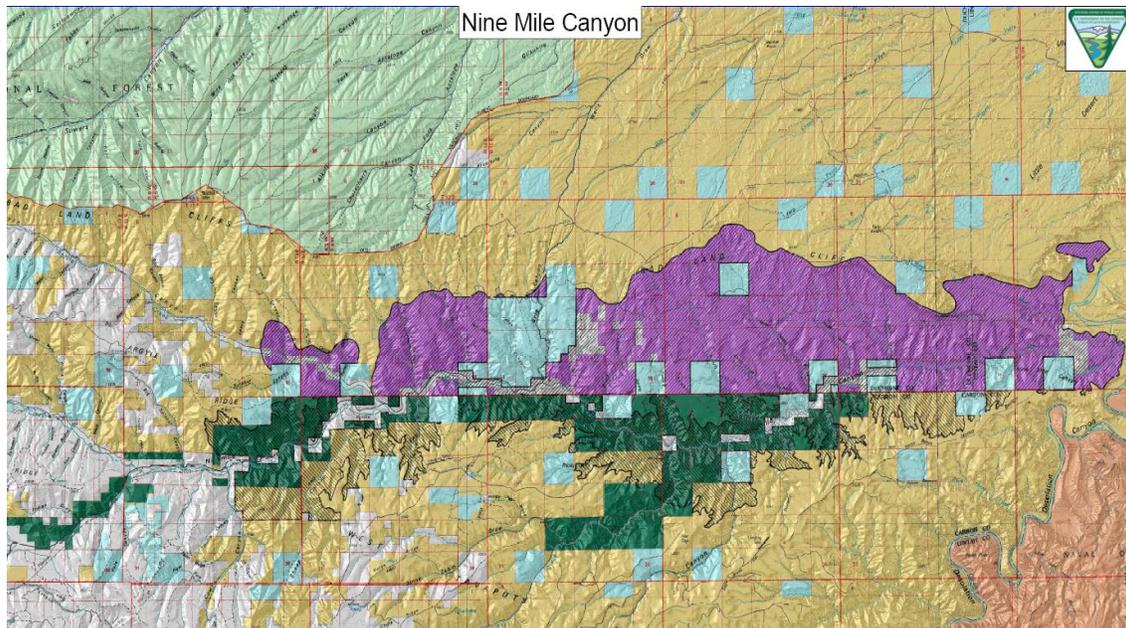


United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

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Nine Mile Canyon  
Special Recreation Management Area Plan  
Scoping Report



January 2015

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## 1. Introduction

The United States (US) Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Price and Vernal Field Offices (PFO & VFOs) are preparing a Special Recreation Management Area Plan (SRMA Plan) for Nine Mile Canyon (NMC). See Appendix 1 Map 1 for a map of the project area. A summary of Applicable Authorities that will guide the preparation of this SRMA Plan is included in Appendix 2. The SRMA Plan will be an activity-level planning effort authorized under the 2008 Price Field Office Resource Management Plan and the 2008 Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan. This SRMA Plan will replace the 1995 Nine Mile Canyon Recreation and Cultural Area Management Plan. The acreage affected by the SRMA Plan is reflected in Table 1 below.

**Table 1- SRMA Plan Acreage**

Office	Acres	County
Price Field Office SRMA Boundary	24,300	Carbon
Price Field Office ACEC Boundary	26,200	Carbon
Vernal Field Office SRMA Boundary	44,168	Duchesne & Uintah
Vernal Field Office ACEC Boundary	44,168	Duchesne & Uintah

The SRMA Plan for NMC will result in a specific management framework for recreation and cultural resources in the area. The SRMA Plan, which will be developed through a public process, will be designed to provide the flexibility to manage public resources on multiple-use lands consistent with the approved 2008 RMPs. To initiate the planning effort and public process, a scoping document was completed and provided to the public for a 30-day review and comment period in September 2014. This Scoping Report summarizes the public process efforts and the comments and concerns received during the scoping period.

## 2. Background and Setting

The Nine Mile Canyon Backcountry Byway is an area rich in culture, wildlife and scenic beauty. "The longest art gallery in the world" describes the internationally renowned prehistoric sites within the canyon, while the historic features of the byway have regional significance.

The Nine Mile Canyon SRMA planning area is located in east-central Utah, northeast of Price. The 78 mile (125.5 km) Nine Mile Canyon National Backcountry Byway runs through the planning area. The planning area also contains most of the proposed Nine Mile Canyon Archaeological District, which may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and most of the Nine Mile Canyon ACEC.

The Backcountry Byway includes Soldier Creek Road, Nine Mile Canyon Road to the junction of Cottonwood Canyon and then one mile up Cottonwood Canyon, and the road through Gate Canyon, Wells Draw, and Myton Bench. The principal access route from the south is eight miles east of Price on Highway 6/191, turning north on 2200 East (Soldier Creek Road). Access from the north is via Highway 40/191, one mile west of Myton.

The planning area is well-known for one of the finest Native American rock art "galleries" in the world, comprised of petroglyphs and pictographs from the Fremont and Ute peoples. In the post-civil War era, the canyon served as a busy freight route between the Uinta Basin and central Utah. Remains of iron telegraph poles, stage stations and settler cabins tell of past times. Remains of both prehistoric and

historic peoples create a Human History which draws visitors and researchers into this remote and scenic canyon.

### **3. Purpose of this Implementation Planning Effort**

This SRMA Plan is a site-specific implementation plan as defined in the BLM Planning Handbook H-1601-1. It is not a land use planning activity, and therefore it is not subject to protest under the BLM planning regulations. Implementation decisions are made through the appropriate level of NEPA analysis along with any procedural and regulatory requirements for individual programs. Implementation decisions are subject to various administrative remedies.

The purpose of this SRMA Plan is to provide BLM with management guidance for the Nine Mile Canyon SRMA over a 10-year period. The scope of the SRMA Plan is limited to implementing management actions consistent with decisions contained in the 2008 Price & Vernal Resource Management Plans, and both Carbon and Duchesne County Plans to the extent they do not conflict with RMP decisions.

The SRMA Plan's focus is on the management of visitor-based recreation and the preservation and interpretation of cultural resources. The SRMA Plan will define visitor and resource management objectives consistent with land use plans and will describe actions needed to achieve these objectives.

### **4. Applicable Resource Management Plan and Programmatic Agreement Decisions**

The 2008 Price Resource Management Plan (RMP) designated a 24,300-acre Nine Mile Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), and states, "The purpose of the Nine Mile Canyon SRMA is to manage recreation and interpretive activities related to the cultural and historic resources and landscapes in the area." The Price RMP required the preparation of a SRMA plan. The 2008 Price RMP also designated a 26,200-acre Nine Mile Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), which overlaps with the SRMA in some areas. See Appendix 3 for a list of Management Decisions from the Price RMP that are applicable to the Nine Mile Canyon area.

The 2008 Vernal Resource Management Plan (RMP) designated a 44,168-acre Nine Mile Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The purpose of the Nine Mile Canyon SRMA is to manage recreation and interpretive activities related to the cultural and historic resources and landscapes in the area. The Vernal RMP required the preparation of a SRMA plan. The 2008 Vernal RMP also designated an ACEC (with similar acreage) which overlaps with the SRMA boundary. See Appendix 3 for a list of Management Decisions from the Vernal RMP that are applicable to the Nine Mile Canyon area.

In 2010, BLM agreed to additional management prescriptions as a result of the West Tavaputs Programmatic Agreement (PA), including the updating of the BLM's 1995 Recreation and Cultural Area Management Plan for Nine Mile Canyon, consistent with the Price RMP.

The agency's objectives for management of the area as outlined in the RMPs are:

- Ensure the continued availability of quality outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences that are not readily available from other sources;
- Protect the health and safety of visitors;

- Protect natural, cultural, and other resources;
- Encourage public enjoyment of public lands; and
- Enhance recreational opportunities.
- Work collaboratively with affected user groups and organizations, tribal governments, state and local officials, and other interested parties to provide for site-specific or area-specific comprehensive integrated activity level planning.
- Ensure there is a spectrum of recreation opportunities and settings through comprehensive integrated activity level planning.
- Maintain the natural character of the Canyon.
- Protect the scientific value of cultural resources while allowing for their enjoyment.
- Provide quality interpretation to increase the appreciation and protection of cultural resources.
- Reduce conflicts between visitors and private land owners and energy development in the Canyon. (PFO RMP 2008; VFO 2008)

The 1995 planning document identified a variety of management prescriptions which this EA will address and update as needed. These constitute the preliminary issues or objectives to be addressed in the EA, with additional issues to be developed and incorporated based on public scoping and cooperating agency input:

- Create opportunities and priorities for interpretive signs, kiosks, information stations, and other interpretive materials;
- Create opportunities and priorities for developed and primitive camp sites and dispersed camping;
- Create opportunities and priorities for developed recreation sites, including picnic areas, trailheads, toilets, and parking areas;
- Create opportunities for scientific use of cultural sites;
- Prioritize stabilization of archaeological and historical sites;
- Prioritize the inventory and nomination of sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;
- Provide opportunities and priorities for land tenure adjustments to enhance the visitor experience and/or protect cultural resources;
- Implement the RMP decision that off-highway vehicles (OHVs) may be used on designated routes and future rehabilitation of non-designated routes;
- Maintain partnerships with counties for emergency services, county planning, and law enforcement;
- Set priorities for a site stewardship program to protect cultural resources;
- Maintain visual resource management (VRM) standards;
- Manage livestock grazing within and near developed recreation sites;
- Protect water quality and riparian areas;
- Manage wildlife habitat, including raptors, big game species, and the greater sage-grouse;
- Manage rock-climbing, bouldering, mountain biking, and recreational target shooting activities;
- Manage special recreation permits (e.g. outfitting and guiding, organized group events, commercial recreational use, and competitive recreational use);
- Provide opportunities for volunteer work and coordination of volunteer activities.

Objectives and issues will be clarified through collaboration and communication and by considering public scoping and cooperating agency comments during the drafting of the Environmental Assessment.

## 5. Goals of Collaboration and Communication Efforts

BLM policies provide stakeholders with opportunities to participate meaningfully and substantively. The BLM encourages the participation of various partners, cooperating agencies, and stakeholders to become involved in the process and provide information on local and regional factors specific to the planning area. Local and regional factors include knowledge of area customs and culture, community values and traditions, and the social and economic makeup of the planning area.

The BLM's goal in the planning process is to consider these factors in an inclusive manner. Specifically, key tribal, community, agency, and interest groups and individuals are given opportunities to participate in the process and are kept informed of the project status. The BLM must also ensure that participants are made aware of the effect of their involvement will have on the final outcome; follow-through is a key element in meeting the goal of collaborative planning. While some agreement among the participants wherever possible is desirable; where agreement cannot be reached, the BLM must explore reasonable alternatives that have been discussed with the participants.

The management principles for the SRMAs and ACECs identified within the Price and Vernal RMPs are summarized in Appendix 2. The SRMAs have been identified for specific types of recreation according to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (Appendix 1 Map 2). The Price and Vernal RMPs also identified visual resource classes (Appendix 1 Map 3) for the area.

## 6. Methods of Collaboration and Communication

The following methods have been used or will be used to encourage and facilitate collaboration and communication among partners and the Public.

- Cooperating Agencies: Cooperating agency status will be extended to the following agencies:
  - Duchesne County
  - Carbon County
  - State of Utah (Public Lands Policy and Coordination Office)
  - Utah Schools and Institutional Trust Lands
- Public Involvement Opportunities
  - Public Scoping Period: held September-October 2014. Results of the scoping period are included in subsequent sections.
  - Public Comment Period: pending

Stakeholders Meetings are to be determined

## 7. Public Scoping Comments

During the public scoping period the BLM received 18 written responses and 2 phone calls, which included 81 comments. Members of the general public provided 10 written submissions and 2 phone calls (60 percent) organizations or nonprofit groups submitted 5 written submissions (25 percent), a written comment from local government (5 percent), a response from the Navajo Tribe (5 percent) and a response from the Hopi Tribe (5).

## 8. Summary of Scoping Comment (Issues and Concerns)

Through external scoping, the following concerns were identified.

1. Tribal Interests
2. Energy Development
3. Recreation
4. Lands and Realty
5. Cultural Resources
6. Public Health and Safety
7. Governance
8. Grazing
9. Alternatives
10. Other

The following table summarizes comments received during the public scoping period. To ensure that public comments are properly addressed in this planning effort, the comments were sorted into the following categories:

- A. Issues to be analyzed during this planning effort;
- B. Issues to be addressed through policy or administrative action (e.g. agency consultation/coordination, permits, approvals, laws, regulations, policies); and
- C. Issues beyond the scope of this effort:
  - a. Issue already addressed by a previous Land Use Plan Decision
  - b. Issue concerns private land which is outside of BLM's Authority
  - c. Issue not relevant to the purpose and need of providing BLM with management guidance for the Nine Mile Canyon SRMA over a 10-year period

**Table 2- Summary of Scoping Comments Arranged by Topic Area**

Topic Area	Summary of Comments	Determination
<b>Tribal Interests</b>	1. The Navajo Tribe did not identify any concerns at this time.	1. B
	2. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to earlier identifiable cultural groups in Utah. [They] are concerned with the slow pace of the nomination of sites, site stewardship, and personnel training as it relates to the West Tavaputs Programmatic Agreement.	2. C
	3. The Hopi Tribe requests continuing consultation on the development of the NMC SCRMA plan.	3. B
<b>Energy Development</b>	1. Continued O & G development could negatively impact cultural resources	1. A
	2. The associated noise pollution would negatively affect the NMC experience	2. A
	3. Oil & Gas development should be made more compatible with public use. This could be	3. A
		4. C.a
		5. A
		6. C.a

Topic Area	Summary of Comments	Determination
	<p>accomplished by using electric trucks, smaller trucks, include noise restrictions, platforms could be solar powered, ongoing environmental restoration, and limiting the visibility of platforms</p> <p>4. The Price Field Office should deny additional Oil &amp; Gas exploration</p> <p>5. The BLM should reduce Oil &amp; Gas development to preserve cultural resources</p> <p>6. There should be NSO in NMC itself</p> <p>7. The Dry canyon compressor station should not be expanded, or moved</p>	7. C.b
<b>Recreation</b>	<p>1. An increase in off-road vehicular traffic could negatively impact cultural resources</p> <p>2. Guided horseback riding would be a more sustainable activity for NMC</p> <p>3. Monitoring NMC through the use of a toll-booth, or permitting system would decrease impacts to cultural resources</p> <p>4. Roads and dust from industrial traffic will destroy the natural beauty of the canyon</p> <p>5. Backcountry use should be permitted by the BLM to reduce impacts to cultural resources from dispersed camping</p> <p>6. The BLM should weigh all recreation activities in NMC equally</p> <p>7. The BLM should use discretion in the reclamation of old roads i.e. old roads should be reclaimed to their original footprint</p> <p>8. Recreation user conflicts should be mitigated with education</p> <p>9. The BLM should revisit road closures, especially Horse Bench</p> <p>10. The SCRMA should address the level of acceptable motorized use</p> <p>11. The SCRMA should address the range of recreation activities appropriate for the area</p> <p>12. Dispersed camping should remain open on the Tavaputs without restriction</p> <p>13. Day camping should only be allowed on private property to not compete with local businesses</p> <p>14. Recreation should not restrict the use of other resources</p> <p>15. The BLM should develop better turnouts, signage and trails for interpretive locations</p>	<p>1. A</p> <p>2. A</p> <p>3. A</p> <p>4. A</p> <p>5. A</p> <p>6. B</p> <p>7. A</p> <p>8. A</p> <p>9. C.a</p> <p>10. A</p> <p>11. A</p> <p>12. A</p> <p>13. A</p> <p>14. A</p> <p>15. A</p> <p>16. A</p> <p>17. C.a</p> <p>18. C.a</p> <p>19. A</p> <p>20. A</p>

Topic Area	Summary of Comments	Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. The BLM should designated camping with primitive facilities in NMC</li> <li>17. The BLM should limit OHV use to existing designated routes</li> <li>18. The BLM should designate the entire length of NMC from the summit to North Franks Canyon as open to ATV use</li> <li>19. The BLM should map and sign dirt road side routes for ATV use, Harmon Canyon, Prickly Pear Loop, Dry Canyon, Cold Springs, etc.</li> <li>20. The BLM should provide a visitor based recreation plan that includes preservation and interpretation of cultural resources</li> </ul>	
<b>Lands &amp; Realty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As approved by the PFO RMP, the Pipeline corridor ROW could negatively affect cultural resources</li> <li>2. The BLM should work with private land owners on conservation easements and on stabilization projects</li> <li>3. The Oil &amp; Gas proponent should pave their own road</li> <li>4. The BLM should develop additional turnouts for viewing sites not accessible by road</li> <li>5. The BLM should develop cooperative agreements with private land owners</li> <li>6. The BLM should clarify public and private land boundaries</li> <li>7. Road maintenance should be discussed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. C.a</li> <li>2. A</li> <li>3. C.c</li> <li>4. A</li> <li>5. B</li> <li>6. A</li> <li>7. A</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The difference between the Special Culture Recreation Management Plan and the Interpretive Plan is confusing</li> <li>2. There should be interpretive site development for key archaeological sites</li> <li>3. The BLM should facilitate a site stewardship and monitoring program for Nine Mile Canyon</li> <li>4. Fencing should be used to protect sensitive cultural areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A</li> <li>2. A</li> <li>3. A</li> <li>4. A</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health &amp; Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trespassing on private land by recreationists should be considered in the updated SCRMA</li> <li>2. The BLM should limit hunting in NMC itself to ensure the safety of others</li> <li>3. Patrol and enforcement is preferential to restrictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A</li> <li>2. A</li> <li>3. A</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The BLM should coordinate all planning activities with local governments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. B</li> <li>2. B</li> </ul>

Topic Area	Summary of Comments	Determination
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Carbon County requests cooperating/ coordinating Agency status</li> <li>3. Develop with County partnership maps, brochures, kiosks, trails, sanitation facilities</li> <li>4. The BLM should incorporate the Carbon County Land Use Plan</li> <li>5. The approved RMP should provide the base for the SCRMA</li> <li>6. The SCRMA should include economic opportunities for Carbon County</li> <li>7. SCRMA plan implementation should be conducted with County input</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. A</li> <li>4. A</li> <li>5. A</li> <li>6. A</li> <li>7. A</li> </ol>
<b>Grazing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The BLM should better manage adverse impacts by grazing to recreation and cultural resources through planning</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A</li> </ol>
<b>Alternatives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All alternatives should define visitor and recreation goals separate from other uses</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A</li> </ol>
<b>Other</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The updated SCRMA should address new technologies like drones</li> <li>2. The updated SCRMA should address extreme sports</li> <li>3. The updated SCRMA should consider tours by air</li> <li>4. Development of NMC should be developed in relation to concentrated use areas</li> <li>5. The BLM should ensure the limitation of light pollution</li> <li>6. The VRM and ROS categorization should be flexible enough to allow historic uses</li> <li>7. A new boundary for NMC should be considered for example, the SCRMA boundary should be from rim to rim starting at Pine Canyon in the west and continuing to the Green River. It should Follow Argyle canyon for ten miles, Gate Canyon for 7 Miles, Dry Canyon to the Stone Cabin Draw confluence, and Cottonwood Canyon for three miles</li> <li>8. The BLM should expedite planning for the Nine Mile Canyon SCRMA</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A</li> <li>2. A</li> <li>3. A</li> <li>4. A</li> <li>5. A</li> <li>6. C.a</li> <li>7. C.a</li> <li>8. B</li> </ol>

## 9. Alternatives Development

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1502.14, based on the results of scoping and agency interdisciplinary analysis, a reasonable set of land management alternatives will be determined and presented in a comparative form thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision-maker and the public.

There is a wide spectrum of reasonable management alternatives that can be analyzed:

- A. Developed Recreation Program – Designate, construct and maintain facilities to support various recreation activities.
- B. Undeveloped Recreation Program – Designate, educate and construct interpretive facilities to support various recreation activities.
- C. No Action

Section 1502.14(d) requires that alternatives analysis to "include the alternative of no action."

In this case, what is the No Action?

In this instance, since the federal land management agency is proposing the planning action (SRMA), "no action" is *no change from current management direction or level of management intensity. In this case, alternatives would include activity-level management plans of both greater and lesser intensity, especially greater and lesser levels of resource development.*

For the purposes of this planning effort, the No Action alternative is the baseline goals and objectives of 1995 Special Cultural Recreation Management Area (SCRMA). However, the boundary of the planning area has been reduced by the 2008 Price RMP and the Vernal RMP from 137,000 acres to 24,300 and 44,168 acres, respectively.

Actions that are common to all alternatives include the management of cultural resources, implementation of the stipulations contained in the 2010 Programmatic Agreement (PA), and the management of valid existing rights.

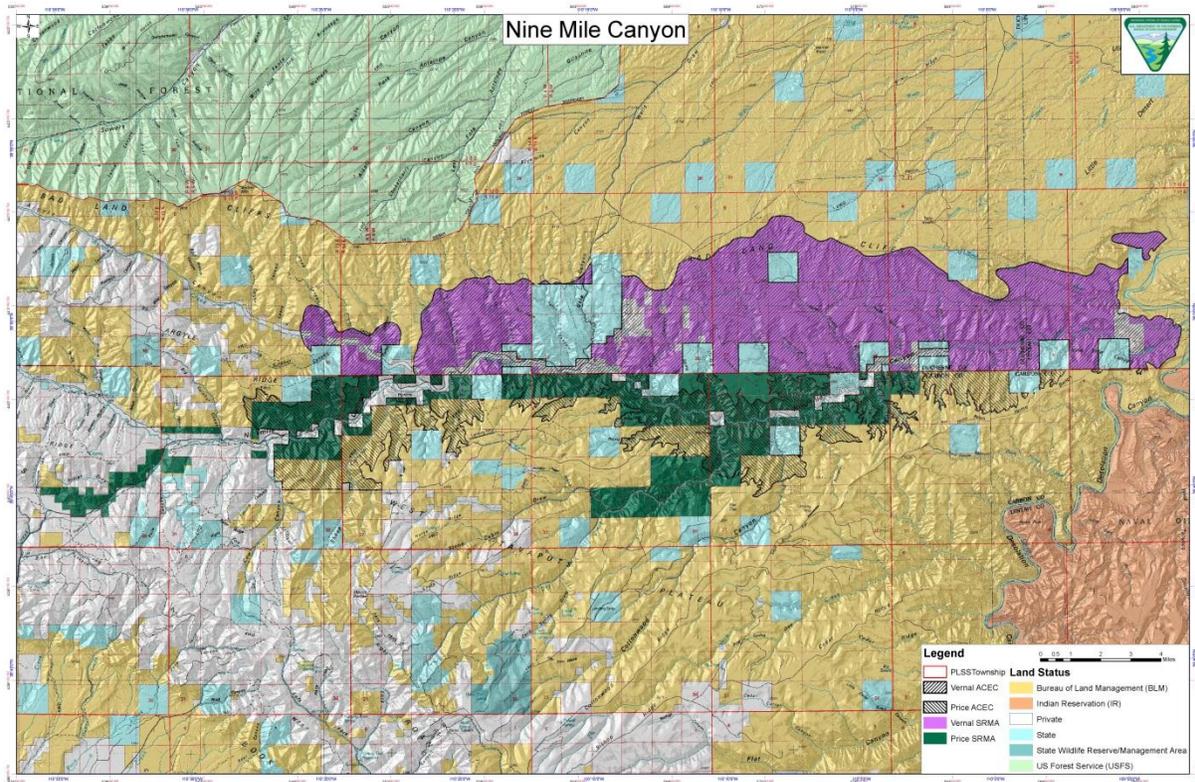
While these are the specific opportunities for public involvement during the NEPA process, the BLM will consider input from the public throughout the process.

## 10. Next Steps

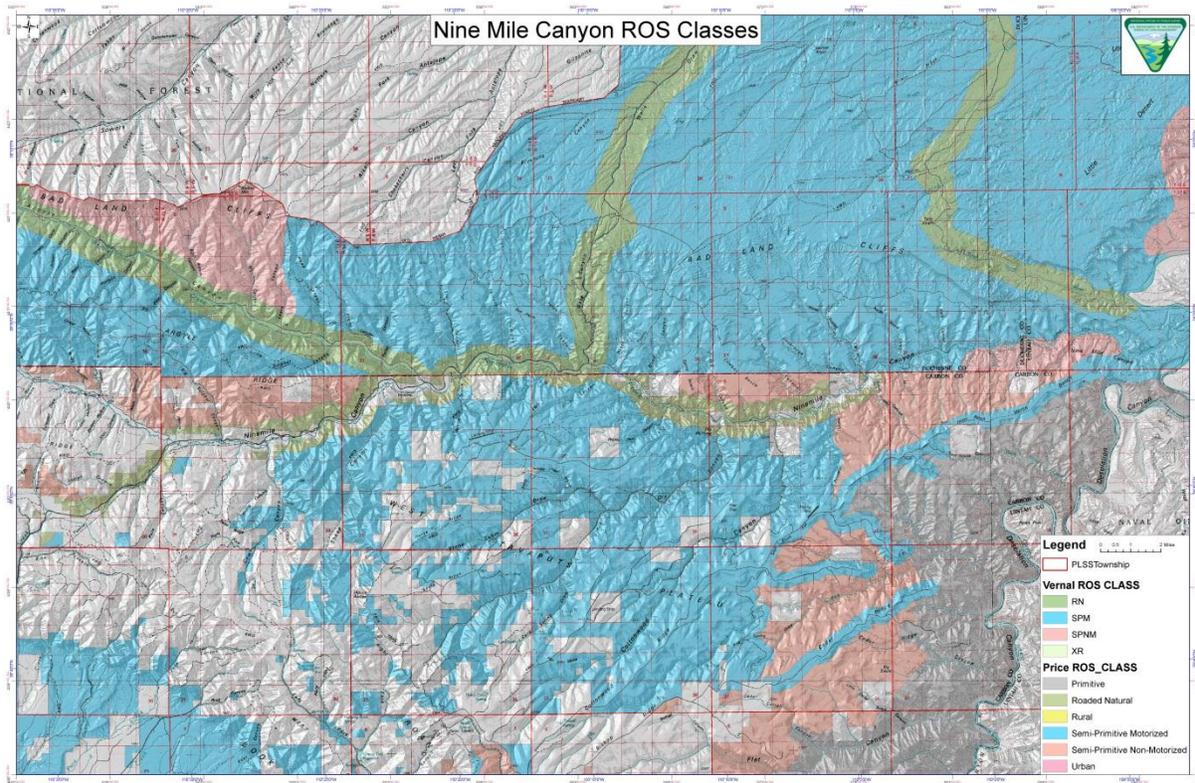
In the next several months these scoping comments, and any additional comments from cooperating agencies, will be combined, analyzed, and incorporated into an Environmental Assessment (EA). When the EA is complete there will be an additional public comment period provided. After comments have been considered and a final decision made, implementation of the decision would follow.

# Appendix 1 – Maps

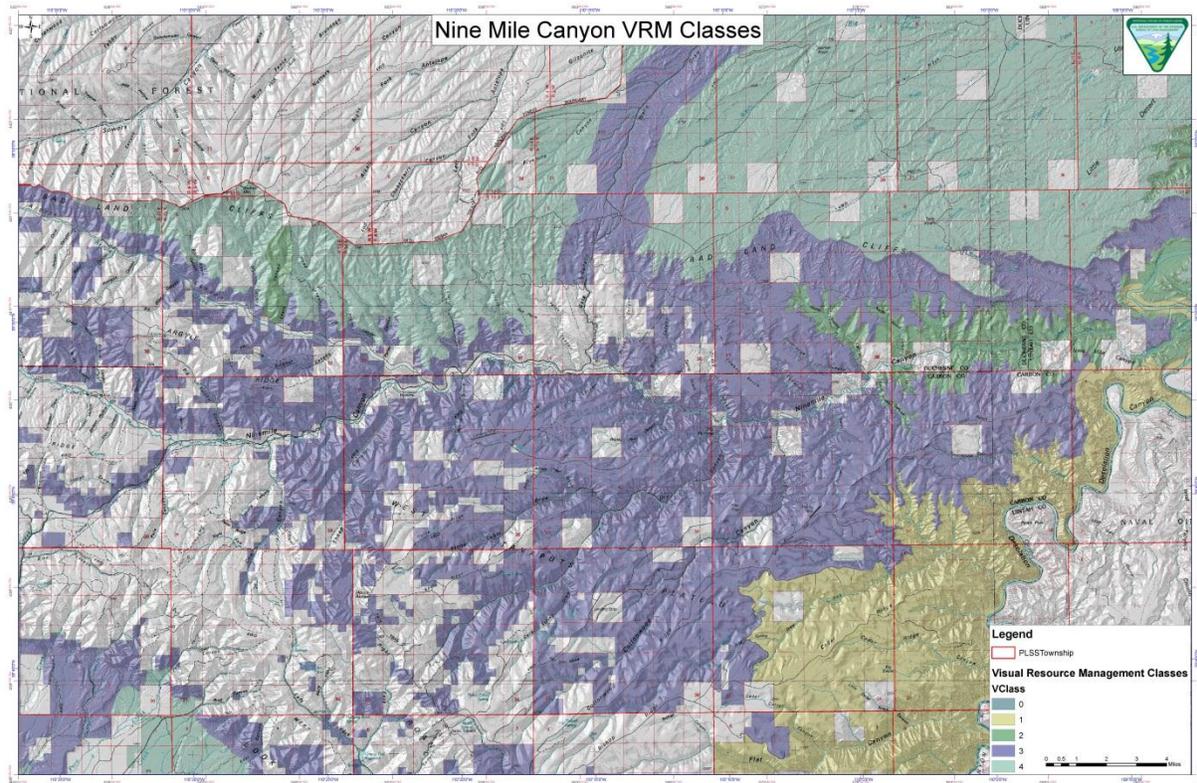
## Map 1 – SRMA Plan Area



## Map 2 – Nine Mile Canyon Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Classes



### Map 3 – Nine Mile Canyon VRM Classes



## Appendix 2 – Applicable Authorities

### Laws and Mandates Guiding the Management of Nine Mile Canyon SRMA

The following laws, policies, and regulations guide management on the NMC SRMA:

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 – Public Law 94-579, gives the BLM legal authority to establish public land policy, to establish guidelines for administering such policy and to provide for the management, protection, development, and enhancement of the public land.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 – The NEPA requires that all Federal agencies conduct detailed planning in full consultation with the public on any action that may significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment.

National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 – The NHPA requires all Federal agencies to administer federally owned, administered, or controlled prehistoric and historic resources in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of present and future generations. 36 CFR 800 and Section 106, in particular, stipulates that prior to the expenditure of any Federal funds on any project, the agency must take into account the effect of the undertaking on any historic properties.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 – The ARPA provides protection for archaeological resources on public lands by prohibiting the "excavation, removal, damage or defacing of any archaeological resource located on public lands or Indian lands," and set up criminal penalties for these acts. It also encourages increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private individuals having archaeological resources and data which were obtained before October 31, 1979.

In addition to these rules, the SRMA will include all applicable Federal laws, regulations, executive orders, and policies. The additional laws, which will define BLM's responsibilities when analyzing environmental impacts, may include:

- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, 42 U.S.C. 1996
- Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.
- Clean Water Act of 1977, 33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.
- Clean Water Act of 1987
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9615
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.
- Executive Order 11988, as amended, Floodplain Management, May 24, 1977
- Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977
- Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards (Amended by Executive Order 12580 Superfund Implementation), October 13, 1978, February 23, 1987

## **Land Use Plans Guiding the Management of Nine Mile Canyon SRMA**

The following land use plans guide management on the NMC SRMA:

Price Field Office Record of Decision Approved Management Plan (2008) – The PFO RMP will provide guidance for the management of about 2,500,000 acres of Federal surface estate and 2,800,000 acres of Federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Carbon and Emery Counties in central-eastern Utah.

Vernal Field Office Record of Decision Approved Management Plan (2008) – The VFO RMP will provide guidance for the management of over 1.7 million acres of public land and 3.9 million acres of Federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, and a small portion of Grand Counties in Northeast Utah.

## **BLM Manuals and Handbooks Influencing the Management of Nine Mile Canyon SRMA**

The following BLM Manuals and Handbooks influence the management on the NMC SRMA:

- BLM Manual 1601 – Land Use Planning
- BLM Manual 8100 – The Foundation for Managing Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8110 – Identifying and Evaluating Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8120 – Tribal Consultation Under Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8130 – Planning for Uses of Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8140 – Protecting Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8150 – Permitting Uses of Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8170 – Interpreting Cultural Resources for the Public
- BLM Manual 8320 – Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services

## Appendix 3 – Resource Management Plan Decisions

Price Field Office Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan
Total Acres: The BLM PFO management area	Total Acres: The BLM VFO management area
Management Decisions as defined by RMP	
<p><b><u>CULTURAL RESOURCES (CUL)</u></b> Goals and Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (FLPMA Sections 103(c), 201(a), and 202(c); National Historic Preservation Act [NHPA] Section 110(a); Archaeological Resource Protection Act [ARPA] Section 14(a)).</li> <li>• Identify priority geographic areas for new field inventory, based on a probability for unrecorded significant resources, to reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses (ARPA Section 14(a); NHPA Sections 106 and 110).</li> </ul> <p>Cultural resources will be allocated to the following use categories identified and described in BLM-M-8110.4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific Use</li> <li>• Public Use</li> <li>• Conservation for Future Use</li> <li>• Traditional Use</li> <li>• Experimental Use</li> <li>• Discharged from Management.</li> </ul> <p><b>Management Decisions</b> <b>CUL-1</b> Complete an appropriate cultural resources inventory before approving permitted federal undertakings that could affect cultural resources or historic properties. <b>CUL-2</b> Mitigate adverse impacts on cultural resources eligible for listing on the NRHP resulting from</p>	<p><b><u>CULTURAL RESOURCES (CUL)</u></b> Goals and Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve and protect a representative array of significant cultural resources, including but not limited to traditional cultural properties, traditional use areas, rock art, and ceremonial sites, and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.</li> <li>• Preserve and protect cultural resources in accordance with existing laws, regulations, and Executive Orders (EO), in consultation with designated contacts from Native American tribes and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.</li> <li>• Preserve and conserve cultural resources by conducting activities in a way that protect values and provide for the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation for future use</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Interpretation</li> <li>• Public use</li> <li>• Research</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Management Decisions</b> <b>CUL-1</b> Protect burial sites, associated burial goods, and sacred items in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). <b>CUL-2</b> Evaluate cultural resources according to National Register criteria (36 CFR Part 60.4) and assign cultural resources to appropriate use categories as the basis for management</p>

authorized federal undertakings (permitted activities, recreational use, OHV use, etc.) that could affect cultural resources or historic properties.

**CUL-3**

Manage cultural resources according to the management objectives for the use category to which each cultural resource site is assigned.

**CUL-4**

Cultural resources will be allocated according to the following use categories identified and described in BLM-M-8110.4:

- Scientific Use
- Public Use
- Conservation for Future Use
- Traditional Use
- Experimental Use
- Discharged from Management.

**CUL-5**

Allocations to the use categories will be made during implementation and activity level planning.

**CUL-6**

Cultural resource use allocations will be reevaluated and revised, as needed, when circumstances change or when new data become available.

**CUL-7**

Areas for new field inventories will be prioritized as follows:

- Areas of special cultural designation (e.g., ACECs, RNAs, NHLs, and National Register sites) that have not been fully inventoried
- Resources eligible for the NRHP at a national level of significance that have not been fully inventoried
- Cultural resources sites identified for public use
- Five-mile vulnerability zones surrounding cities and towns and 400 feet from the centerline on designated OHV trails.

**CUL-8**

decisions.

**CUL-3**

Encourage public/volunteer involvement in the management of cultural resources by establishing site stewardship and other programs.

**CUL-4**

Specific plans will be developed for culturally sensitive areas unless included in other integrated activity plans. Such plans will include protective measures, Native American consultation, and regulatory compliance. These plans will also include but not be limited to:

- Developing a site monitoring system
  - Identifying sites in need of stabilization, restoration, and protective measures (e.g., fences, surveillance equipment)
  - Developing research designs for selected sites/areas
  - Designating sites/areas for interpretive development
  - Identifying areas for cultural inventory where federal undertakings are expected to occur
  - Developing specific mitigation measures
- The plan will designate sites, districts, landmarks, and landscapes that will be nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

**CUL-5**

Limit land-disturbing activities within selected Native American traditional cultural and religious sites for continued use by tribes. Traditional cultural sites will be selected in consultation with interested Native American tribes and communities.

**CUL-6**

Consult with Native American tribes for the protection of areas and items of traditional life-ways and religious significance that includes but is not limited to burials, rock art, traditional use areas, religiously active areas, and sacred sites.

**CUL-7**

Pursue appropriate National Register designation, including but not limited to

Cultural resources inventories, including point, area, and linear features, will be required for all federal undertakings that could affect cultural resources or historic properties in areas of direct and indirect impacts.

**CUL-9**

The BLM will coordinate with tribes or other cultural groups to identify and manage traditional cultural properties.

**CUL-10**

The BLM will seek agreements with the tribes or other cultural groups to identify the types of projects or areas where they desire consultation.

**CUL-11**

The following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will apply to management of linear cultural resources:

- Record the site at the point of the project. Unless specific features are identified at that portion of the resource, no mitigation is required.

currently eligible sites under current policy and guidance.

**CUL-8**

Conduct an inventory according to professional standards commensurate with the land-use activity, environmental conditions, and the potential for cultural resources.

**CUL-9**

Proactively reduce hazardous fuels or mitigate the potential hazard around archaeological and cultural sites that are susceptible to destruction by fire from prescribed fire activities.

**CUL-10**

Conduct consultation process to identify both the resource management concerns and the strategies for addressing them through an interactive dialogue with appropriate Native American communities.

**CUL-11**

Reduce or eliminate imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration or conflict with other resource uses.

**CUL-12**

Identify priority geographic areas for new field inventory based upon a probability for unrecorded significant resources.

**CUL-13**

Ensure that all authorizations for land and resource use will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, consistent with and subject to the goals and objectives identified at the beginning of this section for the proactive use of cultural properties in the public interest.

**CUL-14**

The BLM, in coordination with the appropriate county, will continue to identify, evaluate, and nominate historic routes for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places.

**CUL-15**

When new sites are discovered, interim protection may be applied, if warranted.

**CUL-16**

Provide for legitimate field research by qualified scientists and institutions.

	<p><b>CUL-17</b> Allow for reconstruction, stabilization, maintenance, and interpretation of selected sites for public enjoyment and education.</p> <p><b>CUL-18</b> Continue to implement, maintain, and revise as necessary the Nine Mile Canyon Recreation/Cultural Management Plan that includes developing interpretive facilities at appropriate archeological and cultural sites at Nine Mile Canyon in cooperation with the Price Field Office (PFO), the Nine Mile coalition team, and the counties. Promote collaborative partnerships to assist in meeting management goals and objectives for cultural resources.</p> <p><b>CUL-19</b> Should National Register–eligible cultural resources be found during an inventory, impacts to them will be mitigated, generally through avoidance. If it is determined the cultural resources cannot be avoided; consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will be initiated. A program on mitigation will be developed via consultation between VFO, the SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).</p> <p><b>CUL-20</b> VFO will continue to allocate cultural sites, including ethnographic properties, to one of six management categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation</li> <li>• Discharged</li> <li>• Experimental</li> <li>• Public</li> <li>• Scientific</li> <li>• Traditional</li> </ul> <p><b>CUL-21</b> Implement regular patrols as feasible to monitor and protect known cultural sites.</p> <p><b>CUL-22</b> Establish and implement protective measures for sites, structures, objects, and traditional use areas that are important to Native American</p>
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	<p>tribes with historical and cultural connections to the land, in order to maintain the view shed, intrinsic values, and the auditory, visual, and aesthetic settings of the resources. Protection measures for undisturbed cultural resources and their natural setting will be developed in compliance with regulatory mandates and Native American consultation.</p> <p><b>CUL-23</b> Nominate eligible sites, districts, landscapes, and traditional cultural properties for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Manage National Register listed and eligible sites for their local, regional, and national significance.</p> <p><b>CUL-24</b> On- and off-site interpretive facilities will be developed at appropriate archeological, historical, and cultural sites in a manner that will not adversely impact the site.</p>
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Price Field Office (INSERT HYPER LINK)	Vernal Field Office (INSERT HYPER LINK)
Total Acres: The BLM PFO management area	Total Acres: The BLM VFO management area
Management Decisions as defined by RMP	
<p><b><u>RECREATION (REC) AND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV)</u></b></p> <p><b>Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish management that provides necessary public services, authentic recreation experience, and opportunity within allowable use levels; minimizes user conflicts; and maintains the healthy ecosystems and settings that provide the basis for recreation opportunity and experience.</li> <li>• Provide an environment for and encourage entrepreneurial activities that are supportive of the recreation program goals and objectives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage all SRMAs to provide the benefits, experiences, and opportunities identified for each.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>RECREATIONAL RESOURCES (REC): SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS (SRMA) AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT (TMD)</u></b></p> <p><b>Goals and Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the continued availability of quality outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences that are not readily available from other sources; protect the health and safety of visitors; protect natural, cultural, and other resources; encourage public enjoyment of public lands; and enhance recreational opportunities.</li> <li>• Work collaboratively with affected user groups and organizations, state and local officials, and other interested parties to provide for site-specific or area-specific comprehensive integrated activity level planning.</li> </ul>

- Use the ROS classification system in SRMAs as a guide to decision making on projects with the potential to alter the physical, managerial, or social settings that create the opportunities and experiences.
- Develop a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for all designated SRMAs.
- Review and update the Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry RAMP.
- Review and update the Desolation and Gray Canyons of the Green River, River Management Plan.
- Use recreation permitting to direct and manage recreation use.

**Management Decisions:**

**REC -1**

Manage recreation generally guided by the *Standards for Rangeland Health* and *Guidelines for Recreation Management for BLM Lands in Utah*. The guidelines describe, in a broad sense, the procedures that should be applied to achieve standards for rangeland health within the recreation program.

**REC-2**

Portions of the PFO not identified as a SRMA will be identified as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). ERMAs will receive only custodial management (which addresses only activity opportunities) of visitor health and safety, user conflict, and resource protection issues with no activity-level planning. Therefore, actions within ERMAs will generally be implemented directly from LUP decisions, such as Special Recreation Permits (SRP) or OHV management decisions. See Appendix R-9 for additional specific recreation management objectives for the PFO ERMA.

**Recreation Activity Prescriptions and Guidance:**

**REC-3**

• Ensure there is a spectrum of recreation opportunities and settings through comprehensive integrated activity level planning. Such plans will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Recreation use allocations
- Group size or seasonal limitations
- Opportunities for dispersed or organized camping, including large events
- Facility development
- Opportunities for interpretation or other signage
- Campfire restrictions
- Establish limits of acceptable change or other environmental indicators in order to provide for adaptive management.

**Management Decisions:**

**REC-8**

All developed recreation sites within VFO will be closed to the shooting of firearms, closed to grazing, and all forms of surface-disturbing activities not directly related to recreation development.

**REC-12**

Maintain or expand infrastructure of all recreational sites, including, but not limited to, cabins, restrooms, campsites, and trail head development and ensure their safety for public use.

***Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA)***

**SMRA-5**

Nine Mile Canyon (44,168 acres) will continue to be managed as an SRMA. An activity management plan will be developed and implemented consistent with overall management objectives. In the recreation portion of the plan, protection of high-value cultural resources and scenic vistas will be emphasized.

**Trail Maintenance and Development (TMD)**

Allow dispersed camping throughout the PFO without permit, unless otherwise designated by the BLM. Determine and designate areas for dispersed camping and associated access routes with the cooperation of the counties.

**REC-4**

Prohibit rock climbing above or within 300 feet horizontally of cultural sites. Rock climbing activities will be authorized only in areas where there are no conflicts with cliff-nesting raptors.

**REC-5**

Manage developed recreation sites as recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry or as open to oil and gas leasing subject to major constraints (NSO).

**REC-6**

Close developed recreational sites to grazing and include fencing the site in the development plan when appropriate.

**REC-7**

Address non-motorized and motorized recreational trails in activity level plans (e.g., designation and/or development of routes/trail systems, maintenance, how the trails relate to the ERMA, SRMA, and specific RMZs, etc.).

**REC-8**

Allow mountain biking on all routes designated for OHV use and on June's Bottom and Black Dragon Canyon routes and other routes or areas designated for mountain bike use. Designation of additional mountain bike areas or routes will occur through activity plans.

**REC-9**

Continue to manage and maintain developed recreation sites. Sites administered by the PFO are Daddy Canyon Recreation Site (RS), Price Canyon RS, Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, Cedar Mountain RS, Buckhorn Pictograph Panel, San Rafael Bridge RS, Swaseys Cabin RS, Little Wild Horse Canyon RS, Wedge Overlook RS, and Temple Mountain RS. Sites

**TMD-6**

Up to 400 miles of hiking, horseback riding, and mechanized (non-motorized) trails will be signed, improved, and/or developed in the following areas:

- Bitter Creek
- Boulevard Ridge
- Burnt Timber Canyon
- Centennial Book Cliffs Trail
- Chipeta Canyon
- Daniels Canyon
- Devils Hole
- Green River
- Dry Fork
- Ely/Rainbow Park
- Home Mountain
- Little Mountain
- Nine Mile
- Rat Hole Canyon
- Spitzenberg/Warren Ridge
- Taylor Canyon
- Westwater Point
- Willow Creek
- Yellow Pine
- Other additional trails

located in other field office areas and maintained by the PFO are Lower Gray Canyon RS, Mineral Bottom RS, and Sand Wash RS.

**REC-10**

Develop new sites in response to user demand, amenity value, and critical resource protection needs.

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):**

**REC-11**

Within SRMAs, manage for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), as identified in the ROS inventory (Map R-14). (See Appendix R- 9 for description of ROS settings). Recreation facilities will be developed only in response to resource management needs and will be appropriate to the managerial setting identified for each ROS class.

**Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) :**

**REC-12**

Adjust RMZs identified in this RMP through their respective SRMA activity plan, as necessary.

**REC-13**

Designate all SRMAs as special areas (Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act [2004]), and if needed, require permits and payment of fees for recreational use (Map R-14). Activity plans will be created or updated for all SRMAs.

**REC-14**

Conduct all recreation management activities and developments in the SRMA in support of the individual SRMA goals and objectives.

**Nine Mile Canyon SRMA:**

**REC-56**

Specific recreation management direction for the Nine Mile Canyon SRMA is contained in Appendix R-9. This includes direction for the following recreation management components: Market Strategy; Market; Niche; Management Goals; Management Objectives; Primary

Activities; Experiences; and Benefits.

**REC-57**

The Nine Mile Canyon SRMA will be managed in coordination with the Vernal Field Office according to the *1995 Recreation and Cultural Area Management Plan* except as modified by the management alternatives listed below. Such changes include VRM objectives.

**REC-58**

The Nine Mile Canyon SRMA will be created as indicated on Map R-14 (24,300 Acres).

**REC-59**

The purpose of the Nine Mile Canyon SRMA will be to manage recreation and interpretive activities related to the cultural and historic resources and landscapes in the area.

**REC-60**

Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices), except where the Nine Mile Canyon ACEC overlaps the SRMA. Where this overlap exists in the SRMA, the area will be open to leasing with major constraints (NSO).

**REC-61**

Development will be required to meet VRM II and III objectives (Map R-5).

**REC-62**

ROS class semi-primitive non-motorized areas will be closed to OHV use. No facilities will be located in these areas.

**REC-63**

The remainder of the area will be limited to designated routes, including all BLM and county system roads.

**REC-64**

ROS roaded natural (RN) class areas will contain visitor facilities, directional signage, interpretive materials, and infrastructure to support visitor health and safety, visitor appreciation of cultural resources, and resource protection.

**REC-65**

Private enterprise on private lands in support of

public visitation within RN class areas will be encouraged by the BLM.

**REC-66**

The Nine Mile Canyon area will be closed to camping on public lands except for designated areas.

**Special Recreation Permits:**

**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.

**REC-75**

The BLM could require permits and/or charge fees in all special areas

**REC-76**

Vending could be authorized in conjunction with organized events or when the vending is necessary to support resource protection or appropriate recreation use. Vending permits could also be authorized to enhance recreational experience.

Price	Vernal Field Office (INSERT HYPER LINK)
Total Acres: 26,200	Total Acres: 44,168
Management Decisions as defined by RMP	
<p><b><u>NMC ACEC</u></b></p> <p><b>Nine Mile Canyon—Relevant and Important Values: Cultural: ACEC-10</b></p> <p>Rationale: This area holds significant prehistoric archaeological resources. Nine Mile Canyon is known to contain the country’s highest concentration of rock art panels,</p>	<p><b><u>SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS: AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)</u></b></p> <p><b>Goals and Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate and manage areas as ACECs where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to</li> </ul>

remnants of the prehistoric Archaic, Fremont, and Ute cultures. About 80 percent of the known sites are rock art.

This ACEC is within the BLM Vernal and Price Field Offices.

Manage the area as an ACEC (26,200 acres).

Special management prescriptions will include:

- Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO)
- Split estate will be open to oil and gas leasing subject to minor constraints (CSU)
- VRM Class II and III in selected areas as indicated on Map R-5
- Utility corridor will be allowed as shown on Map R-21

In addition, the following general management prescriptions will include:

- Limit OHV use to designated routes
- Open to disposal of mineral materials
- Oil and gas development in the Nine Mile Canyon ACEC will be permitted after compliance with the NHPA

important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

**ACEC-10**

Nine Mile Canyon (44,168 acres) with a boundary along the upper rim will continue to be designated as an ACEC. The area will be managed to enhance cultural and special status plant species while enhancing scenic vistas, recreation, and wildlife resource values. A comprehensive integrated activity plan will be developed and implemented. OHV use will be limited to designated routes. Visual Resources will be managed as Class II and Class III. For oil and gas leasing within Nine Mile Canyon:

- Approximately 26,797 acres will be open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form.
- Approximately 209 acres will be open to leasing subject to moderate constraints such as TLs and CSU.
- Approximately 17,162 acres will be open to leasing subject to major constraints such as NSO stipulations.
- Zero acres will be unavailable for leasing.