11%)

Other Minerals

(Open)-NA

- Mineral Material-183,838 acres (88%)
- Phosphate-50,184 acres (81%)
- Gilsonite-456 acres (100%)

Recreation and Visitor Services**REC-5**

Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis. All proposed applications for permits will be evaluated to determine compliance with the goals and objectives of this plan.

Special Status Species

- Conserve and protect special status species and enhance their habitats.
- Conserve and recover all state special status species, including federally listed species and the ecosystems on which they depend.
- Implement the management recovery measures necessary to increase populations of special status species, including federally listed animal species, and restore them to their historic ranges by enhancing, protecting, and restoring known and potential habitat and the ecosystems on which they depend.
- Mitigate or reduce long-term habitat fragmentation through avoidance and site-specific reclamation to return areas to productive levels.
- Manage all listed T&E plant and animal species and the habitats upon which they depend in such a manner as to conserve and recover these species to the point where protection under the ESA is no longer necessary.
- Manage non-listed sensitive species and the habitats upon which they depend in such a manner as to preclude the need to list them as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The guidance for this management is put forth in the BLM 6840 Manual.
- Implement the specific goals and objectives of recovery plans, conservation agreements and strategies, and approved activity level plans. The BLM will continue to work with USFWS and others to ensure that plans and agreements are updated as necessary to reflect the latest scientific data.
- Implement the direction contained in the Northwest National Fire Plan Project Design and Consultation Process and the Counterpart Regulations, including Alternative Consultation Agreements.
- Implement the management necessary to increase populations of special status species, including federally listed animal species, and restore them to their historic ranges by enhancing, protecting, and restoring known and potential habitat.

SSS-7

As additional data are collected over the life of the RMP, land managers will continually reevaluate population and habitat status. Management emphasis will be to accumulate ecological information and distributional data to enhance the BLM's ability to protect, conserve, recover, and manage these species in the future.

SSS-8

The BLM will work with UDWR and other partners to implement conservation actions identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy) (UDWR, 2005), which identified priority wildlife species and habitats, assessed threats to their survival, and identified long-term conservation action needs (per WO IM 2006-114).

SSS-10

Conservation measures developed during the consultation on existing LUPs (June 2007) will be implemented as part of committed mitigation on new oil and gas leases. Appendix L contains lease notices developed from the conservation measures.

SSS-25

No surface-disturbing activities within 0.25 mile of active Greater sage-grouse leks will be allowed year-round. No permanent facilities or structures will be allowed within two miles when possible.

SSS-26

No surface-disturbing activities within two miles of active Greater sage-grouse leks will be allowed from March 1 through June 15.

SSS-27

Within 0.5 mile of known active leks, the best available technology will be used to reduce noise, e.g., installation of multi-cylinder pumps, hospital sound-reducing mufflers, and placement of exhaust systems.

FW-2:

Avoid if possible or limit the size of, wildland fires in important wildlife habitats such as, mule deer winter range, riparian and occupied sage-grouse habitat. Use Resource Advisors to help prioritize resources and develop Wildland Fire Situation Analyses (WFSA) and Wildland Fire Implementation Analyses (WFSA) and Wildland Fire Implementation Plans (WFIP) when important habitats may be impacted. (SUP, WFU)

FW-3:

Minimize wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush communities where sage-grouse habitat objectives will not be met if a fire occurs. Prioritize wildfire suppression in sagebrush habitat with an understory of invasive, annual species. Retain unburned islands and patches of sagebrush unless there are compelling safety, private property and resource protection or control objectives at risk. Minimize burn out operations (to minimize burned acres) in occupied sage-grouse habitats when there are not threats to human life and/or important resources. (SUP)

FW-5:

Use wildland fire to meet wildlife objectives. Evaluate impacts to sage-grouse habitat in areas where wildland fire use for resource benefit may be implemented. (WFU, RX)

FW-9:

Utilize the Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation program to apply appropriate post fire treatments within crucial wildlife habitats, including sage-grouse habitats. Minimize seeding with non-native species that may create a continuous perennial grass cover and restrict establishment of native vegetation. Seed mixtures should be designed to re-establish important seasonal habitat components for sage-grouse. Leaks should not be re-seeded with plants that change the vegetation heights previously found on the lek. Forbs should be stressed in early and late brood-rearing habitats. In situations of limited funds for emergency stabilization and rehabilitation actions, prioritize rehabilitation of sage-grouse habitats. (ESR)

FW-10:

Seed mixtures should be designed to reestablish important seasonal habitat components for sage-grouse. Leks should not be reseeded with plants that change the vegetation height previously found on the lek. Forbs should be stressed in early and late brood-rearing habitats. In situations of limited funds for emergency stabilization and rehabilitation actions, prioritize rehabilitation of sage-grouse habitats. (ESR)

FW-11:

Vegetation treatments would consider the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Guidelines for Management of Sage-grouse Populations and Habitats and State and Local Conservation Plans. This is in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding among the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding sage-grouse management. (WFU, RX, NF, ESR)

ASHLEY**Fisheries and Aquatic Wildlife**

Accomplish non-structural habitat improvements on approximately 500 acres annually.

DIXIE**Lands and Realty****West Wide Energy Corridor(s)**

Applicants shall identify important, sensitive, or unique habitats and BLM-special status species, FS-sensitive, and state-listed species in the vicinity of proposed projects and design the project to avoid or mitigate impacts to these habitats and species.

Fluid Minerals**Oil/Gas Amendment: NSO-09**

As shown on Figure 3.6-2 in the Final EIS for Oil and Gas Leasing on Lands Administered by the Dixie National Forest, August 2011, within 1 mile of sage-grouse leks (all habitats), and between 1 and 2 miles of sage-grouse leks within sagebrush habitat only. This prohibition includes all surface disturbing activities such as roads, well pads, and other facilities.

Oil/Gas Amendment: CSU-09

No activities would be allowed from May 1 to July 15. Outside these dates, surface disturbance for oil and gas operations is limited to no more than 1 percent of total habitat (1% = 130 acres), including the areas of avoidance due to human activity (i.e., roads and well pads) with radius/buffer to be determined by the Dixie National Forest. Reclaimed oil and gas disturbance which has met reclamation requirements is not included in the disturbed / avoidance area calculation.

Oil/Gas Amendment: NSO-09

Seismic activities, including blasting, would be limited during the lekking period: March 1 – May 15.

FISHLAKE

Lands and Realty

West Wide Energy Corridor(s)

Applicants shall identify important, sensitive, or unique habitats and BLM-special status species, FS-sensitive, and state-listed species in the vicinity of proposed projects and design the project to avoid or mitigate impacts to these habitats and species.

MIN

Within 4 miles of sage-grouse leks delineated and mapped by the Forest Service Protecting breeding and brood-rearing sage-grouse from predation, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance.

Exceptions: An exception may be granted if the Forest Supervisor, in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, determines through analysis that the nature of the actions, as proposed or conditioned, could be fully mitigated. This might occur if topography and/or vegetation are present that would effectively screen the structure or facility from the breeding habitat.

Modifications: None

Waivers: None

MIN

Within sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat delineated and mapped by UDWR, no activities would be allowed during the period May 1 through July 5.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the Forest Supervisor, in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, determines through analysis that the nature of the actions, as proposed or conditioned, could be fully mitigated.

Modification: A modification may be granted if the Forest Supervisor determines through coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate a portion of the lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains brood-rearing habitat.

Waiver: A waiver may be granted if the Forest Supervisor determines through coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate the entire lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains brood-rearing habitat.

MIN

Within sage-grouse winter habitat delineated and mapped by UDWR, protect wintering sage-grouse from predation, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance during the critical period from December 1 to March 15.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the Forest Supervisor, in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, determines through analysis that the nature of the actions, as proposed or conditioned, could be fully mitigated.

Modification: A modification may be granted if the Forest Supervisor determines through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate a portion of the lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains winter habitat.

Waiver: A waiver may be granted if the Forest Supervisor determines through coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate the entire lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains winter habitat.

MANTI LA SAL

Forestwide Direction – Minerals Management Leasables

No surface occupancy stipulations will be used as appropriate in leases, licenses, or permits on sage-grouse leks/nesting/brooding areas.

UINTA

Special Status Species

Objective-2-14 (O-2-14)

By 2018, provide habitat suitable to maintain stable Greater sage-grouse populations in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas at or above established objectives, and increase depressed populations by 10 percent.

Objective-2-15 (O-2-15)

By 2018, maintain identified Greater sage-grouse nesting habitats in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas at prescribed conditions in 80 percent of habitats.

Objective-2-16 (O-2-16)

By 2018, improve or restore 1,000 acres of Greater sage-grouse habitat on breeding, brood-rearing, and winter range habitats in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas not currently meeting prescribed conditions.

Lands and Realty

C&S-1 Guideline

Locate energy transmission, mining, or other large structures and facilities that could be used as perch sites for raptors at least two miles from Greater sage-grouse leks.

C&S-2 Guideline

Avoid building power lines and other tall structures that could become potential perch sites for raptors within two miles of Greater sage-grouse habitats (nesting, brood-rearing, and winter) in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas. Bury power lines or, if structures must be built or currently exist, modify the structures to prevent raptors from using the structures.

West Wide Energy Corridor(s)

Applicants shall identify important, sensitive, or unique habitats and BLM-special status species, FS-sensitive, and state-listed species in the vicinity of proposed projects and design the project to avoid or mitigate impacts to these habitats and species.

Habitat Restoration/Vegetation Management**Veg-7 Guideline**

Manage approximately 80% of potential Greater sage-grouse breeding and winter habitat areas in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas to support the percentages and heights of canopy cover listed in the table below. Breeding habitat should retain the given height levels of grasses and a diversity of forbs annually through June 1 in the Vernon Management Area and June 15 in the Strawberry Reservoir Management Area. Vegetation should be maintained in a mosaic of openings and shrubs. (Correction #4)

Table 3-4

Vegetation Requirements in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas

¹ Minimum height is measured as droop height, the highest naturally growing portion of the plant.

² Above snow.

N/A There are no minimum percent canopy cover or minimum height requirements for Greater sage-grouse winter habitat in grasses or forbs

Table 3-4: Vegetation Type	Minimum % Canopy Cover	Minimum Height Canopy Cover ¹	
		Vernon Management Area	Strawberry Reservoir Management Area
Greater Sage-grouse Breeding Habitat -- Maintain through June 15 – Strawberry Maintain through June 1 – Vernon -- (Correction #4)			
Sagebrush	15-25%	16-32 inches	16-32 inches
Grasses	≥ 15%	≥ 6 inches	≥ 7 inches
Forbs	≥ 10%	≥ 6 inches	≥ 7 inches
Greater Sage-grouse Winter Habitat			
Sagebrush	10-30% ²	10-14 inches ²	10-14 inches ²
Grasses	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forbs	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fire and Fuels Management**Fire-11 Guideline**

All wildfires in Greater sage-grouse breeding habitats in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas should be suppressed. Prescribed fire and wildland fire use may be allowed in these areas only to maintain or enhance Greater sage-grouse habitat.

Fluid Minerals – Unleased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate

M&E-13: Standard

For all new leasable mineral operations, leasing stipulations will be applied according to Appendix H. (Amendment #4)

NSO – 23: Greater Sage-grouse Brood-Rearing, and Winter Habitats

NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY FOR SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT

For the Purpose Of: Facilitating recovery of the species, and protecting sage-grouse and key habitat for this species (brood-rearing and winter habitat as identified by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and as portrayed in the 2003 Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan). No well sites or production facilities such as tank batteries and compressor stations may be constructed on these lands. Construction of roads, pipelines and other similar facilities must comply with direction in the 2003 Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan², and involve consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Exception: None

Modification: A modification may be granted if the authorizing official determines through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate a portion of the lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains brood-rearing or winter habitat.

Waiver: A waiver may be granted if the authorizing official determines through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate the entire lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains brood-rearing or winter habitat.

CSU – 17; Sage-grouse Breeding Habitat

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE FOR SAGE-GROUSE (NOISE REDUCTION)

For the Purpose Of: Protecting breeding and brood-rearing sage-grouse from disturbance. Within 5 km (3.1 miles) of known active leks use the best available technology such as installation of multi-cylinder pumps, hospital sound reducing mufflers, and placement of exhaust systems to reduce noise.

Exception: None

Modification: None

Waiver: None

CSU – 18; Sage-grouse Breeding Habitat

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE FOR SAGE-GROUSE (STRUCTURES NEAR LEKS)

For the Purpose Of: Protecting breeding and brood-rearing sage-grouse from predation, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance. No permanent (i.e., lasting more than 1 year) structures or facilities within 4 miles of an active sage-grouse lek in breeding or brood-rearing habitat.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the authorized officer, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, determines through analysis that the nature of the actions, as proposed or conditioned, could be fully mitigated. This might occur if topography and/or vegetation is present that would effectively screen the structure or facility from the breeding habitat.

Modification: A modification may be granted if the authorizing official determines through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate a portion of the lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains breeding or brood-rearing habitat.

Waiver: A waiver may be granted if the authorizing official determines through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate the entire lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains breeding or brood-rearing habitat.

CSU – 19: Sage-grouse Winter Habitat

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE FOR SAGE-GROUSE (STRUCTURES IN WINTER HABITAT)

For the Purpose Of: Protecting wintering sage-grouse from predation, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance. No permanent structures or facilities (i.e., lasting more than 1 year) in winter habitat.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the authorized officer, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, determines through analysis that the nature of the actions, as proposed or conditioned, could be fully mitigated.

Modification: A modification may be granted if the authorizing official determines through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate a portion of the lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains winter habitat.

Waiver: A waiver may be granted if the authorizing official determines through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, that new habitat studies demonstrate the entire lease area affected by this stipulation no longer contains winter habitat.

TL – 12: Sage-grouse Brood-Rearing Habitat

TIMING LIMITATION FOR SAGE-GROUSE BROOD-REARING HABITAT

For the Purpose Of: Protecting sage-grouse during the critical breeding and brood-rearing season by precluding activities which could cause increased stress, displacement, and or

breeding failures during the critical time period (March 1st to June 1st in the Vernon Management Area; March 1st to June 15th in the Strawberry Reservoir and Currant Creek Management Areas).

TL – 13: Sage-grouse Winter Habitat

TIMING LIMITATION FOR SAGE-GROUSE WINTER HABITAT

For the Purpose Of: Protecting sage-grouse during the critical breeding and brood-rearing season by precluding activities which could cause increased stress, displacement, and or breeding failures during the critical time period (November 15th to March 1st in the Vernon Management Area; November 1st to March 15th in the Strawberry Reservoir and Upper Provo Management Areas).

Leased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate

WL&F-6 Guideline

Adjust timing and location of management and public activities to minimize disturbance of Greater sage-grouse breeding sites in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas. Activities should not take place within sight distance or 0.5 mile of leks (whichever is less) annually from March 1 to June 1 in the Vernon Management Area and from March 1 to June 15 in the Strawberry Management Area. (Correction #4)

Vegetation

Sub-goal-2-8 (G-2-8)

Ecosystem resilience is maintained by providing for a full range of seral stages and age classes (by cover type) that achieve a mosaic of habitat conditions and diversity to meet a variety of desired resource management objectives. Recruitment and sustainability of some early seral species and vegetation communities in the landscape are necessary to maintain ecosystem resilience to perturbations.

Sub-goal-2-10 (G-2-10)

Management actions maintain ecosystem health and encourage conditions that are within the historic range of variation. Management actions remain within the variability of size, intensity, and frequency of native disturbance regimes characteristic of the subject landscape and ecological processes.

Sub-goal-2-11 (G-2-11)

Key shrubs and/or trees are maintained to a level that allows adequate recruitment to maintain or recover the woody component. Specifically, the Forest is managed for more plants in the combined sprout and young categories than in the combined mature and dead categories.

Sub-goal-2-43 (G-2-43)

Livestock are managed to achieve or maintain desired vegetative composition for Greater sage-grouse nesting and brood-rearing habitats in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas.

Veg-13 Guideline

All vegetation management activities should mimic the natural pattern, structure, and composition of vegetation on the landscape (within the historic range of variability).

Fisheries & Aquatic Wildlife**3.3 Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat**

This prescription applies to areas with multiple habitats (big game winter range, Lynx Analysis Units [LAUs], Greater sage-grouse habitat in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas, etc.). Where habitats overlap, the most restrictive standard or guideline will take precedence. See Appendix E for maps of habitat areas.

MP-3.3-1 Guideline

Non-recreation developments may be considered.

MP-3.3-2 Guideline

Vegetation management activities may be allowed if they maintain or enhance biophysical resources.

3.3 Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

These areas are managed for quality habitat to contribute toward maintenance and/or recovery of plant and animal species. Resources are maintained or improved to achieve desired conditions for habitats of threatened, endangered, sensitive, and Management Indicator Species (MIS). Most, but not all, of the critical deer and elk winter range is included within this prescription. Vegetation management, including timber harvest, may be used to address vegetation needs for wildlife habitat, watershed improvement, and/or forest health needs. Additional motorized trails may be constructed. Grazing may be allowed with limitations based on the species for which a particular area is being managed (e.g., an area managed for Greater sage-grouse habitat will require different stubble heights than an area managed for winter range). No additional winter recreation facilities may be constructed in the areas of this prescription managed as Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs).

Wildlife**FW-Goal-2**

Biologically diverse, sustainable ecosystems maintain or enhance habitats for native flora and fauna, forest and rangeland health, and watershed health.

Sub-goal-2-23 (G-2-23)

Areas identified as being of special concern for habitat such as big game winter range, big game natal areas, Canada lynx denning areas, and Greater sage-grouse breeding areas in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas are maintained and, where potential exists, improved or expanded. Disturbances in these areas are limited during critical periods for wildlife.

Sub-goal-2-24 (G-2-24)

Adequate amounts and distribution of big game hiding and thermal cover are maintained. Adequate amounts of hiding cover for wildlife is retained around created openings and along roads where vegetative management activities are implemented.

Sub-goal-2-26 (G-2-26)

Wildlife travel corridors, riparian corridors, and key linkage routes are maintained and, where feasible, restored. Connections among large, contiguous blocks of suitable habitat are provided (e.g., key linkage routes for Canada lynx within and between Lynx Analysis Units [LAUs] and big game summer and winter range movements). Wildlife movement is facilitated within key linkage areas, considering highway crossing structures when feasible. Unified management direction is established through cooperation with other ownerships via habitat conservation plans, conservation easement or agreements, and land acquisitions.

Sub-goal-2-35 (G-2-35)

Avian mortality is reduced by minimizing the construction of tower facilities, including lighted towers, on communication sites.

WL&F-3 Guideline

Provide for wildlife movement through and/or around structures or project sites such as fences, spring developments, guzzlers, roads, and ditches.

WL&F-4 Guideline

In Greater sage-grouse nesting habitats in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas, avoid removing sagebrush within 300 yards of Greater sage-grouse foraging areas along riparian zones, meadows, lakebeds, and farmland, unless such removal is necessary to achieve Greater sage-grouse habitat management objectives.

Special Status Species**Objective-2-11 (O-2-11)**

By 2013, maintain or restore 10 structures for threatened, endangered, or sensitive (TES) species.

Sub-goal-3-1 (G-3-1)

If consistent with ecosystem health and integrity, and threatened, endangered, and sensitive species management, forage for livestock grazing on lands identified as suited for this use is provided to support social and economic community stability.

Objective-6-6 (O-6-6)

By 2008, develop summer use dispersed recreation management plans that address dispersed recreation; promote protection of environmentally sensitive areas and threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; and are coordinated with the Forest Travel Management Plan.

Fire and Fuels Management

Fire-2 Guideline

Prescribed fire and the full range of suppression tactics and fuel reduction methods are authorized forest-wide, except where direction for certain management areas and management prescriptions provides otherwise.

Fire-3 Guideline

Wildland fire use is authorized forest-wide, except in high-use travel corridors, where there are susceptible known cultural resources, and where direction for certain management areas and management prescriptions provides otherwise. The appropriate response is suppression in high-use travel corridors or where there are susceptible known cultural resources. In areas authorized for wildland fire use, the full range of appropriate management responses, from full suppression to monitoring, may be used.

Fire-6 Guideline

Except for initial attack fire suppression, all equipment used in ground-disturbing or fire suppression operations on the Forest shall be cleaned prior to entry onto the Forest, or movement from one Forest project area to another, to remove all plant parts, dirt, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds. Ground-disturbing operations include, but are not limited to, range seedings, timber harvest, reforestation, wildlife browse plantings, road construction, fuel reduction, and fire suppression operations.

Fire-11 Guideline

All wildfires in Greater sage-grouse breeding habitats in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas should be suppressed. Prescribed fire and wildland fire use may be allowed in these areas only to maintain or enhance Greater sage-grouse habitat.

Livestock Grazing

Graze-4 Standard

Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels on non-riparian vegetation types based on the annual average of the current year's growth. However, through June 15 at Strawberry Reservoir Management Area and through June 1 at Vernon Management Area, minimum canopy cover and height requirements for Greater sage-grouse habitat in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas (as shown in the table in Veg-7 on page 3-17) take precedence over the forage utilization standards in the following table. (Correction #4)

Table 3-10: Forage Utilization Standards

Vegetation Type	Forage Utilization	
	Very Early – Early Seral	Mid – Late Seral
General Uplands and Winter Range		
Upland shrublands (sagebrush, snowberry, mountain mahogany species, cliffrose, bitterbrush, saltbrush, and mountain brush)	40%	60%
Grasslands	45%	65%
Forest-wide		
Sub-alpine shrublands	25%	35%
Sub-alpine grasslands	40%	45%

Lands and Realty

Lands-1: Guideline

Use the following criteria to assist in the identification of lands that could be made available for disposal/conveyance (criteria are not listed in any priority):

6. Additionally, disposal/conveyance of lands should not result in any net loss in critical winter ranges or threatened, endangered, or sensitive species habitats; wetlands; or identified critical access to the Forest.

WASATCH-CACHE

Lands and Realty

West Wide Energy Corridor(s)

Applicants shall identify important, sensitive, or unique habitats and BLM-special status species, FS-sensitive, and state-listed species in the vicinity of proposed projects and design the project to avoid or mitigate impacts to these habitats and species.

Habitat Restoration/Vegetation Management

- Provide for sustained diversity of species at the genetic, populations, community and ecosystem levels. Maintain communities within their historic range of variation that sustains habitats for viable populations of species. Restore or maintain hydrologic functions. Reduce potential for uncharacteristic high-intensity wildfires, and insect epidemics.
- To achieve sustainable ecosystems, meet properly functioning condition (PFC) criteria for all vegetation types that occur in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Focus on approximating natural disturbances and processes by restoring composition, age class diversity, patch sizes, and patterns for all vegetation types.
- Increase grass and forb production and plant species and age-class diversity in sagebrush and pinyon/juniper by treating approximately 2,000 acres average annually for a 10-year total of 20,000 acres.

Manage vegetation for properly functioning condition at the landscape scale. Desired structure and pattern for cover types of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (from USDA Forest Service 1996) are as follows except in the Wildland Urban Interface (defined in Glossary), where vegetation structure and pattern should be managed to reduce threat of severe fire to property and human safety.

Sagebrush(Big)/Grassland: Balanced range of structural stages. 40% of area with 15% or more crown cover (as measured by line intercept method). Patterns are within the historical range.

Tall Forb: Minimum ground cover of 90% leading into the winter season. Patterns within historical range on area still suitable for Tall Forb dominance.

Riparian: Amount and type of vegetation community types present that maintain riparian-dependent resources and provide a high rate of recovery following disturbance: Plant community type compositions and accompanying riparian ecosystem functions maintain proper ground water recharge, storage, delivery, water tables, channel morphology and bank stability.

INTEGRATED INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Integrated weed management should be used to maintain or restore habitats for threatened, endangered, proposed and sensitive plants and other native species of concern where they are threatened by noxious weeds or non-native plants. When treating noxious weeds comply with policy in Intermountain Region's Forest Service Manual 2080, Supplement #R4 2000-2001-1 (Appendix III).