

EVALUATION REPORT
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Richfield Resource Management Plan



Dirty Devil and Henry Mountains Potential ACECs

Richfield Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
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EVALUATION REPORT—AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN—RICHFIELD RMP/DEIS1

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EVALUATION REPORT—AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN—RICHFIELD RMP/DEIS

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

In brief, BLM staff and cooperators evaluated 26 nominations for ACECs, totaling 1.6 million acres within the Richfield Field Office and portions of the Price Field Office. Of these, 16 areas totaling 886,800 acres within the Richfield Field Office—plus additional acreage within the Price Field Office—met the criteria for relevant and important values and were identified as potential ACECs to be considered further in this RMP.

BACKGROUND

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

The Law: FLPMA

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

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

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

—FLPMA, Title I, Sec 103(a)

The Regulation: 43 CFR 1610.7-2

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

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

The Policy: BLM Manual 1613

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

- The ACEC designation indicates to the public that the BLM recognizes that an area has significant values and has established special management measures to protect those values.
- Designation of ACECs is only done through the resource management planning process, either in an RMP itself or in a plan amendment.
- To be designated as an ACEC, an area must require special management attention to protect the importance and relevance values.
- Potential ACECs are identified as early as possible in the planning process.
- Existing ACECs are subject to reconsideration when plans are revised.
- Members of the public or other agencies may nominate an area for consideration as a potential ACEC. BLM personnel are encouraged to recommend areas for consideration as ACECs.
- No formal or special procedures are associated with nomination.
- An interdisciplinary team evaluates each resource or hazard to determine if it meets the relevance and importance criteria. The field manager approves the relevance and importance criteria.
- If an area is found not to meet the relevance and importance criteria, the analysis supporting that conclusion must be included in the RMP and associated EIS.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Existing ACECs

Four ACECs, totaling 16,200 acres, exist within the Richfield Field Office. The Beaver Wash, North Caineville Mesa, and South Caineville Mesa ACECs were established in 1982; the Gilbert Badlands ACEC was established in 1986. As required by BLM policy, evaluations for the existing ACECs were reviewed in developing the new RMP. All were found to meet relevance and importance criteria.

Table 1. Existing ACECs

ACEC Name	Public Land Acres	County
Beaver Wash	3,400	Wayne
Gilbert Badlands	3,700	Wayne
North Caineville Mesa	3,800	Wayne
South Caineville Mesa	5,300	Wayne
Total	16,200	

ACEC Nominations

Thirty ACECs were nominated during scoping for the RMP. Nominations were submitted by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), three Utah residents, and a BLM employee. Of these, 26 areas totaling 1.6 million acres (shown below) were evaluated by the Richfield Field Office staff. The remaining four—Antelope Valley/Sweetwater Reef, Cedar Mountain, Molen Reef, and Mussentuchit Badlands—are primarily within the Price Field Office, with small acreages within the Richfield Field Office, and were evaluated by Price BLM staff during development of the Price RMP. Some nominations overlap other nominations, and some nominations overlap the existing ACECs. Nominations were evaluated in accordance with

BLM Manual 1613, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Values meeting the relevance and importance criteria were carried forward into the potential ACECs. See Nominated ACEC Map. (Criteria used for the relevance and importance evaluation are included in Attachment 1).

Table 2. ACEC Nominations

Nominated Area		Public Land Acres	County(ies)
1	Bull Creek-Birch Creek	67,809	Wayne and Garfield
2	Bullfrog Creek Drainage	149,370	Garfield
3	Caineville Wash	55,552	Wayne
4	Dirty Devil Drainage	371,257	Emery, Wayne, Garfield
5	Factory Butte	39,130	Wayne
6	Fish Creek Cove/Cockscomb	1,752	Wayne
7	Fremont Gorge/Miners Mountain	27,145	Wayne
8	Fremont Valley Gateway	34,314	Wayne
9	Gilbert Badlands	105,588	Garfield and Wayne
10	Granite Creek Drainage	29,639	Garfield and Wayne
11	Horseshoe Canyon Drainage	72,281	Emery and Wayne
12	Kingston Canyon	22,324	Piute
13	Little Rockies	60,515	Garfield
14	Lower Muddy Creek Drainage	82,703	Emery and Wayne
15	Mount Hillers	38,527	Garfield
16	No Man Mesa	315	Garfield
17	North Wash Drainage	50,865	Garfield
18	Notom-Bullfrog Scenic	53,783	Wayne and Garfield
19	Old Woman Front	326	Sevier
20	Parker Mountain	107,809	Wayne, Piute, Garfield
21	Quitcupah Creek/Trough Hollow	26,888	Sevier and Emery
22	Ragged Mountain/Slate Creek Drainage	49,695	Garfield
23	Rainbow Hills	3,995	Sevier

24	Sevier Canyon	8,889	Piute and Sevier
25	Thousand Lake Bench	38,467	Sevier and Emery
26	Upper Sweetwater Drainage—Tarantula Mesa	63,162	Garfield and Wayne
	Total	1,562,100	

Potential ACECs

Following the evaluation of relevance and importance values, 16 areas totaling 886,800 acres were identified as potential ACECs. (See Potential ACEC map.) Potential ACECs were determined in three ways:

- The potential ACEC is the same as the nominated ACEC because some or all of the values determined relevant and important are found throughout the nominated area.
- The potential ACEC is smaller than the nominated ACEC because the values determined relevant and important are found in only parts of the nominated area.
- The potential ACEC is composed of all or parts of several nominated ACECs because values determined relevant and important were found in adjoining nominated areas.

Table 3. Potential ACECs

	Area Name	Acreage	County(ies)
1	Badlands Scenic and Natural Processes ACEC. Includes: Gilbert Badlands ACEC, 3,680 acres North Caineville Mesa ACEC, 2,000 acres South Caineville Mesa ACEC, 4,100 acres	88,900	Wayne
2	Bull Creek Archaeological ACEC	4,800	Wayne
3	Dirty Devil Scenic Cultural and Wildlife ACEC. Includes: Beaver Wash ACEC, 4,800 acres	205,300	Wayne and Garfield
4	Fremont Gorge/Cockscomb Cultural and Scenic ACEC	34,300	Wayne
5	Henry Mountains Scenic and Wildlife ACEC. Includes: No Man Mesa Potential ACEC, 315 acres	288,200	Wayne and Garfield
6	Horseshoe Canyon Scenic and Cultural ACEC	40,900	Wayne
7	Kingston Canyon Riparian and Mule Deer ACEC	22,100	Piute
8	Little Rockies Scenic and Wildlife ACEC	49,200	Garfield
9	Lower Muddy Creek Scenic and Plant ACEC	16,200	Wayne
10	Old Woman Front Relict Vegetation ACEC	330	Sevier
11	Parker Mountain Sagebrush-Steppe ACEC	107,900	Wayne
12	Quitcupah Archaeological ACEC	180	Sevier
13	Rainbow Hills Natural System ACEC	4,000	Sevier
14	Sevier Canyon Riparian and Mule Deer ACEC	8,900	Piute and Sevier
15	Thousand Lake Bench Vegetation ACEC	500	Wayne
16	Special Status Species ACEC	15,100	Wayne
	Total	886,810	

Descriptions of the potential ACECs and suggested management are included in Attachment 3.

CONSULTATION WITH COOPERATORS

Cooperators, including other federal agencies and representatives of the State of Utah and Garfield, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne counties, participated in several interdisciplinary team meetings where ACEC nominations were discussed. On June 9, 2004, cooperators were given copies of the *Draft Evaluations, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Richfield Resource Management Plan*, and were afforded an opportunity to submit comments to the BLM by July 9. Emery and Wayne counties submitted comments during this time frame.

County Perspectives on ACECs

The Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Garfield county general management plans are silent on ACECs. The General Plan for Wayne County (1994) includes the following statements:

- Special designation such as ACECs should not be considered at this time. We feel ACEC designation to be too restrictive for the multiple use concept. (Wayne, pp. 20-21)
- Special designations such as ACEC should be designated only in the National Parks where there is heavy pressure by visitors. (Wayne, p. 22)
- The BLM should be allowed to manage the National Park Service lands as though they were regular BLM land except for the ACEC near the campground, visitor center, etc. (Wayne, p. 22)

In a letter dated June 7, 2004, the Emery County Public Lands Department expressed concerns that the ACEC nominations were “grossly expanded beyond those areas which actually possessed possible relevant and important values” and that “moving all potential ACECs into the Alternative C category is not necessary.” They also stated that they did not support the Horseshoe Canyon, Lower Muddy Creek, and Quitcupah potential ACECs.

In a letter dated July 9, 2004, the Wayne County commission references two earlier letters wherein the county reiterated county plan statements regarding ACECs (listed above) and stated, among other things, that “it appears the lands released under then-Governor Leavitt’s April 2003 Wilderness Settlement Agreement with the Department of the Interior are now being afforded possible administrative protection through the ACEC and RMP planning process. The Wayne County Commission believes this outcome would certainly violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the Wilderness Settlement Agreement and provides another reason we are justifiably wary of and opposed to the current ACEC discussion and potential outcomes. It is obvious that the majority of the ACEC nominations are simply an attempted end-run around the Settlement Agreement, and to accept them would smack of administrative malfeasance, and trample the clear direction of our County General Plan.”

State Perspective on ACECs

The State of Utah’s position on ACECs was included in House Bill 88, which was enacted by the Utah Legislature and signed by the Governor. Statements regarding ACECs are excerpted from the text of the bill, as follows:

- The state’s support for designation of ACEC, as defined in 43 USC 1702, within federal land management plans will be withheld until—

- It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area contains historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish or wildlife resources, or natural processes that are unique or substantially significant on a regional basis, or contain natural hazards which significantly threaten human life or safety.
- The regional values, resources, processes, or hazards have been analyzed by the federal agency for impacts resulting from potential actions that are consistent with the multiple-use, sustained-yield principles, and this analysis describes the rationale for any special management attention required to protect or prevent irreparable damage to the values, resources, processes, or hazards.
- The difference between special management attention required for an ACEC and normal multiple-use management has been identified and justified, and any determination of irreparable damage has been analyzed and justified for short- and long-term horizons.
- It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed designation is not a substitute for a wilderness suitability recommendation.
- The conclusion of all studies are submitted to the state for review, and the results, in support of or in opposition to, are included in all planning documents.
- The State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) submitted a letter on June 28, 2004, regarding ACECs that included the following points:
 - [SITLA] must ensure that any proposal by the BLM providing for restricted use of the public lands does not impact the economic potential or nor interfere with the Trust Lands Administration ability to effectively manage trust lands.
 - The scenic ACEC proposal perceives irreparable damage to the scenic qualities of large tracts of land without taking into consideration present alterations to the scenery and without taking into consideration other values and resources that may be more significant.
 - Without specifically identifying a scenic viewshed or specifically identifying the location or range of a Special Status Species, an all encompassing withdrawal of an entire ACEC from mineral entry does not seem appropriate.
 - ...the impact of ACEC prescriptions on...mineral resources should be considered.
 - Mineral development on trust lands that are enclosed with BLM lands that carry restrictive management prescriptions could...severely restrict [access] resulting in lost revenue to the trust.
 - The letter went on to identify potential ACECs that, if designated, would negatively impact a number of mineral resources.

ACECs Versus Wilderness

- ACECs may be designated within wilderness areas. ACEC designation shall not be used as a substitute for a wilderness suitability recommendation. If an ACEC is proposed within or adjacent to a Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the RMP...shall provide clear direction of the relationship of the ACEC to the recommendations being made for the WSA. The relationship shall be described to the level of detail required to avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation by the public.—*BLM Manual 1613.33D*
- "...land areas of any size that contain 'Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)' can be identified and managed for wilderness characteristics..."—*letter from Interior Secretary Norton to Senator Bob Bennett, 4/11/03*
- Where ACEC values and wilderness characteristics coincide, the special management associated with an ACEC, if designated, may also protect wilderness characteristics.—*IM-2003-275*
- All WSAs within the Richfield Field Office are within potential ACECs.

Consideration of Potential ACECs in the RMP/DEIS

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

- **No Action Alternative:** The four existing ACECs would continue to be designated and managed to protect their relevance and importance values in the RMP.
- **Alternative A:** No ACECs would be designated in the RMP. No special management to protect relevance and importance values would be identified or implemented. Lands identified as potential ACECs would be managed for other uses.
- **Alternative B:** Six ACECs would be designated: the four existing ACECs totaling 16,200 acres plus the Old Woman Front, 330 acres adjacent to the Forest Service Old Woman Plateau Research Natural Area, and the Henry Mountain ACEC, 288,200 acres managed to protect relevant and important wildlife (bison and mule deer) and scenic values.
- **Alternative C:** All 16 potential ACECs would be designated and managed to protect identified relevant and important values.

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

ATTACHMENT 1: RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE CRITERIA

THE TASK

The task of evaluating the ACEC nominations was assigned to a subteam of the land use planning interdisciplinary team. The subteam's job was to—

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

The evaluation was conducted based on guidance in BLM Manual 1613, *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*.

1) Identifying Potentially Relevance Values

The subteam reviewed each of the 26 ACEC nominations to identify potentially relevant values. Only the values identified in the nominations were evaluated for relevance.

2) Determining Relevance

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

Historical, Cultural, and Scenic Values

A historic or cultural value was determined relevant if it was determined significant by the staff archaeologist.

A scenic value was determined relevant if it was—

- Inventoried as Class A Scenery by BLM.
- Otherwise judged relevant by the staff visual resource specialist (rationale provided).

Fish and Wildlife Values

The nominated fish and wildlife resource was judged relevant if it or its habitat was documented as present within the nominated area.

Sources of information:

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

Natural Processes or Systems

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

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

Sources of information included the following:

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

Natural Hazards

Nominations were considered on a case-by-case basis.

3) Determining Importance

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

Significant Qualities

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

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

- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Eligible for listing on National Register of Historic Places

- Otherwise judged more locally significant as a result of federal laws, regulations, and national BLM policies that mandate consideration and protection of cultural resources.

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

- A national, state, or local scenic designations such as state scenic highways, federal scenic highways and All-American Roads and BLM backcountry byways
- Otherwise judged more locally significant by the staff recreation specialist (rationale provided).

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

- Special status species, including—
 - Federally listed threatened or endangered species
 - BLM-sensitive species
 - State of Utah species of concern
- Endemic to nominated area
- Otherwise judged more than locally significant by staff wildlife biologist (rationale provided).

Riparian Resources—All riparian areas were judged more than locally significant by National BLM policy.

Natural Hazard—A relevant natural hazard was more than locally significant if so determined by staff specialists (rationale provided).

Special Values and Threats

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

- Fragile
- Sensitive
- Rare
- Irreplaceable
- Exemplary
- Unique
- Endangered
- Threatened
- Vulnerable to adverse change.

Determinations of special values, threats, and vulnerability to adverse change were made by staff specialists, case-by-case, based on professional knowledge and supporting documentation.

National Priority

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

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

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

Scenic—A relevant scenic resource that also carried a national designations such as federal scenic highways and All-American Roads and BLM backcountry byways was determined important.

Fish, Wildlife, and Plants—A relevant federally listed threatened or endangered species was also determined important (because of the Endangered Species Act).

Riparian Resources—All riparian areas are considered more than locally significant by BLM policy; hence, they meet the importance criteria.

Safety and Public Welfare

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

Threat to Life and Property

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

4) Special Management

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

5) Mapping Potential ACECs

Values identified as having relevance and importance provided a basis for the potential ACECs. In some cases, the potential ACEC's boundary was the same as the nominated area. In other cases, the boundary of the potential area was somewhat smaller than the nominated area. In yet other cases, an identified relevant and important value (e.g., Class A Scenery or crucial bison or mule deer habitat), crossed the boundaries of several nominated ACECs and the potential ACEC then took a new shape and a new name. The potential ACECs will be carried into Alternative C in the draft DEIS of the RMP. Other alternatives will consider lesser or no acreages for ACEC protection. All will be evaluated in the DEIS.

6) Evaluation of Existing ACECs

Evaluations of the four existing ACECs—Beaver Wash Canyon, Gilbert Badlands, North Caineville Mesa, and South Caineville Mesa—were reconsidered. The relevant and important values of all were determined to still be valid.

ATTACHMENT 2—EVALUATIONS OF ACEC NOMINATIONS

BULL CREEK—BIRCH CREEK DRAINAGE

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Bull Creek—Birch Creek Drainage ACEC
General Location	South of Hanksville extending from the Fremont River south to the summit of Mt. Ellen
General Description	Includes drainages of Town Wash, Birch Creek and Bull Creek, Blue Valley Benches, South Pinto Hills, and North Slope of Mount Ellen
Acreage	67,809 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, plants, ecologic, geologic

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—About 20 percent of nominated area was inventoried as Class A Scenery in two places: along the northern border—Fremont River corridor and in the Henry Mountains on the south.
	Yes	Cultural—The eastern edge of this proposed area contains the Bull Creek Archaeological District, an area that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. One of the few Clovis points in Utah was found on Dugout Bench.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); documented presence.
	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Long-billed curlew—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Williamson’s sapsucker—No documented sightings.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Southwest willow flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered); no documented sightings.
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known presence.
	No	Virgin River montane vole—No documented sightings.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	No	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Townsend's big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Pronghorn antelope—Substantial value habitat in north half.
	Yes	Mule deer—Crucial habitat north slope of Mount Ellen.
	No	Elk—No identified habitat.
	Yes	Black bear—High-value habitat on upper elevations of Mount Ellen.
	Yes	Bison—Crucial year-long bison habitat on north slope of Mount Ellen.
	No	Blue-headed sucker—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Flannel-mouth sucker—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Leatherside chub—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Round-tail chub—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Cronquist's wild buckwheat—BLM sensitive; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered); documented occurrence.
	No	Rockloving milkvetch—No documented occurrence.
	No	Heil's beavertail—No documented occurrence.
	No	Intrusive milkvetch—No documented occurrence.
	Yes	Old growth ponderosa pine—Known occurrence.
	Yes	Old growth Douglas-fir—Known occurrence.
	Yes	Ecologic—Area transitions through two different ecosystems, including four distinct life zones.
	Yes	Watershed—Nominated area includes a significant and important watershed.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Geologic—Mount Ellen is a good example of an intrusive stock, and Table Mountain is a good example of an abysmalith. However, neither are rare geological features.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Fremont River corridor—Scenery along Fremont River is more than locally significant.
	Yes	Mt. Ellen—Scenic values of foothills and peak of Mt. Ellen are exceptional.
	Yes	Cultural—Bull Creek Archeological District is on the National Register of Historic Places.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened)
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Pronghorn antelope—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Mule deer—UDWR has identified Henry Mountains as the premium hunting herd unit in Utah.
	No	Black bear—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Bison—Only wild bison herd in Utah.
	Yes	Cronquist’s wild buckwheat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	No	Old growth ponderosa pine—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Old growth Douglas-fir—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Ecologic—Not more than locally significant.
No	Watershed—Not more than locally significant.	

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Threats to scenic values such as vegetation treatments, including oil and gas leasing and other mineral development and unrestricted OHV use.
	Yes	Cultural—Unrestricted OHV use and vandalism potentially threatens the cultural resources.
	No	Bald Eagle—No identified threats.
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threats.
	No	Pronghorn—No identified threats.
	Yes	Mule Deer—Catastrophic wildfire in crucial deer winter range could eliminate important browse species (e.g., Bitter brush, cliff rose, Wyoming big sage, mountain mahogany)
	No	Black Bear—No identified threats.
	Yes	Bison—Threats include competition for forage from livestock and harassment from unrestricted OHV use.
	No	Cronquist's wild buckwheat—No identified threats.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Threatened by collecting and unrestricted OHV use.
	No	Old growth ponderosa pine—No identified threats.
	No	Old growth Douglas-fir—No identified threats.
	No	Ecologic—Not under pressure for activities that would result in adverse change.
	No	Watershed—No identified threats.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Scenic—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural sites on public lands is a national priority and the Bull Creek Archeological is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
	Yes	Bald Eagle—Federally listed species.
	No	Pronghorn antelope—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mule Deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Black Bear—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bison—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Cronquist's wild buckwheat—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally Listed
	No	Old growth ponderosa pine—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Old growth Douglas-fir—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ecologic—Not identified as a national priority.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Watershed—Not identified as a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Important Values: Scenery, cultural, bald eagle, mule deer, bison, Cronquist’s wild buckwheat, and Wright’s fishhook cactus.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, Bull Creek Archaeological District, mule deer crucial habitat, bison crucial habitat, documented occurrences of bald eagle, Cronquist’s wild buckwheat, and Wright’s fishhook cactus.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry.
Cultural	Close area to OHVs or restrict to designated routes. Provide increased public awareness, surveillance, and facilities.
Mule Deer	Suppress unwanted wildfire in crucial deer habitat.
Bison	Close or Limit OHV use in bison habitats. Support the buyout of AUMs via a willing seller/willing buyer situation and reallocate AUMs in bison habitat to wildlife.
Wright’s Fishhook Cactus	Restrict motorized access in cactus areas. Increase law enforcement patrols.

BULLFROG CREEK DRAINAGE

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Bullfrog Creek Drainage ACEC
General Location	Located east of Capitol Reef National Park and extending south to the boundary of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Also extends east up slopes of Mt. Pennell and Mt. Hillers.
General Description	Includes Cave Flat, No Man Mesa, Muley Creek, Bullfrog Creek, portions of Bulldog Ridge, portions of Mt. Hillers, Pennell Creek Rough, Big Thomson Mesa and Ant Knoll. (No Man Mesa is included in this nominated area. It was also submitted as a separate nomination.)
Acreage	149,370 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, plant, ecologic, geologic, natural processes, and systems.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—About 20 percent of the nominated area is Class A Scenery, including the upper slopes of Mt. Pennell. A small part of the boundary is formed by the Bull Creek Pass National Backcountry Byway.
	No	Cultural—This nominated ACEC contains a few prehistoric and historic sites within its boundaries, but nothing that is considered significant. The few sites that are known consist of Fremont camps, lithic scatters, and an occasional historic cabin that are associated with mining. The area did see limited Navajo use in the 1850s. The Henry Mountains region has been identified as important to Native American tribes.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Elk—No identified habitat.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known occurrences.
	Yes	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	Yes	Burrowing owl—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	No	Long-billed curlew—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Peregrine falcon—No documented sightings.
	No	Southwest willow flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered); no documented sightings.
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Bison—Crucial year-round habitat in north half of area.
	Yes	Mule deer—About one-third of the area is crucial and high-value habitat.
<p>A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	Yes	Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover—BLM sensitive; documented occurrences.
	Yes	Barneby milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and Wayne counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Dana’s milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield County; documented occurrence.
	No	Westwater buckwheat—No documented occurrence.
	Yes	Ecologic—Relict vegetation is found atop No Man Mesa.
	No	Geologic—Mount Pennell and Mount Hillers are examples of laccoliths. Laccoliths were first noted in the Henry Mountains but have also been recognized in other mountain ranges in the Colorado plateau. Such features have been recognized because of the method of formation. The Horn is a noted laccolith and used for recreational rock climbing. However, they are not rare geological features.
<p>Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).</p>	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—The Bull Creek Pass National Backcountry Byway, forming a portion of the boundary of the nominated area, was established in part for the scenic characteristics of the area. The byway designation was made because of scenic values. The designation gives the area more than local significance.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally important.
	Yes	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Burrowing owl—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Bison—Only wild bison herd in Utah.
	Yes	Mule deer—UDWR has identified Henry Mountains as the premium hunting herd unit in Utah.
	Yes	Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Barneby milkvetch—Endemic Garfield and Wayne counties and Navajo County, Arizona.
	Yes	Dana’s milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield County.
	Yes	Ecologic—Relict vegetation—Rare nature of relict vegetation atop No Man Mesa gives that particular area special worth.
No	Natural system—The natural system is not unlike other natural systems in the region and is not more than locally significant.	
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Potential vegetation manipulation could result in adverse changes to the scenic values. Active and proposed mining activities and OHV use also exist in the area.
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threats.
	No	Townsend’s big ear bat—No identified threats.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—No identified threats.
	Yes	Bison—Competition for forage from other grazing animals, including livestock, could adversely affect bison. OHV use in bison habitats causes displacement and dispersal.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Mule deer—Catastrophic wildfire in crucial deer winter range threatens important browse species (e.g., Bitter brush, cliff rose, Wyoming big sage, mountain mahogany).
	No	Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover—No identified threats.
	No	Barneby milkvetch—No identified threats.
	No	Dana’s milkvetch—No identified threats.
	No	Ecologic—Relict vegetation—No identified threats.
	Yes	Natural system—Potential vegetation treatments, active and proposed mining activities, and OHV use pose potential threats to the natural system.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Scenic—Bull Creek Pass National Backcountry Byway.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—Not identified as a national priority. Ferruginous hawk—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Burrowing owl—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bison—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mule deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Barneby milkvetch—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Dana’s milkvetch—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ecologic—Relict vegetation—Preservation of the rare nature of relict vegetation is not a national priority concern.
	No	Natural system—Preservation of natural systems is not a national priority concern.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenery, bison and mule deer habitat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, Dana’s milkvetch, Barneby milkvetch, Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, relict vegetation, and natural system.

Potential Area: Class A Scenery, bison and mule deer habitat, known occurrences of Townsend’s big-eared bat, Dana’s milkvetch, Barneby milkvetch, Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover, ferruginous hawk and burrowing owl and relict vegetation (No Man Mesa).

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Importance Value	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry. Restrict vegetation treatments in Class A Scenery.
Mule Deer	Suppress unwanted wildfire in crucial deer habitat.
Bison	Close or limit OHV use in bison habitats. Support the buyout of AUMs via a willing seller/willing buyer situation and reallocate AUMs from livestock to wildlife.
Natural System	Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry. Restrict vegetation treatment in the area.

CAINEVILLE WASH DRAINAGE

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Caineville Wash Drainage Nominated ACEC
General Location	East of Capitol Reef National Park, North of Highway 24, and west of Factory Butte.
General Description	Lands include Caineville Reef, the Red Desert, Caineville Wash, Hartnet Draw, and other drainages.
Acreage	55,552 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, geologic, and plants.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Class A scenery borders the southern boundary of the nominated area along Highway 24 and the Fremont River and represents less than 10 percent of the total area. The Cathedral Valley Scenic Backway (Utah Travel Council designation) passes through the area. The National Park Service has established self-guiding vehicle tour along backway.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Peregrine falcon—No documented sightings.
	No	Long-billed curlew—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered); many documented occurrences based on recent surveys.
	No	Ruth’s milkweed—Endemic to Emery, Sevier, Wayne, and San Juan counties; no documented occurrences.
	Yes	Winkler’s pincushion—Federally listed (threatened); many documented occurrences based on recent surveys.
	No	Woodruff milkvetch—Endemic to Emery, Garfield, and Wayne counties; no documented occurrences.
	No	Rockloving milkvetch—Endemic to Emery County only.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Geologic—The geology provides an interesting scenic background, but the geologic features are not rare for the region.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—Cathedral Valley Scenic Backway passes through the area. National Park Service has established self-guiding vehicle tour along backway.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	Yes	Winkler’s pincushion—Federally listed (threatened).
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Scenic values are threatened by OHV use, mineral development and oil and gas leasing in the Class A Scenery corridor.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—This species and its habitat are vulnerable to disturbance from mineral resource development and off-road vehicle use.
	Yes	Winkler’s pincushion—Habitat is vulnerable to surface disturbance from OHV use, trampling by humans and livestock, and by mineral resource development. Livestock trampling has been determined as likely to affect, but not likely to adversely affect the cactus.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Scenic.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	Yes	Winkler’s pincushion—Federally listed (threatened).
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Class A scenery, Wright’s fishhook cactus, Winkler’s pincushion.

Potential ACEC: Class A scenery and documented occurrences of Wright’s fishhook cactus and Winkler’s pincushion.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic Wright’s Fishhook Cactus Pincushion Cactus	Manage Class A scenery as either VRM Class I or II. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Manage OHV as either closed or limited to designated trails. Consider mineral withdrawal for locatable minerals.

DIRTY DEVIL DRAINAGE

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Dirty Devil Drainage Nominated ACEC
General Location	Southeast of Hanksville, extending south to the boundary of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.
General Description	Includes the entire length of the Dirty Devil River located on public lands, including side drainages, mesa tops, and ridges.
Acreage	371,257 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, natural processes, plant, geologic features.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Sixty percent of the area (generally the canyons) is Class A Scenery (see scenic inventory map).
	Yes	Cultural—Portions of the nominated area contain abundant evidence of both long-term prehistoric occupation and historic use from Utah’s outlaw period.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Pronghorn antelope—Substantial value habitat in the northern half of the nominated area; high-value habitat in the Robbers Roost Flat area.
	No	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep—No documented sightings or habitat.
	Yes	Desert bighorn—Crucial year-long habitat in the southern half of the nominated area; documented sightings.
	No	Pronghorn mountain goat—Unknown species.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—No documented sighting.
	Yes	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered,	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered); documented presence.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Jane's globemallow—BLM sensitive; documented presence.
	No	Monument milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and San Juan counties and Navajo County, Arizona; no documented presence.
	Yes	Flattop wild buckwheat—BLM sensitive; endemic to Emery and Wayne counties; documented presence.
	No	Eastwood monkey flower—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Natural processes: riparian—Dirty Devil River, tributaries, and springs in the area provide rare riparian habitat in the desert region. The existing Beaver Wash ACEC—wholly included in this nomination—was established for the presence of beaver and protection of the naturally functioning system.
	No	Geology—Geologic features in the area include examples of fluvial erosion that are not rare in the region.
	Yes	Paleontology—Significant paleontology resources (e.g., dinosaur tracks) are found in many locations.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—The Class A Scenery attracts people from outside the region, making it more than locally significant. Recreational use in the Dirty Devil River canyons and side canyons is steadily becoming more popular and attaching people from outside the region.
	Yes	Cultural—Cultural and historic resources in the Dirty Devil area have been noted nationally and identified as important. Sites have been identified that qualify for the National Register of Historic Places.
	No	Pronghorn antelope—Not more than locally significant.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Desert bighorn—This is a desert bighorn reintroduction area. There is regional and national interest in this species.
	Yes	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	Yes	Jane's globemallow—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Flattop wild buckwheat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Natural Processes—Riparian—The Dirty Devil River and its tributaries represent one of the largest relatively undisturbed desert riparian ecosystems in the region.
	Yes	Paleontology—The dinosaur tracks are of special worth and are of more than local significance.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Potential threats to the scenery include oil and gas development, locatable mineral resource development, and unrestricted OHV use.
	Yes	Cultural—Potential threats to cultural resources include increasing recreation use that could subject the resources to more vandalism.
	No	Pronghorn—No threats were identified.
	Yes	Desert bighorn—Potential threats include disturbance from recreation use during lambing season, around water resources, and in yearlong habitat.
	No	Big free-tailed bat—No threats were identified.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Collection of cactus has been identified as a threat in this area.
	No	Jane's globemallow—No threats were identified.
	No	Flattop wild buckwheat—No threats were identified.
	Yes	Natural Processes: Riparian—Riparian areas within this area are in proper functioning condition, with the exception of the following: Rabbitbrush and Silver Tip springs are functioning but at risk and Robbers Roost Spring is nonfunctional. Threats to springs are from cattle grazing. No other threats were identified.
	Yes	Paleontology (dinosaur footprints)—Increasing recreation use could increase vulnerability to vandalism.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Scenic—No national priority identified.
	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural sites on public lands is a national priority.
	No	Pronghorn—No national priority identified.
	No	Desert bighorn—No national priority identified.
	No	Big free-tailed bat—No national priority identified.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	No	Jane’s globemallow—No national priority identified.
	No	Cronquist’s wild buckwheat—No national priority identified.
	Yes	Natural Processes: Riparian—Protection of riparian areas is a national priority concern according to national policies and initiatives.
	Yes	Paleontology—Resources in the area are rare and require protection as directed by law.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	The area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	The area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenic, cultural, paleontological, desert bighorn sheep, Special Status Species, natural processes (riparian), and paleontological (dinosaur tracks).

Potential Area: Class A Scenery, desert bighorn sheep habitat, occurrences of Flat top wild buckwheat, Jane’s globemallow, Wright’s fishhook cactus and Big-free tailed bat, cultural and paleontological sites, and crucial desert bighorn sheep habitat and riparian areas.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints. Consider withdrawing from mineral entry.
Paleontology Cultural	Limit recreation use through use of permits, if determined necessary. Provide increased public awareness, surveillance, and facilities.
Desert Bighorn	Limit recreation number of parties, party size, and season of use into canyons by issuing special recreation permit.

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Wright's fishhook cactus	Limit motorized access in cactus areas and increase law enforcement patrols.
Paleontology (dinosaur footprints)	Restrict recreation use in areas where vandalism is occurring.
Riparian (nonfunctioning springs)	Fence riparian areas to exclude livestock. Rehabilitate springs. Plant willows and cottonwoods.

FACTORY BUTTE

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Factory Butte Nominated ACEC
General Location	North of Highway 24, around and including Factory Butte
General Description	Expansion of the existing North Caineville Mesa ACEC, expanded to include the unique, scenic, and geologically significant Factory Butte and the surrounding sensitive soils of the shale badlands. Includes segments of Coal Mine and Nielson Washes and North Caineville Mesa and Factory Butte.
Acreage	39,130 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, geological, biological, and natural processes.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—About half the area is Class A scenery including North Caineville Mesa and Caineville Reef. Utah State Highway 24 is designated as a State Scenic Byway. Proposed in 1980 as National Natural Landmark for scenery.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Pronghorn antelope—The area north and east of Factory Butte and southeast of North Caineville Mesa is limited value habitat.
	No	Long-billed curlew—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Townsend big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological	No	Rockloving milkvetch—Endemic to Emery County; no documented occurrence.
	No	Barnaby milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield, Wayne and Navajo County Arizona; no documented presence.
	No	Harrison milkvetch—Endemic to Wayne County; no documented occurrence.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
features).	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered); documented occurrence.
	Yes	Psoralea globemallow—BLM Sensitive; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Natural system—Relatively undisturbed native (relict) vegetation on top of North Caineville Mesa.
	Yes	Natural process—Portions of the nomination contain important examples of natural erosional processes, especially wind erosion and to a lesser extent water erosion.
	No	Geologic features—Caineville Mesa, Caineville Reef, and Factory Butte are all unique geologic features but they are not rare in the region.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The soils are Mancos shale and are classified in moderate, critical, and severe erosion classes; however, they pose no particular hazard.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—National recognition for scenic value; attracts visitors from outside the region.
	No	Pronghorn—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	Yes	Psoralea globemallow—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Natural system—The relict vegetation atop of North Caineville Mesa is rare in the region, giving it more than local significance.
	Yes	Natural process—The area represents one of the most extensive and spectacular badland sequences in the Colorado Plateau.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary,	Yes	Scenic—Unrestricted OHV use on highly erodible soils and oil, gas, and mineral development threaten scenic values.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	Pronghorn antelope—No identified threats.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Collection of cactus and OHV use have been identified as a threats to the cacti in this area.
	No	Psoralea globemallow—No identified threats.
	Yes	Natural system—Relict vegetation on top of North Caineville Mesa could be vulnerable to livestock grazing and mineral development.
	Yes	Natural process—Unrestricted OHV use accelerates erosion and threatens the character of the badlands topography.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Scenic—Nationally recognized for scenic values and State Highway 24 designated as a scenic byway.
	No	Pronghorn antelope—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	No	Psoralea globemallow—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Relict vegetation—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Natural system—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Natural process—Not identified as a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenic, Wright’s fishhook cactus, Psoralea globemallow, natural system (relict vegetation), and natural process (badlands topography).

Potential Area: Class A Scenery, documented occurrences of Wright’s fishhook cactus and Psoralea globemallow, relict vegetation area (top of North Caineville Mesa), and badlands.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (NSO). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry.
Wright's Fishhook Cactus	Restrict motorized access in cacti areas. Increase law enforcement patrols.
Natural System Relict Vegetation Atop N. Caineville Mesa	Close mesa to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close mesas to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (NSO). Consider withdrawing mesa from mineral entry. Continue to keep mesa closed to livestock grazing.
Natural Process	Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (NSO). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry.

FISH CREEK COVE/COCKSCOMB

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Fish Creek Cove/Cockscomb Nominated ACEC
General Location	Fish Creek Cove and the Cockscomb are located south of Torrey and Teasdale, Utah.
General Description	Public lands in the vicinity of the Cockscomb, a prominent geologic feature and Fish Creek Cove.
Acreeage	1752 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, and plants.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Cockscomb was inventoried as Class A Scenery.
	Yes	Cultural—Fish Creek Cove is the best known archaeological site in this proposed ACEC. The pictographs are a very significant Fremont site containing not only the rock art but also evidence of habitation. This was also the site of some early work by nationally known archaeologists.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Northern Goshawk—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	Yes	Bald Eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrence.
	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Swainson’s hawk—No documented sightings.
	No	Black swift—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Western Red Bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail Cat—Known occurrence.
No	Virgin River montane vole—No documented sightings.	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Utah milk snake—No documented sightings.
	No	Pika—No documented sightings; no habitat.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Mule Deer—Entire area is crucial winter range.
	No	Sage Grouse—No habitat for brooding or wintering; no known lek sites.
	Yes	Rio Grande wild turkey—Habitat present; population present.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	Bicknell milkvetch—Endemic to Sevier, Wayne, Piute, Emery and Garfield counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Rabbit Valley Greenthread—BLM sensitive; endemic to Wayne County; no documented occurrence.
	Yes	Rabbit valley gilia—Candidate for federal listing; endemic to Wayne County; documented occurrence.
	No	Maguire daisy—Federally listed (threatened); Endemic to San Rafael Swell in Emery County; no documented occurrence.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened); documented occurrence.
	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—Fish Creek Cove/Cockscomb has been identified as Class A Scenery. Highway 12, which forms the northern boundary, is an All-American Road, nationally recognized for its scenic values.
	Yes	Cultural—Fish Creek Cove is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.
	Yes	Northern Goshawk—BLM sensitive.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Bald Eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Ringtail Cat—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Mule Deer—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Rio Grande Wild—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Rabbit valley gilia—Endemic to Wayne County.
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (endangered).
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Scenery is exemplary. Highway 12, which forms the northern boundary, is an All-American Road, nationally recognized for its scenic values. Unrestricted OHV use and mining activity could threaten scenic values.
	Yes	Cultural—Increase in recreation use could make cultural sites more vulnerable to vandalism.
	No	Northern Goshawk—No identified threats.
	No	Bald Eagle—No identified threats.
	No	Ringtail Cat—No identified threats.
	Yes	Mule Deer—Encroachment of housing on crucial deer winter range.
	No	Rio Grande Wild turkey—No identified threats.
	No	Rabbit valley gilia—No identified threats.
	No	Last Chance townsendia—No identified threats.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Scenery—Federal Highway Administration recognizes Highway 12 as an All-American Road.
	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural resources is a national priority.
	No	Northern Goshawk—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Bald Eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Ringtail Cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mule Deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Rio Grande Wild turkey—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Rabbit valley gilia—Not identified as a national priority.
Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed; occurs here.	
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenery, cultural, goshawk, bald eagle, mule deer crucial habitat, rabbit valley gilia, and Last Chance townsendia.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, cultural sites, identified habitat for goshawk, mule deer crucial habitat, known occurrences of rabbit valley gilia, and Last Chance townsendia.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenery	Designate Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Develop a recreation plan for Fish Creek/Cockscomb.
Cultural	Limit recreation use in Fish Creek Cove. Provide increased public awareness, surveillance, and facilities. Provide fencing to protect cultural resources, if necessary.
Mule Deer	Maintain crucial habitat in public ownership to prevent development.

FREMONT GORGE/MINERS MOUNTAIN ACEC

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered		Fremont Gorge/Miners Mountain ACEC
General Location	Miners Mountain ACEC is generally bounded on the north by State Highway 24, on the west by Scenic Byway 12 and National Forest lands, and on the east by Capitol Reef National Park, encompassing the BLM lands that link the forest with the park.	
General Description	Land includes Fremont River Gorge, Miners Mountain, and surrounding public lands.	
Acreage	27,145 acres of public land.	
Values Considered	Scenic, historic, wildlife, plants, riparian systems.	

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Fremont Gorge and the south end of Miners Mountain were inventoried as Class A Scenery, representing about 20 percent of the nominated area.
	Yes	Historic—Significant cultural values are present in Beas Lewis Flat areas and down Calf Canyon.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrence.
	No	Three-toed woodpecker—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—known occurrence.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Utah milk snake—No documented sightings.
No	Black swift—BLM sensitive; no documented sighting.	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Northern goshawk—BLM sensitive; numerous documented sightings.
	Yes	Mule deer—Entire area is crucial habitat.
	Yes	Black bear—High-value habitat on north slopes of Lion Mountain.
	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Bicknell milkvetch—Endemic to Sevier, Wayne, Piute, Garfield, and Emery counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened), documented occurrence.
	No	Maguire daisy—Federally listed (threatened); no documented occurrence.
	No	Barneby's reed mustard—Federally listed (endangered); no documented occurrence.
	Yes	Rabbit valley gilia—Federally listed (candidate); documented occurrences.
	Yes	There is a pristine riparian ecosystem along the Fremont River flowing through the Fremont Gorge.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—Fremont Gorge is Class A Scenery with spectacular views. Highway 12, which forms part of the western boundary, is an All-American Road, nationally recognized for its scenic values. State Highway 24, a state scenic byway, forms part of the northwestern boundary. This makes the area more than locally significant.
	Yes	Historic—Cultural resources in the Beas Lewis Flat area has been noted nationally and identified as important by the Hopi, Piute, and Navajo tribes.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); predicted wintering habitat.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Northern goshawk—BLM sensitive.
	No	Mule deer—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Black bear—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Bicknell milkvetch—Endemic.
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened), documented occurrence.
	Yes	Rabbit valley gilia—Federally listed (candidate); documented in this area.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian areas are important in desert ecosystems. A very small percentage of public lands is riparian in nature.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Recreation use, including unrestricted OHV use, mineral development, and wood cutting, threaten scenic values.
	Yes	Cultural—Vandalism threatens cultural resource values.
	No	Bald eagle—No identified threat.
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threat.
	No	Northern goshawk—No identified threat.
	No	Mule deer—No identified threat.
	No	Black bear—No identified threat.
	No	Bicknell milkvetch—No identified threat.
	No	Last Chance townsendia—No identified threat.
	No	Rabbit valley gilia—No identified threat.
	Yes	Riparian—Proposed upstream water developments could negatively impact riparian area. Sulphur Creek is a nonfunctioning riparian system attributed to natural events.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Scenic—Highway 12, which forms part of the western boundary, is an All-American Road, nationally recognized for its scenic values. State Highway 24, a state scenic byway, forms part of the northwestern boundary.
	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural resources is a national priority.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened)
	No	Ringtail cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Northern goshawk—Not identified as a national priority.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Mule deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Black bear—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bicknell milkvetch—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Rabbit valley gilia—Federally listed (candidate)
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian areas are more than locally significant by BLM policy that states "...maintain, improve or restore all riparian areas located on all public lands."
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenery, historical, northern goshawk, bald eagle, Bicknell milkvetch, Last Chance townsendia, rabbit valley gilia, and riparian.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, historic sites on Beas Lewis Flats, documented occurrences of Bicknell milkvetch, Last Chance townsendia, rabbit valley gilia, and riparian corridors.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A scenery as either VRM Class I or II. Close Class A Scenery to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (NSO). Manage OHV as closed or limited to designated trails. Consider withdrawing from mineral entry. Close to wood cutting.
Cultural	Limit recreation use in Beas Lewis Flats. Provide increased public awareness and surveillance.

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Riparian	Evaluate proposed upstream water developments to determine adverse impacts on riparian areas. Manage OHV as either closed or limited to designated trails.

FREMONT VALLEY GATEWAY

Nominated by Stephen Trimble and Chuck and Judy Smith

Area Considered	Fremont Valley Gateway ACEC
General Location	Extends east from Redgate area on Fremont River through public lands surrounding Teasdale, Torrey and Grover to Capitol Reef National Park.
General Description	Red gate area, Cockscomb Ridge, Fish Creek Cove, Miners Mountain, Fremont Gorge, Sulphur Creek, and Beas Lewis Flats.
Acreage	34,314 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, preservation of rural landscape; historic, cultural, grazing, recreational, geologic, riparian, and wildlife values.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Three areas within the nomination, representing less than a quarter of the total area, were inventoried as Class A Scenery: Fremont Gorge, Fish Creek Cove/Cockscomb, and Miners Mountain. Highway 12 was designated as an All-American Road for nationally significant scenic values.
	Yes	Cultural—Nominated area includes dense cultural resources with Fremont remains, particularly in the Fish Creek Cove and Beas Lewis Flat areas.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrence.
	Yes	Southwest willow flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered); documented sighting.
	Yes	Williamson’s sapsucker—Documented sighting.
	No	Lewis woodpecker—BLM sensitive; no documented sighting.
	No	Western toad—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Short-eared owl—BLM sensitive; no documented sighting.
	No	Peregrine falcon—no documented sighting.
No	Bobolink—BLM sensitive; no documented sighting.	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Mexican spotted owl—Federally listed (endangered); no documented sightings; no identified critical habitat.
	No	Allen’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sighting.
	No	Southwestern black-headed snake—No documented sightings.
	No	Long-billed curlew—BLM sensitive; no documented sighting.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sighting.
	No	Fringed miotis—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Northern goshawk—BLM sensitive; documented sighting.
	No	Plateau striped whiptail—No documented sightings.
	No	Common yellowthroat—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Mule deer—Crucial habitat.
	Yes	Elk—Crucial habitat.
	Yes	Bighorn sheep—Only a very limited number of the public lands contained in the nomination have been identified as crucial year-long habitat. Most of these lands are immediately adjacent to and along the boundary with Capitol Reef National Park and in the extreme southern end of the nomination, southeast of Lion Mountain.
	No	Black swift—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	No	Utah milk snake—No documented sightings.
	No	Sage grouse—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known occurrences.
	Yes	Golden eagle—Known occurrences.
	Yes	Great-horned owls—Known occurrences.
	Yes	Bobcats—Known occurrences.
	Yes	Mountain lion—Known occurrences.
	Yes	Coyote—Known occurrences.
A natural process or system (including endangered,	No	Barneby’s reed mustard—Federally listed (endangered); no documented occurrence.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Rabbit valley gilia—Federally listed (candidate); endemic to Wayne County; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened), documented occurrence.
	Yes	Woodland (juniper and pinion pine) communities—Present.
	Yes	Mixed conifer forest (pinion pine/ponderosa pine)—Present.
	Yes	Sagebrush-grassland communities—Present.
	Yes	Cryptobiotic crusts—Crusts are likely present within the nomination, but there is insufficient information and data to determine locations.
	Yes	Riparian—Fremont Gorge contains pristine riparian habitat with exemplary resource value; small segments of riparian habitat along Fish Creek, Sulphur Creek, and Carcass Creek.
	No	Geologic Features—Cockscomb—The Cockscomb is an outstanding example of the geologic process of faulting. However, it is not a rare geologic feature in the region.
	No	Geologic Features—Fremont Gorge—The exposed geology of the Fremont Gorge creates the scenic appeal of the area. However, the geologic features are not rare in the region.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	Yes	Area is susceptible to flash floods, unstable soils and rock slopes, rock spalling, and frost wedging.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it	Yes	Scenery—All-American Road designation along Utah State Highway 12.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Cultural/Historic—Cultural resources in the Beas Lewis Flat and Fish Creek Cove areas have been noted nationally and identified as important by the Hopi, Piute, and Navajo tribes.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Southwest willow flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered).
	No	Williamson’s sapsucker—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Northern goshawk—BLM sensitive.
	No	Mule deer—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Elk—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Bighorn sheep—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Golden eagle—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Great-horned owls—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Bobcat—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Mountain lion—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Coyotes—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Rabbit valley gilia—Federally listed (candidate).
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened), documented occurrence.
	No	Woodland (juniper and pinion pine) communities—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Mixed conifer forest (pinion pine/ponderosa pine)—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Sagebrush-grassland communities—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Cryptobiotic crusts—Not more than locally significant.
Yes	Riparian—Riparian areas are more than locally significant by BLM policy that states “...maintain, improve or restore all riparian areas located on public lands.”	
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic values could be threatened by mining and oil and gas development, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, unregulated recreation use, proposed dam construction, and land tenure adjustments.
	Yes	Cultural—Recreation and vandalism may pose threats to cultural resources.
	No	Bald eagle—No identified threat.
	No	Southwest willow flycatcher—No identified threat.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Williamson's sapsucker—No identified threat.
	No	Northern goshawk—No identified threat.
	Yes	Mule deer—Habitat could be threatened by catastrophic wildfire.
	No	Elk—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Bighorn sheep—No identified threat.
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threat.
	No	Golden eagle—No identified threat.
	No	Great-horned owls—No identified threat.
	No	Bobcat—No identified threat.
	No	Mountain lion—No identified threat.
	No	Coyotes—No identified threat.
	No	Rabbit valley gilia—No identified threat.
	No	Last Chance townsendia—No identified threat.
	No	Woodland (juniper and pinion pine) communities—No identified threat.
	No	Mixed conifer forest (pinion pine/ponderosa pine)—No identified threat.
	No	Sagebrush-grassland communities—No identified threat.
	Yes	Cryptobiotic crusts—Crusts could be damaged by soil surface disturbances.
	Yes	Riparian—Proposed upstream water developments and excessive recreation use could negatively impact riparian area.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Scenery—Highway 12 is nationally designated All American Road.
	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural resources is a national priority.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened) and Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
	Yes	Southwest willow flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered).
	No	Williamson's sapsucker—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Northern goshawk—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mule deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Elk—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bighorn sheep—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not identified as a national priority.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Golden eagle—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Great-horned owls—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bobcat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mountain lion—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Coyotes—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Rabbit valley gilia—Federally listed (candidate).
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Woodland (juniper and pinion pine)—communities—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mixed conifer forest (pinion pine/ponderosa pine)—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Sagebrush-grassland communities—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Cryptobiotic crusts—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Riparian—BLM national policy directs the agency to maintain, improve, and restore riparian areas.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Hazards identified are common to the Colorado Plateau.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	The hazards identified generally do not pose a significant threat to human life and safety or property.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenery, cultural, noted Special Status Species (Southwest willow catcher, bald eagle, northern goshawk, rabbit valley gilia, and Last Chance townsendia), mule deer, cryptobiotic crusts and riparian.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, cultural sites, identified habitat for Special Status Species, mule deer crucial range, riparian corridors.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenery	<p>Manage Class A scenery as either VRM Class I or II.</p> <p>Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy).</p> <p>Manage OHV as either closed or limited to designated trails.</p> <p>Consider for withdrawal from mineral entry.</p>
Cultural	<p>Limit recreation use in Fish Creek Cove and Beas Lewis Flats to protect cultural resources, if needed.</p> <p>Provide increased public awareness and surveillance.</p> <p>Develop interpretation of cultural resources at Fish Creek Cove.</p>
Mule Deer	<p>Suppress unwanted wildfires in crucial mule deer habitat containing browse species.</p>
Riparian	<p>Evaluate proposed upstream water developments to determine adverse impacts on riparian areas.</p> <p>Manage OHVs as either closed or limited to designated trails.</p> <p>Limit recreation use in riparian areas, if needed.</p> <p>Reduce impacts of dispersed camping.</p>

GILBERT BADLANDS

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Gilbert Badlands Nominated ACEC
General Location	East of Caineville and south of Highway 24 between Caineville and Hanksville.
General Description	Nominated area includes Upper Blue Hills, South Caineville Mesa, Thompson Mesa, Stevens Mesa and Wildcat Mesa. Includes existing Gilbert Badlands and South Caineville Mesa ACECs and Mount Ellen WSA.
Acreage	105,588 public land acres.
Nominated values	Scenic, historic, geologic, and natural processes, especially wind and water erosion.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Forty percent of the nomination is Class A Scenery, located generally in the eastern half.
	Yes	Cultural—The top of South Caineville Mesa contains many prehistoric archaeological sites and a well-preserved historic cabin. Concentrations are mostly on this mesa, but significant sites also are scattered in other parts of the nominated ACEC.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Bluehead Sucker—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	Yes	Flannelmouth Sucker—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	No	Leatherside Chub—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Pronghorn—Substantial habitat in northeast portion.
	Yes	Mule deer—Crucial habitat in southeast quarter.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened), known occurrence.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Peregrine falcon—Documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtailed cat—Known occurrence.
	No	Long-billed curlew—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Big freetailed bat—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	No	Townsend's big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; No documented occurrence.
	No	Burrowing owl—BLM sensitive; no documented occurrence.
	No	Dwarf Shrew—No occurrence.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered); documented occurrences.
	No	Barneby milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and Wayne counties and Navajo County, AZ; no documented occurrence.
	No	Ute ladies'-tresses—Federally listed (threatened); endemic to Wayne and Garfield and other Utah counties; no documented occurrence.
	Yes	Winkler's pincushion cactus, Federally listed (threatened); documented occurrences along eastern edge of nominated area.
	No	Maguire daisy—Federally listed (threatened); endemic to Emery County (San Rafael Swell); no documented occurrence.
	No	Rockloving milkvetch—Endemic to Emery County; no documented occurrence.
	No	Ruth milkweed—Endemic to Emery, Sevier, Wayne and San Juan counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Harrison milkvetch—Endemic to Wayne County; no known occurrence.
	No	Woodruff milkvetch—Endemic to Emery, Wayne and Garfield counties; no known occurrence.
	No	Geologic—Area contains well-developed badlands in the mancos shale that are not rare in the region.
	No	Vertebrate Fossils—No documented occurrence.
Yes	Natural Processes—There are important expressions of wind and water erosion within the mancos shale badlands.	
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for these values.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—Attracts visitors from outside the area and is bordered on the north by Highway 24, a state scenic byway, and on the west by the Notom Road, a state scenic backway.
	Yes	The South Caineville Mesa is a widely recognized and photographed landmark.
	Yes	Cultural—The rock art at Bloody Hands Gap is visited by recreationist and becoming well-known.
	Yes	Bluehead Sucker—BLM sensitive.
	No	Flannelmouth Sucker—BLM sensitive. Pronghorn—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Mule deer—UDWR has identified the Henry Mountain deer herd as Utah’s premium hunting unit.
	Yes	Bald eagles—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Peregrine falcon—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Ringtailed cat—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Big freetailed bat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	Yes	Winkler’s pincushion cactus—Federally listed (threatened).
Yes	Natural Processes—The natural processes of wind and water erosion have been widely studied and papers published on the subject.	
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Scenic quality is threatened by unrestricted OHV use and oil, gas and mineral development.
	Yes	Cultural—Increasing recreation use and vandalism could threaten cultural resources.
	Yes	Bluehead Sucker—Proposed upstream water developments could threaten the fish species.
	Yes	Flannelmouth Sucker—Proposed upstream water developments could threaten the fish species.
	No	Pronghorn—No identified threats.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Mule deer—Catastrophic wildfire in crucial deer winter range could eliminate important browse species (Bitterbrush, cliff rose, Wyoming big sage, mountain mahogany) resulting in conversion to annual (cheat grass) and perennial grasses. Unrestricted OHV use and potential oil and gas and mineral development could cause displacement of animals and loss of habitat.
	No	Bald eagles—No identified threats.
	No	Peregrine falcon—No identified threats.
	No	Ringtailed cat—No identified threats.
	No	Big freetailed bat—No identified threats.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Threatened by illegal collection and unrestricted OHV use.
	Yes	Winkler’s pincushion cactus—Threatened by collection and unrestricted OHV use.
	Yes	Natural Processes—The badland topography is threatened by unrestricted OHV use and potentially threatened by oil and gas and mineral development.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Scenic—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural resources is a national priority by BLM policy.
	No	Bluehead Sucker—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Flannelmouth Sucker—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Pronghorn—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mule deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Bald eagles—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Peregrine falcon—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ringtailed cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Big freetailed bat—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	Yes	Winkler’s pincushion cactus—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Natural Processes—Not identified as a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting in to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for these values.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenic, cultural, bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, mule deer, bald eagle, big free-tailed bat, Wright’s fishhook cactus, Winkler’s pincushion cactus, and natural processes (mancos badlands).

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, major cultural sites, habitat for listed suckers (Fremont River), mule deer crucial habitat, documented occurrences of big free-tailed bat, Wright’s fishhook cactus, Winkler’s pincushion cactus, and mancos shale badlands.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Designate Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Close to OHV use or limit to designated routes. Withdraw from mineral entry.
Cultural	Increase public education. Increase law enforcement patrols. Close to OHV use or limit to designated routes in areas of concern.
Mule Deer	Suppress wildfire in crucial deer winter range. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated roads and trails. Withdraw from mineral entry. Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy).
Bluehead Sucker Flannelmouth Sucker	Evaluate proposed upstream water developments to determine adverse impacts on sensitive species. Based on that evaluation take appropriate action.
Wright’s Fish Cactus Winkler’s Pincushion Cactus	Close to OHV use or limit to designated trails in areas of concern. Increase law enforcement patrols. Increase public education.
Natural Processes	Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Close to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Withdraw from mineral entry.

GRANITE CREEK DRAINAGE

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Granite Creek Drainage Nominated ACEC
General Location	West of Highway 95 and south of Hanksville.
General Description	Includes Bull Mountain, Goat Water Point, Sandslide Point, Granite Ridges, Granite Creek, Butler Wash, Goodwater Spring, and Poison Spring.
Acreage	29,639 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural/historic, geologic, wildlife, plants, and ecologic.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—About one-quarter of nominated area is Class A Scenery, located along the ridgeline from Bull Mountain to Granite Ledges, in the west side of the nominated area. The east boundary is Hwy 95, the Utah Bicentennial Scenic Byway. Roughly 2 miles of the Bull Creek Pass Backcountry Byway crosses the nominated area.
	No	Cultural—Nominated for this value but no supporting information was provided.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—No documented sightings.
	No	Long-billed curlew—No documented sightings.
	No	Southwest willow flycatcher—No documented sightings.
	No	Western red bat—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known occurrences.
	No	Virgin River montane vole—No documented sightings.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	No	Big free-tailed bat—No documented sightings.
No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—No documented sightings.	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Pronghorn—Northeast quarter of area is substantial value habitat; limited value habitat bordering Hwy 95.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered); documented presence.
	No	Cronquist’s wild buckwheat—No documented presence.
	No	Dana’s milkvetch—No documented presence.
	No	Pinion milkvetch—No documented presence.
	No	Intrusive milkvetch—No documented presence.
	Yes	Riparian—Granite Creek is noted as a rare riparian corridor in the region. Riparian areas are rare in the desert environment.
	Yes	Ecologic—The nominated area includes transitional habitat, including stands of aspen, ponderosa pine and fir, pinion juniper forests, and shrub grass communities.
No	Geologic—Bull Mountain is a bysmalith in which the overlaying rocks were lifted not by folding, but by faulting. This is a unique geologic feature but not rare in the region.	
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—Scenery attracts visitors from outside the area. Also, the Bull Creek Pass National Backcountry Byway and State Centennial Scenic Byway form boundaries of or are contained within the area.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Pronghorn—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian areas are more than locally significant by BLM policy that states "...maintain, improve or restore all riparian areas located on all public lands."
	No	Ecologic—Not more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Threats to scenic values include vegetation treatments, oil and gas leasing, and other mineral development and unrestricted OHV use.
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threats.
	No	Pronghorn—No identified threats.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Under threat to collection and unrestricted OHV use.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian resources could be threatened by unrestricted OHV use. Riparian inventories show upper Granite Creek in properly functioning condition and lower Granite Creek as functioning at risk as a result of natural erosion and slickrock in the upper watershed.
	No	Ecologic—No identified threats
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Scenic—The Bull Creek Pass Backcountry Byway is located in the southern portion of the area.
	No	Ringtail Cat—Not a national priority.
	Yes	Wright's Fishhook Cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	Yes	Riparian—BLM national policy directs the agency to maintain, improve, and restore riparian areas.
	No	Ecologic—Not a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenery, Wright's fishhook cactus and riparian.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery and documented occurrences of Wright's fishhook cactus.

Suggested Special Management

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

FLPMA Section 103. (a): The term "areas of critical environmental concern" means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Designate as oil and gas leasing category 3 or 4. Consider withdrawing from mineral entry. Restrict vegetation management in Class A Scenery.
Wright's Fishhook Cactus	Restrict motorized access in cactus areas. Increase law enforcement patrols.
Ecologic	Designate as oil and gas leasing Category 3 or 4. Consider withdrawing from mineral entry. Suppress unwanted wildfire in old-growth areas.

HORSESHOE CANYON

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Horseshoe Canyon Nominated ACEC
General Location	Located 40 miles south of Green River, Utah, and adjacent to Canyonlands National Park.
General Description	Area includes Hans Flat, Twin Corral Flats, and Robbers Roost Flat. Also the entire length of Horseshoe Canyon and its side canyons.
Acreage	72,281 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural/historical, wildlife, plant, geologic, ecologic, riparian, and naturally functioning system.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Two-thirds of the nominated area is Class A Scenery.
	Yes	Cultural—Archaeological sites in the Wayne County portion of this proposed ACEC are abundant, and many are nationally and regionally significant. In addition, Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch used the area as a hideout.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Mule deer—No habitat identified.
	Yes	Coyote—Common species, known occurrence.
	Yes	Pronghorn antelope—High-value habitat in western and southern quarter.
	Yes	Fox—Common species, known occurrence.
	Yes	Badger—Common species; known occurrence.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed species (threatened); known occurrence.
	Yes	Bell’s vireo—Common species; known occurrence.
	Yes	Desert bighorn sheep—Habitat identified in Emery County portion of nomination.
	No	Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep—No habitat identified.
No	Mountain goat—No habitat identified.	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Townsend’s big-ear bat—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	Monument milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and San Juan counties and Navajo County, Arizona.
	Yes	Natural processes: park areas—Wide expansive grasslands dominate the upper elevations.
	No	Geologic—Geologic features are common for the region.
	Yes	Riparian—Numerous springs and seeps within area. Riparian areas are rare in the desert environment.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—More than locally significant, attracting people from outside the region. Most of the Class A scenery is located in the canyons.
	Yes	Cultural—Cowboy Cave and other Cultural sites in the area are noted nationally and qualify for the National Register of Historic Places.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed.
	Yes	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive.
	No	Pronghorn—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Desert bighorn—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Coyote—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Fox—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Badger—Not more than locally significant.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Bells vireo—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Natural processes: Park areas are common in the region.
	Yes	Riparian—BLM national priority is to maintain, restore, preserve riparian areas. Riparian areas are rare in the desert environment and have special worth and significance.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Potential oil and gas development, locatable mineral resource development and unrestricted OHV use could threaten the scenic values.
	Yes	Cultural—Increasing recreation use could increase vulnerability to vandalism.
	No	Bald eagle—No threats identified.
	No	Townsend's big-eared bat—No threats identified.
	No	Pronghorn—No threats identified.
	No	Desert bighorn—No threats identified.
	No	Coyote—No threats identified.
	No	Fox—No threats identified.
	No	Badger—No threats identified.
	No	Bells vireo—No threats identified.
	Yes	Naturally functioning ecosystem—The ecosystem as a whole is naturally functioning, but the riparian component in some areas is nonfunctional.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian areas within this area are in proper functioning condition with the exception of the following: Blue John Springs, Granary Springs, Lost Seep, Trail Spring, Wild Cat Spring, and Horseshoe Canyon are rated as being nonfunctioning or functioning at risk. Threats to springs are from cattle grazing. No other threats were identified.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Scenic—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural sites on public lands is a national priority.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Townsend's big-eared bat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Pronghorn antelope—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Desert bighorn—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Coyote—Not identified as a national priority.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Fox—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Badger—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bells vireo—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Naturally functioning ecosystem—Not a national priority.
	Yes	Riparian—Protection of riparian is national priority concern according to national policies and initiatives.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Class A Scenery, cultural, riparian, bald eagle, Townsend’s big ear bat.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, cultural sites, Townsend’s big-eared bat habitat, and riparian corridor.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry.
Cultural	Limit recreation use through use of permits. Provide increased public awareness, surveillance and facilities.
Riparian	Fence riparian areas to exclude livestock. Rehabilitate springs. Plant willows and cottonwoods.

KINGSTON CANYON

Nominated the SUWA.

Area Considered	Kingston Canyon
General Location	Drainages north and south of Kingston Canyon bordering Highway 62 between Otter Creek Reservoir and the town of Kingston.
General Description	Geologic layers of the Sevier Plateau exposed by the east fork of the Sevier River in the canyon, along with Phonolite Hill.
Acreage	22,324 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, geologic, wildlife, ecologic (including riparian).

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Scenic—No parts of the area were identified as Class A Scenery.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Leatherside chub—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrence.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Northern goshawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Peregrine falcon—no documented sightings.
	No	Lewis’ woodpecker—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Three-toed woodpecker—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Williamson’s sapsucker—no documented sightings.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Virgin River montane vole—no documented sightings.
	No	Utah milksnake—no documented sightings.
	No	Utah mountain kingsnake—no documented sightings.
	Yes	Black bear—High-value habitat.
	Yes	Elk—High-value habitat.
	Yes	Mule deer—crucial and high-value habitats.
	No	Osprey—no documented sightings.
	No	Dwarf shrew—no habitats in nominated area. Only in Uinta or Abajo Mountains.
	No	Southwest Willow Flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered); no documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	Welsh milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield, Piute, Wayne, Iron Kane and Millard counties; no documented occurrence.
	Yes	Riparian—UDWR has determined the east fork of the Sevier River to be a blue ribbon fishery. BLM has rated the riparian corridor as proper functioning condition. Riparian corridors are rare in the region. Note, however, that property ownership in the proposal area is fragmented, with the majority of lands in private ownership.
	No	Geology—The canyon includes sheer cliffs, cinder cones and volcanic rock spires. The nomination does not, however, contain any rare geologic features.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Nomination did not address this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Black bear—Not more than locally significant.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	No	Elk—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Mule deer—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Riparian—The East Fork of the Sevier River is one of the larger rivers, with consistent flows and greater diversity of vegetation and wildlife for the region, giving it special worth or consequence. Several perennial springs in the corridor are in proper functioning conditions and enhance the habitat potential for fish and wildlife in the corridor.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	Bald eagle—No threats identified in this area.
	No	Black bear—No threats identified in this area.
	No	Elk—No threats identified in this area.
	Yes	Mule deer—Crucial winter range is threatened by catastrophic wildfire. Unrestricted OHV use displaces mule deer during sensitive times and causes loss of habitat.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian areas of this scale are rare and unique in the region. However, the fragmented land ownership in the corridor makes coordinated riparian management difficult.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Black bear—Not a national priority.
	No	Elk—Not a national priority.
	No	Mule deer—Not a national priority.
	Yes	Riparian—BLM national policy directs the agency to maintain, improve and restore riparian areas.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Bald eagle, mule deer and riparian.

Potential ACEC: Mule deer habitat and riparian corridors.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Mule Deer	Suppress unwanted wildfire in crucial deer winter range. Limit OHV use to designated trails and seasonally.
Riparian	Consolidate management of riparian areas through appropriate land tenure adjustments.

LITTLE ROCKIES

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Little Rockies Nominated ACEC
General Location	East of Highway 276 and west of Glen Canyon NRA.
General Description	Area includes Mount Holmes and Mount Ellsworth along with bench lands, side drainages, mesa tops, and desert. Other land features include Trachyte Point, Maidenwater Canyon, and Ticaboo canyons. A portion of the area is designated as a National Natural Landmark.
Acreage	60,515 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, vegetation, ecological, geological and natural systems and processes.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Eighty-five percent of the nominated area is Class A Scenery.
	No	Cultural—This nominated ACEC contains very few recorded prehistoric cultural resources, and those that have been recorded are made up of culturally indefinable lithic scatters.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Desert bighorn sheep—Crucial habitat along eastern edge Mt. Holmes and Mt. Ellsworth and in Trachyte Creek.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon—Documented sightings.
	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known occurrences.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
No	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Townsend's big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover—BLM sensitive; documented occurrence.
	No	Kaiparowits milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and Kane counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Westwater buckwheat—No documented occurrence.
	Yes	Ecologic—Maidenwater and Trachyte Creeks are rare examples of riparian areas featuring hanging gardens in the desert environment.
	No	Geologic—The area was designated as a natural national landmark because it exhibits a particular type of igneous structure and represents a classic site of such formations. However, the geologic structures represented are not rare.
	Yes	Natural processes—Area includes a functioning natural ecosystem.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Nomination did not address this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—National status as an NNL attracts people from outside the region to view the classic igneous structure and formation.
	Yes	Desert bighorn sheep—Area is identified by UDWR as a transplant location.
	No	Peregrine falcon—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Townsend's big-eared bat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover—BLM sensitive.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Ecologic—Maidenwater and Trachyte Creeks are rare examples of riparian areas featuring hanging gardens in the desert environment. All riparian areas are more than locally significant by BLM policy.
	No	Natural processes—The naturally functioning ecosystem is not more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Recreation use, including unrestricted OHV use and oil and gas and mineral development could threaten scenic values.
	Yes	Desert bighorn sheep—Disturbance from recreational use and change in class from cattle to domestic sheep grazing could threaten bighorn sheep.
	No	Peregrine falcon—No identified threats.
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threats.
	Yes	Townsend's big-eared bat—Bats could be disturbed by recreation use in Maidenwater creek.
	No	Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover—No identified threats.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Scenic—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Desert bighorn sheep—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Peregrine falcon—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Townsend's big-eared bat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Ecological—BLM national policy directs the agency to maintain, improve, and restore riparian areas.
	Yes	Natural system—Potential vegetation treatments, active and proposed mining activities and OHV use pose potential threats to the natural system.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Nomination did not address this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Nomination did not address this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenic, bighorn sheep, Special Status Species, ecologic and natural system.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, bighorn sheep habitat, documented occurrences of hole-in-the-rock prairie clover and Townsend’s big-eared bat, riparian corridors.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Consider withdrawing area from mineral entry.
Desert Bighorn	Regulate recreation impacts by limiting party size, season of use, and/or location. Convert domestic sheep use in Trachyte allotment to cattle.
Townsend’s Big-eared Bat	Regulate recreation impacts by limiting party size, season of use, and location.
Ecological	Limit recreation access and party size in Maidenwater and Trachyte canyons.

LOWER MUDDY CREEK

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Lower Muddy Creek Drainage Nominated ACEC
General Location	Located northwest of Hanksville and extending north toward the San Rafael Reef.
General Description	Includes the entire length of the Muddy Creek managed by the Richfield Field Office along with portions managed by the Price Field Office.
Acreage	82,703 acres of public land.
Values Considered	Scenic, wildlife, vegetation, ecological, geologic.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—About 60 percent of the area was inventoried as Class A Scenery.
	No	Cultural—The nominated ACEC contains very few recorded prehistoric cultural resources, and those that have been recorded are made up of culturally identifiable lithic scatters.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Pronghorn—Southeast quarter is limited and high-value habitat.
	No	Townsend big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	Rockloving milkvetch—Endemic in Emery County; no documented occurrence.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered); documented occurrences.
	Yes	Psoralea globemallow—BLM sensitive; documented occurrence.
	No	Low woollybase—Endemic in Emery, Sevier, and Wayne counties; no documented occurrence.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Heil's Beavertail—Endemic in Emery, Garfield, and Wayne counties; one documented occurrence.
	No	Sye's Butte plainmustard—No information.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian corridor along Muddy Creek is rated as proper functioning condition. Riparian corridors in the desert are rare.
	Yes	Functioning Natural System—The area is in a functional natural system.
	No	Geologic—The area contains hoodoos, unique geologic features within the Entrada formation. The area also contains vertebrate paleontologic resources in exposures of the Morrison formation. Neither are rare within the region.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—Scenery attracts people from outside the area and is therefore more than locally significant.
	No	Pronghorn—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	Yes	Psoralea globemallow—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Heil's Beavertail—Endemic in Emery, Garfield and Wayne counties.
	Yes	Riparian/Ecologic—All riparian areas on public land are more than locally significant by BLM policy.
	No	Functioning Natural System—Not more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary,	Yes	Scenic—Scenic values are threatened by unrestricted OHV use, oil and gas development and mineral development.

unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	Pronghorn—No identified threats.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Threatened by illegal collection and unrestricted OHV use.
	No	Psoralea globemallow—No identified threats.
	Yes	Heil's Beavertail—Threatened by collection and unrestricted OHV use.
	No	Riparian—No identified threats.
	No	Naturally Functioning System—No identified threats.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Scenic—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Pronghorn—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered)
	No	Psoralea globemallow—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Heil's Beavertail—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Riparian—All riparian areas on public land are more than locally significant, by BLM policy.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenic, documented occurrences of Wright's fishhook cactus, Psoralea globemallow, and Heil's beavertail and riparian corridors.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, documented occurrences of Wright's fishhook cactus, Psoralea globemallow, and Heil's beavertail.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Restrict OHVs to designated routes or close to OHV use. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Withdraw area from mineral entry.
Wright's Fishhook Cactus Heil's Beavertail Cactus	Restrict OHVs to designated routes or close area to OHV use. Increase law enforcement patrols. Increase public education.

MOUNT HILLERS

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Mount Hillers Nominated ACEC
General Location	35 miles south of Hanksville and west of Glen Canyon NRA.
General Description	Includes Mount Hillers, Cass Creek Peak, Big Ridge, the Pink Cliffs, Johns Knoll, Ghost Ridge, Cockscomb, Black Table, Trail Canyon, Hogs Back, Taylor Ridges, and the Cove
Acreeage	38,527 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, vegetation, ecological, and geological

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Two-thirds of the area is Class A Scenery. A portion of the north boundary is the Bull Creek Pass National Back Country Byway.
	Yes (only for Ranch site)	Cultural/Historic—The most significant cultural resource in this proposed ACEC is the Starr Ranch, which was listed on the National Register in 1976. It is located immediately adjacent to the Starr Springs Campground about 46 miles south of Hanksville. Little else culturally is found in this area. BLM has not documented any other significant cultural resources in the area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Mexican spotted owl—Federally listed (threatened); no identified habitat.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon—Documented sighting.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	William’s sapsucker—No documented sightings.
	No	Black swift—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
No	Southwest willow flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered), no documented sightings.	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known occurrences.
	No	Virgin River montaine vole—No documented sightings.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Mule deer—Crucial habitat on western two-thirds.
	Yes	Bison—Crucial year-long on slopes of Mount Hillers and Cass Creek Peak.
	Yes	Black bear—High-value habitat around Cass Creek Peak.
	No	Desert bighorn sheep—No identified habitat.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	Dana’s milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield County; no documented occurrence.
	No	Ecologic—Submittal refers to thick pinion-juniper on slopes of Mount Hillers. This forest burned in the Bulldog Fire of 2003.
	No	Geologic—No rare or geologic features are present.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—Attracts visitors from outside the area. Pink Cliffs and Bull Creek Pass National Backcountry Byway are more than locally significant.
	Yes	Cultural—Starr Ranch—On National Register of Historic Places.
	No	Peregrine falcon—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Mule Deer—Premium mule deer herd unit in Utah.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Bison—Only wild bison herd in Utah.
	No	Black Bear—Not more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Recreation use, including unrestricted OHV use, oil and gas, and mineral development, could threaten scenic values.
	Yes	Cultural—Starr Ranch—Natural decay, vandalism and catastrophic wildfire could adversely change the values of Starr Ranch.
	No	Peregrine Falcon—No identified threats.
	No	Ringtail Cat—No identified threats.
	Yes	Mule Deer—Catastrophic wildfire in crucial deer winter range threatens important browse species (e.g., Bitter brush, cliff rose, Wyoming big sage, mountain mahogany).
	Yes	Bison—Competition for forage from other grazing animals, including livestock, could adversely affect bison. OHV use in bison habitats causes displacement and dispersal.
	No	Black Bear—No identified threats.
	No	Geologic—No identified threats.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Scenic—Bull Creek Pass National Back Country Byway
	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural resources is a national priority and the Starr Ranch is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
	No	Peregrine Falcon—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ringtail Cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mule Deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bison—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Black Bear—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Geologic—Not identified as a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for these values.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for these values.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenery, cultural (Starr Ranch), mule deer, and bison crucial habitat.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, Starr Ranch, mule deer, and bison crucial habitat.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Values	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry. Restrict vegetation management in Class A Scenery.
Starr Ranch	Suppress all fires around Starr Ranch. Close ranch to recreation/interpretation use until stabilization can be accomplished. Provide increased public awareness, surveillance, and facilities.
Mule Deer	Suppress unwanted wildfire in crucial deer habitat.
Bison	Close or limit OHV use in bison habitats. Allocate AUMs in bison habitats from livestock to bison per willing buyer/willing seller transactions. Explore additional vegetation treatments and other range improvements that would benefit bison.

NO MAN MESA

Nominated by TNC.

Area Considered	No Man Mesa
General Location	East-Central Garfield County, about 35 miles south of Hanksville and 25 miles north-northwest of Bullfrog Marina.
General Description	Top of No Man Mesa is a desert shrub/grassland overtopped by scattered juniper trees. Shadscale is most abundant shrub with 16 other types. Accessible only by helicopter.
Acreage	315 acres
Values Considered	Research Natural Area—Proposed for protection of relict vegetation.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Not nominated for historic, cultural, and scenic values.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Not nominated for fish and wildlife resources.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Natural System—Because of its topographic inaccessibility, No Man Mesa represents an undisturbed, naturally functioning ecosystem.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The submittal does not address this issue.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Natural System—The relict vegetation and lack of human impacts make this area more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Natural System—The ecologic features of the isolated mesa top make this area rare, irreplaceable, and unique. As evidenced by the presence of cheatgrass (a non-native species) on the mesa top, invasive species have the potential to threaten this native plant community. Given the area’s topographic isolation, there is little chance of other disturbance (livestock grazing, mining, or recreation use).
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns were identified.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	The nomination did not address this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	The nomination did not address this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Natural system.

Potential ACEC: Entire nominated area.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Natural System	Close area to all human entry except as authorized for research purposes.

NORTH WASH DRAINAGE

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	North Wash Drainage Nominated ACEC
General Location	Located along Utah Highway 95 northwest of Hite and adjacent to Glen Canyon NRA.
General Description	Entire lower North Wash drainage system, including all side drainages, mesa tops and ridges.
Acreage	50,865 public land acres.
Values Nominated	Scenic, cultural/historical, wildlife, plants, geologic, riparian (Hog Canyon), functional drainage, natural system or process and ecologic.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Eastern half of the nominated area is Class A Scenery.
	Yes	Cultural—This nominated area contains some significant prehistoric cultural resources. Hog Springs area contains Barrier Canyon rock art eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Pronghorn antelope—Limited value habitat west of Hwy 95. Substantial value habitat east of Hwy 95.
	Yes	Desert bighorn—Crucial year-long habitat in the eastern half of the nominated area.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings; no identified habitat.
	Yes	Peregrine falcon—Documented sighting; primary breeding habitat.
	No	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered,	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered), no documented occurrence.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	Flattop wild buckwheat—BLM sensitive; endemic to Emery and Wayne counties; no documented occurrence.
	Yes	Hole in the rock prairie clover—BLM sensitive; documented occurrence.
	No	Monument milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and San Juan counties and Navajo County, Arizona; no documented occurrence.
	No	Jane's globemallow—BLM sensitive; no documented occurrence.
	No	Pinyon milkvetch—Endemic to Beaver and Juab counties only; no documented occurrence.
	No	Heil's beavertail—Endemic to Wayne, Emery, and Garfield counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Intrusive milk vetch—No identified habitat.
	No	Cronquist's wild buckwheat—BLM sensitive; no documented occurrence.
	No	Geologic—Slot canyons from Turkey Knob to Glen Canyon NRA are unique, but they are not rare geological features for the region.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian corridors are rare in the region.
	No	Functional drainage—North Wash has been rerouted, rechannelled, and rip-rapped to accommodate maintenance of the highway.
	No	Ecologic—Insufficient information to evaluate nominated value.
	No	Natural system or process—Insufficient information to evaluate nominated value.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Nomination did not address this proposal.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.</p>	Yes	Scenic—State Highway 95, which bisects the nominated area, is designated the Utah Bicentennial Highway
	Yes	Cultural—Nominated area includes sites eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.
	No	Peregrine falcon—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Pronghorn antelope—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Desert bighorn—This is a desert bighorn reintroduction area. There is regional and national interest in this species.
	Yes	Hole in the rock prairie clover—Endemic to Garfield and Wayne counties making it more than locally significant.
	Yes	Riparian—All riparian areas are more than locally significant by BLM policy.
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	Yes	Scenic—Potential threats to the scenery include oil and gas development, locatable mineral resource development and unrestricted recreation use.
	Yes	Cultural—Increasing recreation use makes cultural sites vulnerable to vandalism.
	No	Peregrine falcon—No threats to the peregrine falcon were identified.
	No	Pronghorn antelope—No identified threats.
	Yes	Desert bighorn—Potential threats include disturbance from recreation use during lambing season, around water resources, and in yearlong habitat.
	Yes	Hole in the rock prairie clover—No threats to this species were identified.
	No	Riparian—Riparian areas within this area are in proper functioning condition. No threats were identified.
<p>Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.</p>	Yes	Scenic—State Highway 95, which bisects the nominated area, is designated the Utah Bicentennial Highway.
	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural resources is a national priority.
	No	Pronghorn antelope—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Desert bighorn—Not identified as a natural priority.
	No	Peregrine falcon—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Hole in the rock prairie clover—Not identified as a natural priority.
	Yes	Riparian—BLM national policy directs the agency to maintain, improve, and restore riparian areas.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	The nomination did not address this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	The nomination did not address this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenic, cultural, Desert bighorn, Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover, and riparian.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, cultural sites, Desert bighorn habitat, occurrences of Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover, and riparian areas.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Threatened Values	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry. Limit recreation use.
Cultural	Restrict recreation use in areas where vandalism is occurring. Increase law enforcement patrols and public education.
Desert Bighorn	Limit number of recreational users, party size, and season of use into canyons by issuing special recreation permits.

NOTOM-BULLFROG

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Notom-Bullfrog Scenic Nominated ACEC
General Location	East of Capitol Reef National Park and extends south from the Fremont River to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.
General Description	Includes Clay Canyon, Long Canyon, Sandy Creek Benches, and Notom Bench.
Acreage	53,783 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, wildlife, plants, geological, and ecological.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—A small area bordering Highway 24 and the Fremont River in the northern-most part of the nominated area is Class A Scenery. Most scenic values described in the nomination are outside the ACEC boundary.
	No	Elk—No identified habitat.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Mule deer—A small portion of high-value habitat in the northwest corner of the nomination.
	Yes	Bison—Crucial year-long habitat within area.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrences.
	No	Long-billed curlew—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Burrowing owl—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; documented occurrence.
	No	Peregrine falcon—no documented sightings.
	No	Swainson’s hawk—no documented sightings.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Big Free-tailed Bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtailed cat—Known occurrences.
	No	Dwarf Shrew—No documented sightings.
	No	Townsend's big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Bluehead sucker—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	No	Flannelmouth sucker—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Leatherside chub—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Round-tail chub—BLM sensitive; documented sightings
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Hole in the Rock Prairie Clover—BLM sensitive; endemic to Garfield, Kane, and San Juan counties; documented occurrence.
	No	Barnaby's Milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and Wayne counties and to Navajo County Arizona; no documented occurrence.
	No	Kaiparowits Milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and Kane County; no documented occurrence.
	Yes	Winkler's pincushion cactus—Federally listed (threatened), endemic to Wayne and Emery counties; many documented occurrences.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered); endemic to Emery, Sevier, and Wayne counties; many documented occurrences.
	No	Ute ladies'-tresses—Federally listed (threatened); endemic to Wayne, Garfield, and several other Utah counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Maguire daisy—Federally listed (threatened), endemic to Emery, Wayne, and Garfield counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Rabbit Valley gilia—Federally listed (candidate); endemic to Wayne County; no documented occurrence.
	No	Ruth milkweed—Endemic to Emery, Sevier, Wayne, and San Juan counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Woodruff milkvetch—Endemic to Emery, Wayne, and Garfield counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Henryville woody aster—Endemic to Garfield, Wayne, and Kane counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Natural functioning ecosystem—Submittal references area outside the nominated area.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Geologic—The nomination states that the Henry Mountains and the Waterpocket Fold are rare geologic features. However, they are not located within the boundary of the nominated ACEC.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—Utah Highway 24 is a state designated scenic byway.
	Yes	Mule Deer—Premium deer herd unit in Utah.
	Yes	Bison—Only free-roaming bison herd in Utah
	Yes	Bald Eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Ferruginous Hawk—BLM sensitive.
	No	Ringtailed Cat—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Bluehead Sucker—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Round-tail Chub—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Winkler’s pincushion cactus—Federally listed (threatened).
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	Scenic—No identified threats in Class A Scenery.
	Yes	Mule Deer—Catastrophic wildfire in crucial deer winter range threatens important browse species (e.g., Bitter brush, cliff rose, Wyoming big sage, mountain mahogany).
	Yes	Bison—Competition for forage from other grazing animals, including livestock, could adversely affect bison. OHV use in bison habitats causes displacement and dispersal.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Bald Eagle—No identified threats.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—No identified threats.
	No	Ringtailed Cat—No identified threats.
	Yes	Bluehead Sucker—Proposed water developments threaten the sucker.
	Yes	Round-tail Chub—Proposed water developments threaten the chub.
	Yes	Hole in the Rock Prairie Clover—No identified threats.
	Yes	Winkler's pincushion cactus—Illegal collection of cactus and unrestricted OHV use threaten the cacti.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Illegal collection of cactus and unrestricted OHV use threaten the cacti.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Scenic—Class A Scenery borders Utah Hwy 24, designated as a state scenic byway.
	No	Mule Deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bison—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Bald Eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Ferruginous Hawk—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ringtailed Cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bluehead Sucker—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Round-tail Chub—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Hole in the Rock Prairie Clover—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Winkler's pincushion cactus—Federally listed (threatened).
Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).	
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenery, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, bluehead sucker, round-tail chub, hole-in-the-rock prairie clover, Winkler's pincushion cactus, and Wright's fishhook cactus.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, mule deer habitat, documented occurrences of bluehead sucker, round-tail chub, hole-in-the-rock prairie clover, Winkler's pincushion cactus, and Wright's fishhook cactus.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Mule Deer	Suppress unwanted wildfire in crucial deer habitat.
Bison	Close or limit OHV use in bison habitats. Allocate AUMs in bison habitats from livestock to bison per willing buyer/willing seller transactions. Explore additional vegetation treatments and other range improvements that would benefit bison.
Bluehead Sucker Round-tail Chub	Evaluate proposed upstream water developments to determine adverse impacts on sensitive fish.
Wright’s Fishhook Cactus Winkler’s Pincushion Cactus	Increase law enforcement patrols. Increase public education. Limit OHV use to designated routes or close area.

OLD WOMAN FRONT

Nominated by TNC.

Area Considered	Old Woman Front Nominated ACEC
General Location	Located in northeastern Sevier County, about 7 miles southwest of the town of Emery.
General Description	East of the Old Woman Cove Research Natural Area on the Fishlake National Forest. This nomination would align public lands with the national forest RNA and provide a natural, topographic boundary to the area in place of a section line.
Acreage	326 public land acres.
Values Considered	Research Natural Area—Proposed for protection of a natural system or process (relict vegetation).

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Not nominated for these values.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Not nominated for these values.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Natural Processes—The relict plant community atop the plateau has been little disturbed or altered by human activities. The nomination is proposed as an extension of the adjacent Old Woman Cove Research Natural Area on the Fishlake National Forest.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Natural Processes—The area is more than locally significant because such relatively untouched ecosystems are rare. Such an area would be a valuable BLM contribution to a nationwide, multiagency system of natural areas. The area includes potential habitat for Winkler’s Pincushion Cactus and Last Chance townsendia, two federally listed plants.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Natural Processes—Relict plant communities such as this are rare. The area is vulnerable to losing this character if disturbance increases significantly.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	The area includes potential habitat for Winkler’s pincushion cactus and Last Chance townsendia, two federally listed plants.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Nomination did not address this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Nomination did not address this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Natural processes.

Potential ACEC: Entire nominated area. The nominated area is adjacent to the Forest Service Old Woman Cove Research Natural Area. In accordance with BLM Manual 1613, public lands adjacent to

designations of other federal and state agencies must be reviewed to determine if the special values upon the adjacent designation was based extend into the nominated area and meet the relevance and importance criteria.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Coordinate management with Forest Service Old Woman Cove Research Natural Area Plan, as follows:

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Ecological Processes	Permit no human activities that directly or indirectly modify ecological processes.
Forest Products	Allow no logging or harvest of woodland products, fuelwood gathering, or Christmas tree cutting.
Wildlife	Allow no wildlife habitat manipulation. Prohibit the introduction or spread of exotic animal species.
Livestock Grazing	Close area to livestock grazing. Construct no range improvements.
Recreation	Issue no special recreation permits. Close area to OHV use.
Facilities	Authorize no roads, new trails, fences, signs, buildings or other physical improvements.
Fire	Allow natural fires to burn only within the parameters of an approved fire plan, and only under a prescription designed to accomplish the objectives of the area. Suppress fires using light on the land techniques. Avoid the use of heavy equipment. Avoid post-fire rehabilitation; if needed, use seed of indigenous species, locally adapted ecotypes.
Vegetation	Prohibit the introduction or spread of exotic plant species.
Minerals	Withdraw from mineral entry. Close area to leasing or lease with major constraints.

PARKER MOUNTAIN

Nominated by USFWS.

Area Considered	Parker Mountain Nominated ACEC
General Location	Public lands on the Awapa Plateau in western Wayne County with small portions in Garfield and Sevier counties.
General Description	Deadman Hollow, Big Hollow, Long Hollow, Balsam Hollow, Riley Canyon, Pine Canyon, and related drainages.
Acreage	107,809 public land acres.
Values Considered	Wildlife (Utah prairie dog, Greater sage grouse, and pygmy rabbit)

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Scenic—Not nominated for this value.
	No	Cultural—Not nominated for this value.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Utah prairie dog—Federally listed (threatened); documented sightings.
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	Yes	Pygmy rabbit—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Sagebrush-steppe ecosystem—Present in the area.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Utah prairie dog—Federally listed (threatened)
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Pygmy rabbit—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Sagebrush-steppe ecosystem—Essential habitat for the three Special Status Species listed above.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Utah prairie dog—Unrestricted OHV use and habitat alterations.
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse—Loss and fragmentation of high-quality sagebrush habitat as a result of improper grazing practices, unrestricted OHV use, and catastrophic wildfire.
	Yes	Pygmy rabbit—catastrophic wildfire and hunting.
	Yes	Sage-brush steppe—Catastrophic wildfire, noxious weeds, and invasive plant species establishment.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Utah prairie dog—Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Greater sage-grouse—BLM is developing a national strategy for the sage grouse.
	Yes	Pygmy rabbit—Petitioned for federal listing.
	No	Sage-brush steppe—Not identified as a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Utah prairie dog, greater sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, sagebrush-steppe.

Potential ACEC: Habitat for Utah prairie dog, greater sage grouse, and pygmy rabbit.

Suggested Special Management

What special management is needed to protect important values from threats?

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Utah Prairie Dog*	Limit OHV use to designated routes.
Greater Sage-Grouse*	Implement proper grazing management. Prevent livestock from congregating in one area for an extended period of time. Base stocking rates on timing and amount of precipitation and the condition of the range. Promote vegetative treatments that benefit sage grouse habitat. Limit OHV use to designated routes. Suppress unwanted wildfires.
Pygmy Rabbit	Suppress wildfires that threaten pygmy rabbit habitat. Encourage and promote vegetative treatments that benefit and improve pygmy rabbit habitat. Educate hunters on pygmy rabbit identification.
Sagebrush Steppe*	Suppress unwanted wildfires. Actively managed invasive species. Evaluate vegetation treatments to ensure they are beneficial to sagebrush steppe.

*The Parker Mountain Adaptive Resource Management (PARM) committee is proposing to write a management plan addressing prairie dogs and sage grouse and to implement management changes consistent with this plan to the extent possible.

QUITCHUPAH CREEK—TROUGH HOLLOW

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Quitcupah Creek—Trough Hollow Nominated ACEC
General Location	West of the town of Emery and the San Rafael Reef adjoining the Fishlake National Forest. Note: This proposal overlays the Old Woman Front proposal area (326 acres), which was considered for relict vegetation and found to be relevant and important for that value.
General Description	Drainages of Link Canyon, Quitcupah Creek, and Trough Hollow and the Water Hollow benches.
Acreage	26,888 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, ecological/riparian, and geologic.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Scenic—None of the proposed area has been inventoried as Class A scenery.
	Yes	Cultural—The Quitcupah drainage is quite significant for the plentiful evidence of prehistoric occupation and use there along with the many rock art sites. Many of these sites are eligible for National Register listing. Quitcupah Canyon is an important area to the Paiute Tribe.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Swainson’s hawk—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrences.
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Virgin river montane vole—No documented sightings.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known occurrences.
	No	Utah mountain king snake—No documented sightings.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Utah milk snake—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Mule deer—High-value (west half) and crucial (east half) habitats.
	Yes	Elk—Southern end is crucial range.
	Yes	Black bear—High value in upper Link Canyon and Quitchupah Creek and substantial value habitat on Water Hollow benches north.
	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Greater sage-grouse—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Nine species of bees—No information.
<p>A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	Yes	Creutzfeldt flower—BLM sensitive; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened); documented presence.
	No	Basalt Milkvetch—BLM sensitive; no documented occurrence.
	No	Price penstemon—Endemic to Carbon and Sevier counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Bicknell milkvetch—Endemic to Sevier, Wayne, Piute, Garfield and Emery counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Rockloving milkvetch—Endemic to Emery County; no documented occurrence.
	No	Linktrail columbine—Endemic to Emery and Sevier counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Sharpleaf twinpod—Endemic to Emery, Sevier, and several other counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Jones catseye—Endemic to Emery County; no documented occurrence.
	No	Rush desert parsley—Endemic to Emery, Sevier, and several other counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Low woolybase—Endemic to Emery, Sevier, Wayne and Duchesne counties; no documented occurrence.
	No	Marcus beardtongue—No documented occurrence.
	Yes	Ecologic—The proposed area is a transition zone crucial for wildlife migration between the San Rafael Swell desert and the Fishlake National Forest.
	Yes	Riparian—Includes riparian areas along Quitchupah Creek, Trough Hollow, and Link Creek.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Cultural—Many of the sites are nationally significant and the entire Quitcupah drainage is important to several Indian tribes, including the Paiute, Ute, and Hopi. All these tribes claim sacred values in the drainage. Eleven sites are also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Mule deer—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Elk—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Black bear—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Creutzfeldt flower—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Last chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Ecologic—This ecosystem is not rare in the region.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian areas are more than locally significant by BLM policy that states “...maintain, improve, or restore all riparian areas located on public lands.”
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Cultural—Cultural resources could be threatened by proposed road construction, unrestricted OHV use, and vandalism.
	No	Bald eagle—No identified threats.
	No	Mule deer—No identified threats.
	No	Elk—No identified threats.
	No	Black bear—No identified threats.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threats.
	No	Creutzfeldt flower—No identified threats.
	No	Last chance townsendia—No identified threats.
	Yes	Ecologic—Transition zone is threatened by unrestricted OHV use.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian resources could be threatened by proposed road construction, unrestricted OHV use, and livestock grazing.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural sites on public lands is a national priority.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Mule deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Elk—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Black bear—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ringtail Cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Creutzfeldt flower—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Ecologic—Not identified as a national priority.
Yes	Riparian—BLM national policy directs the agency to maintain, improve, and restore riparian areas.	
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Cultural sites, bald eagle, Creutzfeldt flower, Last Chance townsendia, and riparian.

Potential ACEC: Cultural sites, documented occurrences of Creutzfeldt flower, and Last Chance townsendia, and riparian corridors.

Suggested Special Management

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

FLPMA Section 103. (a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern” means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Cultural	Prevent or mitigate new road construction. Close area to OHVs or limit to designated routes. Provide increased public awareness, surveillance, and facilities.
Ecologic	Close area to OHVs or limit to designated routes.
Riparian	Prevent or mitigate new road construction. Close area to OHVs or limit to designated routes. Implement Healthy Rangeland Standards.

RAGGED MOUNTAIN—SLATE CREEK

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Ragged Mountain—Slate Creek Nominated ACEC
General Location	Fifteen miles northwest of Hite Crossing, 25 miles south of Hanksville and west of Hwy 95.
General Description	Includes Slate, Crescent, Copper, Coyote, Straight, Browns, Bulldog, and Quaking Aspen creeks, portions of South Summit Ridge, Bromide Basin and Canyon, Copper Basin and Ridge, Pyserts Hole, Ragged Mountain, Raggy Canyon, portions of Mount Pennell, and the Coyote Benches.
Acreage	49,695 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, historical, wildlife, plant, riparian/ecologic, geologic, and natural system.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—About half the area is Class A Scenery.
	No	Cultural—Nominated for cultural but no documentation provided.
	No	Historical—Nominated for historical but no documentation provided.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Long-billed curlew—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Williamson’s sapsucker—No documented sightings.
	No	Peregrine Falcon—No documented sightings.
	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrences.
	No	Black swift—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Mexican spotted owl—Federally listed (threatened); no documented sightings; no critical habitat.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Southwest willow fly-catcher—Federally listed (endangered); no documented sightings.
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known occurrences.
	No	Virgin river montane vole—No documented sightings.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	Dana’s milkvetch—endemic to Garfield and Kane counties; no documented occurrence.
	Yes	Riparian—Nomination names Crescent, Copper, Coyote, Straight, Browns, Bulldog, and Quaking Aspen creeks. Riparian assessments have been completed for all. All were found to be in properly functioning condition except Bulldog Creek, functioning at risk as a result of precipitation regime and salinity, and Quaking Aspen Creek, nonfunctional as a result of geology, precipitation regime, and salinity.
	Yes	Ecologic—The most extensive and uniform stands of a scrub oak/mixed plant community occurs here (Henry Mountains).
	No	Geology—The Ragged Mountain is a bysmalith. The Horn, Copper Ridge, and Dark Canyon are geologic features known as laccoliths. Part of Mount Pennell stock is included in the area. However, these are not unique or rare geologic features for the region.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Scenic—The Bull Creek Pass National Back Country Byway forming the boundary of the proposal area was established in part for the scenic characteristics of the area.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Big free-tailed bat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian areas are more than locally significant by BLM policy that states "...maintain, improve or restore all riparian areas located on public lands."
	No	Ecologic—Not more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	Scenic—Recreation use, including unrestricted OHV use, oil and gas, and mineral development could threaten scenic values.
	No	Bald eagle—No identified threats.
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threats.
	No	Big free-tailed bat—No identified threats.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian resources could be threatened by unrestricted OHV use and catastrophic wildfire.
	No	Ecologic—No identified threats.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Scenic—The Bull Creek Pass National Back Country Byway.
	Yes	Bald Eagle—Federally listed
	No	Ringtail cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Big Free-Tailed Bat—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Riparian—BLM national policy directs the agency to maintain, improve and restore riparian areas.
	No	Ecologic—Not identified as a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenery, big free-tailed bat, bald eagle and riparian.

Potential ACEC: Class A Scenery, big free-tailed bat documented occurrences, and riparian corridors.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry. Restrict vegetation manipulation in Class A Scenery.
Riparian	Close area to OHVs or limit to designated routes. Implement rangeland health standards. Suppress unwanted wildland fires.

RAINBOW HILLS

Nominated by BLM.

Area Considered		Rainbow Hills Nominated ACEC	
General Location	Four miles northeast of Richfield		
General Description	All public lands west of Hwy 24 and north of Hwy 119. West boundary is private land.		
Acreage	4,100 acres.		
Values Considered	Geologic, ecologic, endemic plants, and mule deer winter range		

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Scenic—Not nominated for this value.
	No	Cultural—Not nominated for this value.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); wintering habitat.
	Yes	Utah mountain king snake—Documented occurrence.
	Yes	Mule deer—Crucial deer winter range.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Utah Phacelia—BLM sensitive; endemic to Sevier and Sanpete counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Arapien Stickleaf—Endemic Sevier and Sanpete counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Ward’s Penstemon—Endemic Sevier, Sanpete, Piute, and Millard counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Rainbow Rabbitbrush—Endemic to Sevier and Sanpete counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Sigurd townsendia—BLM sensitive; endemic to Sevier, Piute, and Juab counties; documented occurrence.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Glenwood Milkvetch—Endemic to Sevier County; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Ecologic—This is a functioning natural ecosystem.
	No	Geologic—The sedimentary rocks display complex folding typical of piercement-type evaporite deformation. These types of geologic features are not rare.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The submittal did not address this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened)
	No	Utah mountain king snake—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Mule deer—In 1996, the Landfill Fire burned 40% of the high-value deer winter range east of the nominated area. This loss of habitat has concentrated deer use to the lands within the nominated area, giving special worth and meaning to the remaining crucial deer winter range.
	Yes	Utah Phacelia—BLM sensitive; endemic to Sevier and Sanpete counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Arapien Stickleaf—Endemic Sevier and Sanpete counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Ward’s Penstemon—Endemic Sevier, Sanpete, Piute, and Millard counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Rainbow Rabbitbrush—Endemic to Sevier and Sanpete counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Sigurd townsendia—BLM sensitive; endemic to Sevier, Piute, and Juab counties; documented occurrence.
	Yes	Glenwood Milkvetch—Endemic to Sevier County; documented occurrence.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	Yes	Ecologic—This combination of plant and wildlife communities is more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	Bald eagle—Federally listed; no identified threats.
	No	Utah mountain king snake—No identified threats.
	Yes	Mule deer—Important browse species—cliffrose, bitterbrush and birchleaf mountain mahogany—may be threatened by unwanted wild land fire. Area is open to OHV use, causing stress and displacement of mule deer during sensitive times and loss of habitat. Potential gypsum mining and oil and gas development could cause destruction of habitat.
	Yes	Utah Phacelia—Proximity to communities providing readily available access to the area and accompanying OHV use and potential gypsum mining or oil and gas development could threaten the species and habitat.
	Yes	Arapien Stickleaf—Proximity to communities providing readily available access to the area and accompanying OHV use and potential gypsum mining or oil and gas development could threaten the species and habitat.
	Yes	Ward’s Penstemon—Proximity to communities providing readily available access to the area and accompanying OHV use and potential gypsum mining or oil and gas development could threaten the species and habitat.
	Yes	Rainbow Rabbitbrush—Proximity to communities providing readily available access to the area and accompanying OHV use and potential gypsum mining or oil and gas development could threaten the species and habitat.
	Yes	Sigurd townsendia—Proximity to communities providing readily available access to the area and accompanying OHV use and potential gypsum mining or oil and gas development could threaten the species and habitat.
	Yes	Glenwood Milkvetch—Proximity to communities providing readily available access to the area and accompanying OHV use and potential gypsum mining or oil and gas development could threaten the species and habitat.
	Yes	Ecologic—The ecosystem is threatened by communities providing readily available access to the area and accompanying OHV use and potential gypsum mining and oil and gas development.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened)
	No	Utah mountain king snake
	No	Mule deer
	No	Utah Phacelia

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Arapien Stickleaf
	No	Ward's Penstemon
	No	Rainbow Rabbitbrush
	No	Sigurd townsendia
	No	Glenwood Milkvetch
	No	Ecologic
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	The submittal did not address this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	The submittal did not address this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Mule deer crucial habitat, special status and endemic species, and ecologic values.

Potential ACEC: All of nominated area.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Mule Deer	Suppress all unwanted wild land fire in crucial deer winter range except in pinyon-juniper vegetation type. Close area to OHV use. Withdraw from mineral entry. Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy).
Sensitive and Endemic Plants	Close area to OHV use. Withdraw from mineral entry. Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy).

SEVIER CANYON

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered	Sevier Canyon (Marysvale Canyon) Nominated ACEC
General Location	Canyon along Sevier River, north of Richfield and south of Marysvale.
General Description	Steep walled canyon bordered by Tushar Mountains on the west and Sevier Plateau on the east. Home of the famous Big Rock Candy Mountain.
Acreage	8,889 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, plants, riparian, and natural processes.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Scenic—No parts of the area were inventoried as Class A Scenery.
	No	Cultural—Nomination mentions cultural values but provides no details.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; documented presence.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrence.
	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented occurrence.
	No	Osprey—No documented occurrence.
	No	Peregrine falcon—No documented occurrence.
	No	Ringtailed cat—No documented occurrence.
	No	Utah mountain king snake—No documented occurrence.
	No	Utah milk snake—No documented occurrence.
No	Leatherside chub—BLM Sensitive; no documented occurrence.	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Southwest willow flycatcher—Federally listed (endangered); no documented occurrence.
	Yes	Mule deer—Crucial deer winter range on the west and south parts of nominated area, high-priority habitats in the eastern portion of nominated area.
	Yes	Elk—Crucial winter range in southwest part of nominated area.
	No	Lewis' woodpecker—No documented occurrence.
	No	Three-toed woodpecker—BLM sensitive; no documented occurrence.
	No	Williamson's sapsucker—No documented occurrence.
	No	Virgin River montane vole—No documented occurrence.
	No	North American Lynx—No documented occurrence.
	No	Black bear—No documented occurrence.
	No	Northern goshawk—BLM sensitive; no documented occurrence.
	No	Dwarf Shrew—No documented occurrence.
	No	Western boreal toad—No documented occurrence.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	townsendia jonesii—BLM sensitive; no documented occurrence.
	No	Sigurd Easter Daisy—No information.
	Yes	Riparian—Riparian corridors are rare in the region. Note, however, that property ownership in the proposal area is fragmented, with a majority of lands in the river corridor in private ownership. Beaver Creek also provides riparian habitats in the proposal area.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.	Yes	Townsend's big-eared bat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Mule deer—In 1995, the Flat Fire burned 80 percent of the high-value deer winter range near the nominated area. This loss of habitat has concentrated deer use to the lands within the nominated area, giving special worth and meaning to the remaining crucial deer winter range.
	No	Elk—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Riparian—The Sevier River is one of the larger rivers, with yearlong flows and greater diversity of vegetation and wildlife for the region, giving it special worth or consequence.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	Townsend's big-eared bat—No threats identified in this area.
	No	Bald eagle—No threats identified in this area.
	Yes	Mule deer—Catastrophic wildfire threatens important browse species: bitter brush, cliff rose, Wyoming big sage, and mountain mahogany. Unrestricted OHV use threatens loss of habitat and stresses and displaces mule deer during sensitive times.
	No	Elk—No threats identified in this area.
	No	Riparian—No threats identified in this area.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Townsend's big-eared bat—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Mule deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Elk—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Riparian—BLM national policy directs the agency to maintain, improve and restore riparian areas.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Nomination did not address this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Nomination did not address this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Townsend's big-eared bat, bald eagle, mule deer, and riparian.

Potential Area: Townsend's big-eared bat habitat, mule deer crucial range, and riparian corridor.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Mule Deer	Suppress inappropriate wildfire in mule deer habitat. Limit OHV use to designated trails and close winter range seasonally.

THOUSAND LAKE BENCH

Nominated by SUWA.

Area Considered		Thousand Lake Bench Nominated ACEC	
General Location	Extends from Fremont Junction near the intersections of Highways 10, 72, and Interstate 70 on the north to Capitol Reef National Park on the south, follows the National Forest boundary on the west, while the eastern boundary generally follows a maintained county road that provides access to Cathedral Valley.		
General Description	Mesas and canyons, including Jones Bench, Limestone Cliffs, Temple Wash, Solomon Creek, Last Chance Creek. Descends easterly from forested lands to the desert floor.		
Acreage	38,467 public land acres.		
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, plants, ecologic, riparian, geologic, and natural systems (transitional habitat).		

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/no	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Scenic—A very small portion of the nominated area is Class A Scenery. It is insignificant in size.
	Yes	Cultural—The northwestern portion of this proposed area contains some very significant Fremont remains. Although not concentrated or very numerous, they are quite significant and represented by habitation sites.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Swainson’s hawk—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrences.
	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Western red bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known occurrences.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
No	Utah mountain king snake—No documented sightings.	

Relevance Value	Yes/no	Rationale for Determination
	No	Utah milk snake—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Mule deer—High-value habitat in northeast portion; crucial habitat in higher elevations west and south.
	Yes	Elk—Southern end is crucial winter range
	Yes	Black bear—High-value habitat in northwest 20 percent.
	No	Utah prairie dog—Federally listed (threatened); former transplant site but presently no documented occurrence.
	No	Greater sage grouse—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Pronghorn antelope—No identified habitat.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened), documented occurrence.
	No	Bicknell milkvetch—Endemic to Sevier, Wayne, Piute, Garfield, and Emery counties. No documented occurrence.
	No	Rockloving milkvetch—No documented occurrence.
	Yes	Wright's fishhook cactus—Endemic to Emery County; Federally listed (endangered); numerous documented occurrences.
	Yes	Natural system—The proposal area includes transitional habitat for wildlife, primarily elk and deer.
	No	Riparian—Riparian inventories have not been completed in this area.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Geology—The lands are noted for multicolored Entrada sandstone and Mancos shale cliffs, with desert canyons, volcanic boulders and pinnacles. These geologic resources provide scenic qualities, but are not rare geologic features in the region.
	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.</p>	Yes	Cultural—Descriptions of the Fremont remains in this area have appeared in national publications; as a result, Fremont remains have achieved national significance.
	Yes	Bald Eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Mule deer—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Elk—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Black bear—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Last chance townsendia—Federally listed (threatened).
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).
	No	Natural system—The transitional habitat is not more than locally significant.
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	Yes	Cultural—Cultural resources could be threatened by unrestricted OHV use and vandalism.
	No	Bald Eagle—No identified threat.
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threat.
	No	Mule deer—No identified threat.
	No	Elk—No identified threat.
	No	Black bear—No identified threat.
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Threatened by unrestricted OHV use.
	Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Threatened by unrestricted OHV use and illegal collecting.
No	Natural system—No identified threat.	
<p>Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.</p>	Yes	Cultural—Protection of cultural sites on public lands is a national priority.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened)
	No	Ringtail cat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mule deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Elk—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Black bear—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Creutzfeldt flower—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Last Chance townsendia—Federally listed (endangered).
	No	Basalt milkvetch—Not identified as a national priority.
Yes	Wright’s fishhook cactus—Federally listed (endangered).	

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Ecologic—Not identified as a national priority.
	Yes	Riparian—BLM national policy directs the agency to maintain, improve and restore riparian areas.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Cultural, bald eagle, Last Chance townsendia, Wright's fishhook cactus, and riparian.

Potential ACEC: Cultural sites, documented occurrences of Last Chance townsendia, Wright's fishhook cactus, and riparian.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Cultural	Close area to OHV use or limit OHV use to designated routes. Provide increased public awareness, surveillance and facilities.
Special Status Plants	Close area to OHVs or limit to designated routes. Increase law enforcement presence to deter collecting.
Riparian	Close area to OHVs or limit to designated routes. Implement rangeland health standards.

UPPER SWEETWATER DRAINAGE—TARANTULA MESA

Nominated by SUWA.

Upper Sweetwater Drainage—Tarantula Mesa Nominated ACEC	
Area Considered	
General Location	Located south of Wayne-Garfield county line and east of Capitol Reef National Park.
General Description	Includes Tarantula Mesa, Stevens Narrows, Steel Butte, Durfey Butte, Spring Canyon, South Creek, Dugout Creek, and McMillan Springs.
Acreage	63,162 public land acres.
Values Considered	Scenic, cultural, wildlife, plants, ecologic, geologic, riparian, and unstable soils.

Identification Criteria

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

Relevance

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

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Scenic—Northeast one-third of area is Class A Scenery. Bull Creek Pass National Backcountry Byway loops through the eastern part of the area.
	No	Cultural—Very few archaeological or historic sites have been recorded in this proposed ACEC. Those that have, with one notable exception, have been lithic scatters with no known cultural affiliation. The one exception is a rock shelter with indications of Fremont use. Airplane Springs is not of significant historical or cultural value.
A fish and wildlife resource (including habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	Ferruginous hawk—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Burrowing owl—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Peregrine falcon—No documented sightings.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened); known occurrences.
	No	Dwarf shrew—No documented sightings.
	No	Western Red Bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Ringtail cat—Known occurrence.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Big Free-Tailed Bat—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	Yes	Townsend's big-eared bat—BLM sensitive; documented sightings.
	Yes	Bison—Entire area is crucial year-long bison habitat.
	Yes	Mule Deer—Crucial habitat in eastern two-thirds of area.
	No	Osprey—No documented sightings.
	No	Long-billed curlew—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Greater sage grouse—BLM sensitive; no documented sightings.
	No	Swainson's hawk—No documented sightings.
A natural process or system (including endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	Kaiparowits milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and Kane counties; no documented occurrences.
	No	Barnaby milkvetch—Endemic to Garfield and Wayne counties, Utah and Navajo County, Arizona. No documented occurrences.
	Yes	Bristlecone Pine—Known occurrence.
	Yes	Ecologic—Area transitions through two different ecosystems, including four distinct life zones.
	No	Riparian—Riparian values are identified in the nomination, but no information was provided about these values.
Natural hazards (including areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Geologic—Geologic resources are identified in the nomination, but no information is included to demonstrate geologic values as relevant.
	Yes	Unstable soil—Unstable soils in the Nasty Flats area are subject to severe erosion and landslides.

Importance

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

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource.</p>	Yes	Scenic—Parts of the Bull Creek Pass National Backcountry Byway are in the proposal area, noting more than locally significant qualities.
	Yes	Bald Eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Ringtail cat—Not more than locally significant.
	Yes	Townsend’s big-eared bat—BLM sensitive.
	Yes	Bison—Only wild bison herd in Utah.
	Yes	Mule Deer—Premium hunting unit in the state.
	Yes	Bristlecone pine—Isolated population; southeastern most limit of range.
	No	Ecologic (transition zones)—Not more than locally significant.
	No	Natural Process (unstable soil)—Not more than locally significant.
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	Yes	Scenic—Potential vegetation treatments could result in adverse change to the scenic value in Class A Scenery areas. Active and proposed mining (metals) activities are in the area. Unrestricted OHV use also threatens scenic values.
	No	Bald eagle—No identified threats.
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—No identified threats.
	No	Ringtail cat—No identified threats.
	Yes	Bison—Competition for forage from other grazing animals, including livestock, could adversely affect bison. Decreasing forage quality and quantity as existing chainings become reinvaded by trees and brush. OHV use in bison habitats causes displacement and dispersal. Human activities disrupt normal behavior that could result in adverse change.
	Yes	Mule deer—Catastrophic wildfire in crucial deer winter range eliminates important browse species (e.g., Bitter brush, cliff rose, Wyoming big sage, mountain mahogany).
	Yes	Bristlecone pine—Threatened by catastrophic wildfire, vandalism, and wood cutting.
No	Ecologic (transition zones)—No identified threat.	
Yes	Natural Process—Nasty Flats—Historic grazing practices have resulted in accelerated erosion.	
<p>Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.</p>	Yes	Scenic—Bull Creek Pass National Backcountry Byway.
	Yes	Bald eagle—Federally listed (threatened).
	No	Townsend’s big-eared bat—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ringtail cat—Not identified as a national priority.

Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
	No	Bison—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Mule deer—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Bristlecone pine—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Ecologic (transition zones)—Not identified as a national priority.
	No	Natural Process (unstable soils)—Not identified as a national priority.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	Area was not nominated for this value.

Summary of Importance Values: Scenery, bald eagle, Townsend’s big-eared bat, mule deer, bison, bristlecone pine, and natural processes.

Potential Area: Class A Scenery, mule deer, and bison crucial habitat, known occurrences of Townsend’s big-eared bat and bristlecone pine, and high soil erosion area in Nasty Flats area.

Suggested Special Management

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

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

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Scenic	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM Class I or II. Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails. Close area to oil and gas leasing or lease with major constraints (no surface occupancy). Consider withdrawing from mineral entry. Restrict vegetation manipulation in Class A Scenery.
Mule Deer	Suppress unwanted wildfire in crucial deer habitat.

Importance Value	Suggested Special Management
Bison	<p>Close or Limit OHV use in bison habitats.</p> <p>Reallocate AUMs in bison habitats from livestock to bison per willing buyer/willing seller transactions.</p> <p>Take actions to restore vegetation on existing chainings.</p> <p>Explore areas to initiate additional vegetation and other range improvements that would benefit bison.</p>
Bristlecone pine	<p>Suppress unwanted wildfire in bristlecone pine areas.</p> <p>Close areas to woodcutting.</p> <p>Provide increased public awareness, surveillance, and facilities.</p>
Natural Process—Nasty Flats	<p>Keep Nasty Flats area closed to OHV use and grazing. Maintain erosion control measures.</p>

ATTACHMENT 3—POTENTIAL ACECS

BADLANDS SCENIC AND NATURAL PROCESSES POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Badlands Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important scenic, special status plant, natural processes (wind erosion), riparian and relict vegetation values. The relevant and importance values were determined by evaluating the existing North Caineville, South Caineville, and Gilbert Badlands ACECs and the nominated Factory Butte, Gilbert Badland, and Caineville Wash Drainage ACECs. The rationale for determining the relevant and importance values is included in those evaluations.

Description: The potential ACEC is located in central Wayne County, east of Capitol Reef National Park, north and south of State Highway 24. Notable geographic features include North Caineville Mesa, South Caineville Mesa, Factory Butte, and the surrounding Mancos Shale badlands.

Area: The potential ACEC is defined by Class A Scenery, the badlands formations, and relict vegetation areas within the nominated and existing ACECs named above. Other relevant and importance values are included within this boundary. The proposed ACEC includes the northern portion of the Mount Ellen/Blue Hills WSA.

Acreage: 88,900 acres.

Special Management: To protect the relevant and importance values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Vegetation	Manage North and South Caineville mesas to protect relict vegetation.
Cultural Resources	Reduce vandalism to cultural resources by increasing public awareness of their value, increasing law enforcement presence and, if necessary, fencing or otherwise directly protecting important sites. Maintain stability of cabin atop South Caineville Mesa.
Visual Resources	Manage Class A Scenery outside WSA as VRM Class II. Implement VRM Best Management Practices.
Special Status Species Wright’s fishhook cactus Winkler’s pincushion cactus Bluehead Sucker Flannelmouth Sucker	Increase law enforcement patrols to prevent theft of and damage to cacti. Educate public about values of listed cacti. Evaluate proposed upstream water developments to determine potential impacts on fish species. Based on that evaluation, take appropriate action.
Livestock	Keep North and South Caineville mesas closed to livestock grazing to protect relict vegetation.
Recreation	Close area to OHV use or limit OHVs to designated trails to prevent irreparable damage to cultural resources, badlands topography, listed species of cacti and scenic values.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Lands and Realty	Retain ACEC in public ownership. Acquire in-holdings within ACEC boundary.
Minerals	Close area to oil and gas leasing, or allow leasing with major constraints such as no surface occupancy to prevent irreparable damage to cultural resources, badlands topography, listed species of cacti and scenic values. Consider withdrawing area from mineral entry outside WSA.

Additional Management Within Blue Hills WSA: Additional management direction for wilderness study areas is provided by the Interim Management Policy for Land Under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Visual Resources	Manage WSA as VRM Class I.
Minerals	Close WSA to oil and gas leasing.
OHV	Close WSA to OHV use.

BULL CREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Bull Creek Archaeological Potential ACEC is to recognize and protect the relevant and important archaeological values in the area.

Description: The Bull Creek Archaeological District is located along Bull Creek in the foothills of the Henry Mountains, due south of Hanksville. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

Area: The potential ACEC boundary is coincident with the Bull Creek Archaeological District boundary.

Acreage: 4,800 acres.

Special Management: To protect the relevant and importance values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Cultural	Reduce vandalism to cultural resources by increasing public awareness of their value, increasing law enforcement presence and, if necessary, fencing or otherwise directly protecting important sites.
Recreation	Restrict OHV use to designated routes to protect cultural resources from damage.

DIRTY DEVIL/NORTH WASH SCENIC, CULTURAL AND WILDLIFE POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Dirty Devil/North Wash Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important scenic, cultural, paleontological, wildlife and Special Status Species values. The relevant and importance values were determined by evaluating the Dirty Devil Drainage and North Wash Drainage nominated ACECs.

Description: The Dirty Devil River and side canyons are located southeast of Hanksville in Wayne and Garfield counties.

Area: The potential ACEC is defined by Class A Scenery, Mexican spotted owl suitable habitat, and desert bighorn crucial year-long habitat within the nominated areas. Other relevant and importance values are included within this boundary. The potential ACEC includes the existing Beaver Wash ACEC and the Dirty Devil, French Spring/Happy Canyon, and Fiddler Butte WSAs. The Dirty Devil River and several of its side canyons were determined to be preliminarily eligible as wild and scenic rivers.

Acres: 205,300 acres

Special Management: To protect the relevant and importance values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Soil and water	Restore, maintain, and improve riparian areas in properly functioning condition. Fence riparian areas to exclude livestock. Rehabilitate springs. Plant willows and cottonwoods.
Fire	Allow no management-ignited prescribed fire or prescribed natural fires in spotted owl core and nest protection areas at any time. Suppress wildfires that threaten core areas and nest protection areas.
Cultural Paleontological	Reduce vandalism to cultural resources by increasing public awareness of their value, increasing law enforcement presence and, if necessary, fencing or otherwise directly protecting important sites. Limit recreation use through use of permits, if determined necessary.
Visual Resources	Manage Class A Scenery outside WSAs as VRM Class II. Manage remainder of ACEC as Class III. Implement Best Management Practices to protect scenic values.
Wildlife	Manage desert bighorn sheep in cooperation with UDWR. Allow water developments that would benefit desert bighorn sheep. Follow management objectives outlined in the Henry Mountains Desert Bighorn Habitat Management Plan (HMP-UT-05-T5 1990) or revision thereof.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Special Status Species	<p>Manage Mexican spotted owls in cooperation with USFWS and UDWR. Follow management guidelines outlined in the Recovery Plan for the Mexican Spotted Owl (1995) and suggestions for management of Mexican Spotted Owls in Utah (1994) and any revisions or updates to those documents.</p> <p>Restrict motorized access in sensitive plant areas.</p> <p>Increase law enforcement patrols.</p>
Livestock Grazing	<p>Permit no domestic sheep grazing to protect bighorn sheep from disease. Keep Beaver Wash closed to grazing to protect riparian values.</p>
Recreation	<p>Close area to OHV use or limit OHVs to designated trails to protect scenic values.</p> <p>Discourage recreation use within one-half mile of known Mexican spotted owl nest sites during breeding season (Feb. 1 to Aug. 31).</p> <p>Construct no camping facilities in the nest protection core areas.</p> <p>Reduce harassment to bighorn sheep and Mexican spotted owls by regulating number of recreational parties, party size, and season of use.</p>
Lands and Realty	<p>Avoid permitting rights-of-way in VRM Classes I or II.</p> <p>Retain ACEC in public ownership.</p> <p>Acquire in-holdings within ACECs.</p>
Minerals	<p>Manage VRM II areas as closed to leasing or open to leasing with major constraints, such as no surface occupancy to protect scenic values. Manage remainder of ACEC as open to leasing with minor constraints.</p> <p>Include seasonal restriction stipulations in lease permits during the Mexican spotted owl breeding season (Feb. 1 to Aug. 31) for all mineral development activities within a half-mile protection area around known nest sites.</p> <p>Require no surface occupancy from Feb. 1 to Aug. 31 in Mexican spotted owl nest protection areas.</p> <p>Consider withdrawing all or parts of ACEC outside WSAs from mineral entry to protect scenery and Special Status Species habitat.</p>

ACEC management within WSAs: Manage WSAs within ACEC boundary according to Interim Management Policy for Land Under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Visual Resources	Manage WSAs as VRM Class I.
Minerals	Close WSAs to oil and gas leasing.
OHV	Close or limit OHV use in WSAs.
Wildlife	Consistent with IMP, allow water developments for desert bighorn sheep.

FREMONT GORGE/COCKSCOMB CULTURAL AND SCENIC POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Fremont Gorge/Cockscomb Cultural and Scenic Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important cultural, scenic, riparian, and plant and wildlife resources. Relevant and importance values were determined by evaluating the Fish Creek Cove/Cockscomb, Fremont Gorge/Miners Mountain, and Fremont Gateway nominated ACECs.

Description: The potential ACEC is located on public lands east of the Red Gate and west of Capitol Reef National Park in the Torrey-Teasdale-Grover area of central Wayne County. The proposal includes the Fremont Gorge WSA and Fremont River in Fremont Gorge, identified by the BLM as an eligible wild and scenic river.

Area: The potential ACEC is defined by mule deer crucial habitat within the boundary of the three nominated ACECs. Other relevant and importance values are included within this boundary.

Acreage: 34,300 acres.

Special Management: To protect the relevant and importance values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Direction
Soil and Water	Evaluate proposed upstream water developments to determine possible adverse impacts on riparian areas. Limit recreation use in riparian areas, if needed to protect riparian values. Manage riparian areas to achieve properly functioning condition.
Cultural	Reduce vandalism to cultural resources by increasing public awareness of their value, increasing law enforcement presence and, if necessary, fencing or otherwise directly protecting important sites.
Visual Resources	Manage Class A Scenery outside WSA as VRM Class II. Manage remaining area as VRM Class III. Implement VRM Best Management Practices to protect scenic values.
Fire Management	Suppress unwanted wildfires in crucial mule deer habitat containing browse species.
Livestock	Implement BLM Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
Recreation	Close area to OHV use or limit OHVs to designated trails to protect scenic and other values. Restrict recreation use in Fish Creek Cove and Beas Lewis Flats, if needed, to protect cultural resources.
Lands and Realty	Maintain crucial mule deer habitat in public ownership to prevent development.

Resource/Use	Management Direction
Minerals	<p>Manage VRM II areas as closed to leasing or open to leasing with major constraints such as no surface occupancy to protect scenic values.</p> <p>Manage VRM III area as open to leasing with minor constraints.</p> <p>Consider withdrawing portions of area from mineral entry to protect scenic values.</p>

Additional Management Within WSAs: Additional management direction for the Fremont Gorge WSA with the potential ACEC boundary is prescribed by the Interim Management Policy for Land Under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Visual Resources	Manage WSA as VRM Class I.
Minerals	Close WSA to oil and gas leasing.
OHV	Close WSA to OHV use.

HENRY MOUNTAIN SCENIC AND WILDLIFE POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Henry Mountain Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important scenic, wildlife (bison and deer), Special Status Species (Townsend's big-eared bat, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, hole-in-the-rock prairie clover, Dana's milkvetch, Barneby milkvetch) and ecological values. Rationale for determining the relevant and important values is included in the evaluations of the nominated ACECs.

Description: Discovered by the Powell Expedition in the 1870s, the Henry Mountains, south of Hanksville, tower over the surrounding desert country.

Area: The potential ACEC is defined by crucial bison habitat, crucial mule deer habitat, and Class A Scenery. Other relevant and importance values are included within this boundary. The potential ACEC includes portions of the following nominated ACECs: Bull Creek/Birch Creek, Bullfrog Creek Drainage, Granite Creek Drainage, Mount Hillers, No Man Mesa, Ragged Mountain/Slate Creek, and Upper Sweetwater Drainage /Tarantula Mesa. It also includes all or parts of four WSAs: Mount Hillers, Mount Pennell, Bull Mountain, and Mount Ellen/Blue Hills.

Acreage: 288,200 acres.

Special Management: To protect relevant and important values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Soil and water Nasty Flats	Restore, maintain, and improve riparian areas to bring them into properly functioning condition. Maintain erosion control structures in Nasty Flats area.
Vegetation	Manage vegetation to benefit mule deer and bison habitat.
Cultural Starr Ranch	Reduce vandalism to cultural resources by increasing public awareness of their value, increasing law enforcement presence and, if necessary, fencing or otherwise directly protecting important sites. Close ranch to recreation/interpretation use until stabilization can be accomplished.
Visual Resources	Manage Class A Scenery outside WSAs as VRM Class II. Manage remainder of ACEC as Class III to allow manipulation of habitat to benefit wildlife and mule deer. In all cases, apply VRM Best Management Practices.
Wildlife	Manage mule deer and bison habitat in cooperation with UDWR. Develop habitat management plans for bison and mule deer. Allow manipulation of habitat to benefit wildlife and mule deer. Allow range improvements that benefit wildlife (e.g., water developments, fencing riparian areas)
Special Status Species	Restrict motorized access in sensitive plant areas. Increase law enforcement patrols.
Fire Management	Suppress unwanted wildfire in crucial deer habitat. Suppress all fires near Starr Ranch (to protect historical values) and near campgrounds.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Livestock Grazing	Support the buyout of AUMs on a willing seller/willing buyer situation. Reallocate AUMs in bison habitat to wildlife. Change class of livestock on Pennell Allotment from sheep to cattle and/or buy-out sheep permit via a willing seller/willing buyer.
Recreation	Close area to OHV use or limit OHVs to designated roads and trails to protect scenic and cultural resources and bison habitat. Keep Nasty Flats area closed to OHV use. Allow continued maintenance and use of existing campgrounds and picnic areas within ACEC: Dandelion Flat, Starr Springs, Lonesome Beaver, and McMillan Springs.
Lands and Realty	Avoid permitting rights-of-way in VRM I and II areas. Retain ACEC in public ownership. Acquire in-holdings within ACECs.
Minerals	Manage VRM II areas as closed to leasing or open to leasing with major constraints such as no surface occupancy to protect scenic resources. Manage VRM III as open to leasing with minor constraints. Consider withdrawing from mineral entry areas outside WSAs.

Additional management within WSAs: Additional management direction for WSAs within ACEC boundary according to Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Visual Resources	Manage WSAs as VRM Class I.
Minerals	Close WSAs to oil and gas leasing.
OHV	Close or limit OHV use in WSAs.

HORSESHOE CANYON SCENIC AND CULTURAL POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Horseshoe Canyon Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important scenic and cultural values, notably Cowboy Cave. Other relevant and important values include riparian corridors and Townsend's big-eared bat. Relevant and important values were determined by evaluating the Horseshoe Canyon Drainage Nominated ACEC.

Description: Horseshoe Canyon is a tributary of the Green River in northeastern Wayne County that is noted for its rock art. Part of the canyon is included within Canyonlands National Park.

Area: The Horseshoe Canyon Potential ACEC is defined by the Class A Scenery within the nominated area. Cultural, riparian, and Special Status Species values are included within this boundary. The potential ACEC includes portions of the Horseshoe Canyon (North) WSA and Horseshoe Canyon (South) WSA.

Acreage: 40,900 acres.

Special Management: To protect the relevant and important values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Soil and Water	Rehabilitate springs to bring them into proper functioning condition.
Vegetation	Plant willows and cottonwoods in riparian areas.
Cultural	Reduce vandalism to cultural resources by increasing public awareness of their value, increasing law enforcement presence and, if necessary, fencing or otherwise directly protecting important sites.
Visual Resources	Manage Class A Scenery outside WSAs as VRM Class II.
Livestock Grazing	Fence riparian areas to exclude livestock.
Recreation	Limit recreation use through use of permits, if needed, to protect sensitive resources. Close area to OHV use or limit OHV use to designated trails to protect scenic, Special Status Species, and cultural values.
Lands and Realty	Avoid permitting rights-of-way in VRM II. Retain ACEC in public ownership. Acquire in-holdings within ACECs.
Minerals	Close VRM Class II areas to oil and gas leasing or allow leasing with major constraints such as no surface occupancy to protect scenic resources. Consider withdrawing all or parts of the ACEC from mineral entry to protect scenery and Special Status Species habitat outside the WSAs.

ACEC Management Within WSAs: Additional management direction for wilderness study areas is provided by the Interim Management Policy for Land Under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Visual Resources	Manage WSAs as VRM Class I.

Minerals	Close WSAs to oil and gas leasing.
OHV	Close WSAs to OHV use.

KINGSTON CANYON MULE DEER AND RIPARIAN POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Kingston Canyon Riparian Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important riparian and mule deer habitat in the area. The relevant and important values were determined by evaluating the Kingston Canyon Nominated ACEC.

Description: The potential ACEC encompasses the canyon north and south of the Sevier River between the towns of Kingston and Antimony in Sevier County.

Area: The potential ACEC is defined by the mule deer habitat within the nominated ACEC. The riparian area is included in the mule deer habitat boundary. (Note: the riparian area is largely in state and private ownership.)

Acreage: 22,100 acres.

Special Management: To protect relevant and important values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Direction
Fire Management	Suppress unwanted wildfire in crucial deer winter range.
Recreation	Limit OHV use to designated trails. Limit OHVs seasonally to protect mule deer habitat.
Lands and Realty	Acquire in-holdings in the riparian corridor through exchanges. Retain ACEC in public ownership.
Vegetation	Manage riparian habitat on public land in properly functioning condition.

LITTLE ROCKIES SCENIC AND WILDLIFE POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Little Rockies Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for scenic and wildlife values, notably desert bighorn sheep. Other relevant and important values within the ACEC include Townsend’s big-eared bat, hole-in-the-rock prairie clover, and ecologic values. Relevant and important values were determined by evaluating the Little Rockies Nominated ACEC.

Description: The potential ACEC is located in the southwest corner of Garfield County, north of Ticaboo. It includes most of the Little Rockies National Natural Landmark and most of the Little Rockies WSA.

Area: The ACEC boundary is defined by the Class A Scenery. Other relevant and important values are within this boundary.

Acreage: 49,200 acres.

Special Management: Allow no uses that would adversely impact the significant natural values for which the National Natural Landmark was established.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Visual Resources	Manage Class A Scenery outside WSAs as VRM Class II.
Wildlife	Manage desert bighorn sheep in cooperation with UDWR in accordance with the Henry Mountains Desert Bighorn Habitat Management Plan (HMP), as revised. Continue to cooperate in transplants of desert bighorn sheep into the area consistent with carrying capacity and the HMP. Allow range improvements that would benefit desert bighorn, primarily water developments.
Livestock Grazing	Convert domestic sheep use in Trachyte allotment to cattle to prevent transmitting disease to desert bighorns.
Recreation	Limit OHV use to designated trails. Regulate recreation impacts by limiting party size, season of use, and/or location to minimize harassment of desert bighorn sheep, if needed. Limit recreation access and party size in Maidenwater and Trachyte canyons to protect ecological values, if needed.
Lands and Realty	Avoid permitting rights-of-way in Class A Scenery. Retain ACEC in public ownership. Acquire in-holdings within ACECs.
Minerals	Close VRM Class II areas to oil and gas leasing or allow leasing with major constraints such as no surface occupancy to protect scenic values. Manage VRM Class III areas as open to leasing with minor constraints. Consider withdrawing area outside WSA from mineral entry.

Additional Management Within WSAs: Additional management direction for WSAs within ACEC boundary according to Interim Management Policy for Land Under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Visual Resources	Manage WSA as VRM Class I.
Minerals	Close WSA to oil and gas leasing.
OHV	Close WSA to OHV use.

LOWER MUDDY CREEK SCENIC AND RIPARIAN POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Lower Muddy Creek Scenic and Riparian Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for the relevant and important scenic, riparian and special status plant (Wright’s fishhook and Heil’s beavertail cacti) values in the area. The relevant and important values were determined by evaluating the Lower Muddy Creek Drainage Nominated ACEC.

Description: The potential ACEC is located along Lower Muddy Creek in north central Wayne County and south central Emery County.

Area: The potential ACEC is defined by the Class A Scenery and the northern boundary of the nominated ACEC. The riparian and special status plant values identified in the nomination are within the potential boundary.

Acreage: 16,200 acres.

Special Management: To protect the relevant and important values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Visual Resources	Manage Class A Scenery as VRM II.
Special Status Species (Wright’s fishhook cactus Heil’s Beavertail cactus)	Increase law enforcement patrols to deter illegal cacti collecting. Increase public education.
Recreation	Restrict OHVs to designated routes or close area to OHVs to protect listed cacti.
Lands and Realty	Permit rights-of-way consistent with VRM Class II. Retain ACEC in public ownership. Acquire in-holdings within ACECs.
Minerals	Close area to oil and gas leasing or allow leasing with major constraints such as no surface occupancy to protect scenic and riparian values and Special Status Species.
Vegetation	Manage riparian habitat to achieve properly functioning condition.

Additional Management Within WSA: Additional management direction for wilderness study areas within ACEC boundary according to Interim Management Policy for Land Under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Visual Resources	Manage WSA as VRM Class I.
Minerals	Close WSA to oil and gas leasing.
OHV	Close WSA to OHV use.

OLD WOMAN FRONT RESEARCH NATURAL AREA POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Old Woman Front Potential ACEC is to recognize and protect the relevant and important relict vegetation in the area. The ACEC would serve to designate this area as a BLM research natural area complementing the national forest RNA. The relevant and important values were determined by evaluating the Old Woman Plateau Nominated ACEC.

Description: The potential ACEC is located in eastern Sevier County adjacent to the Fishlake National Forest.

Area: The potential ACEC is on public land adjacent to the Forest Service Old Woman Cove Research Natural Area on the Fishlake National Forest. The boundary of the potential ACEC is the same as the nominated ACEC.

Acreage: 330 acres.

Special Management: Coordinate management with Forest Service Old Woman Cove Research Natural Area Plan, as follows:

Resource/Use	Management Direction
Ecological Processes	Permit no human activities that directly or indirectly modify ecological processes.
Forest Products	Allow no logging or harvest of woodland products, fuelwood gathering, or Christmas tree cutting.
Wildlife	Allow no wildlife habitat manipulation. Prohibit the introduction or spread of exotic animal species.
Livestock Grazing	Close area to livestock grazing. Construct no range improvements.
Recreation	Issue no special recreation permits. Close area to OHV use.
Facilities	Authorize no roads, new trails, fences, signs, buildings or other physical improvements.
Fire	Allow natural fires to burn only within the parameters of an approved fire plan, and only under a prescription designed to accomplish the objectives of the area. Suppress fires using light on the land techniques. Avoid the use of heavy equipment. Avoid post-fire rehabilitation; if needed use seed of indigenous species, locally adapted ecotypes.
Vegetation	Prohibit the introduction or spread of exotic plant species.
Minerals	Withdraw from mineral entry. Close area to leasing or lease with major constraints.

PARKER MOUNTAIN SAGEBRUSH-STEPPE POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Parker Mountain Sagebrush-Steppe Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for sagebrush-steppe habitat and wildlife values, notably the greater sage grouse, Utah prairie dog, and pygmy rabbit. The relevant and important values were determined by evaluating the Parker Mountain Nominated ACEC.

Description: Parker Mountain, also known as the Awapa Plateau, is located in western Wayne County south and west of the town of Loa.

Area: The potential ACEC includes all the area identified in the Parker Mountain Nominated ACEC.

Acreage: 107,900 acres.

Special Management: The PARM working group is proposing to write a management plan addressing prairie dogs and sage grouse. It is BLM’s intent to implement management changes consistent with this plan to the extent possible.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Vegetation	Actively manage invasive species. Evaluate potential vegetation treatments to ensure they are beneficial to sagebrush steppe habitat and pygmy rabbits, greater sage grouse, and Utah prairie dogs. Manage riparian areas in properly functioning condition.
Wildlife	Educate hunters on pygmy rabbit identification.
Fire Management	Suppress unwanted wildfire in sagebrush-steppe habitat.
Livestock Grazing	Implement proper grazing management. Prevent livestock from congregating in one area for an extended period of time. Base stocking rates on timing and amount of precipitation and the condition of the range.
Recreation	Limit OHV use to designated routes.
Lands and Realty	Retain ACEC in public ownership. Acquire in-holdings within ACECs.

QUITCHUPAH ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Quitchupah Archaeological Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important archaeological, Native American, and riparian values. The relevant and important values were determined in evaluating the Quitchupah/Trough Hollow Nominated ACEC.

Description: Quitchupah Creek is located in western Sevier County. The creek flows off the Fishlake National Forest across public lands managed by the Richfield and Price BLM field offices. A proposal to construct a coal haul road in the drainage is currently being evaluated by the Forest Service and BLM.

Area: The potential ACEC boundary includes the riparian corridors and associated cultural resource sites and areas that have spiritual value to Native Americans.

Acreage: 175 acres.

Special Management:

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Cultural	Reduce vandalism to cultural resources by increasing public awareness of their value, increasing law enforcement presence and, if necessary, fencing or otherwise directly protecting important sites.
Native American values	Protect values important to American Indian Tribes.
Lands and Realty	Avoid granting new rights-of-way. If rights-of-way are granted, mitigate impacts to ACEC values.
Livestock	Implement rangeland health standards.
Recreation	Restrict OHV use to designated routes to protect cultural and ecological resources and riparian areas from damage.
Vegetation	Manage riparian habitat in properly functioning condition.

RAINBOW HILLS MULE DEER AND NATURAL SYSTEM POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Rainbow Hills Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important mule deer habitat, natural system, and Special Status Species values in the area, including the following plants: Utah phacelia, arapien stickleaf, Ward’s penstemon, rainbow rabbitbrush, Sigurd townsendia, and Glenwood milkvetch. The relevant and important values were determined by evaluating the Rainbow Hills Nominated ACEC.

Description: The Rainbow Hills are located just east of Richfield in a colorful Arapien shale formation. The potential ACEC nomination includes the shale and other lands adjacent to it.

Area: The potential ACEC boundary is defined by the crucial deer range. The plant value and natural system values are included within this boundary.

Acreage: 4,000 acres.

Special Management: To protect the relevant and important values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Direction
Mule Deer	Suppress unwanted wildfires in crucial mule deer habitat.
Recreation	Close area to OHV use or limit to designated trails.
Lands and Realty	Retain ACEC in public ownership. Acquire in-holdings. Avoid granting new rights-of-way.
Minerals	Close area to oil and gas leasing or allow leasing with major constraints such as no surface occupancy to protect noted special status and endemic plants and the naturally functioning system from major human disturbances. Withdraw from mineral entry.

SEVIER CANYON MULE DEER AND RIPARIAN POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Sevier Canyon Mule Deer Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important mule deer habitat, riparian, and Special Status Species values in the area. The relevant and important values were determined by evaluating the Sevier Canyon Nominated ACEC.

Description: Sevier Canyon (also known as Marysvale Canyon) is a gorge bordering the Sevier River between the towns of Sevier and Marysvale. The famous Big Rock Candy Mountain (privately owned) is located in the canyon. The west side of the canyon is within the Fishlake National Forest.

Area: The potential ACEC boundary is defined by the mule deer habitat within the Sevier Canyon Nominated ACEC and the riparian corridor on public land along the Sevier River. (Note that the riparian area is largely in private ownership.)

Acreage: 8,900 acres.

Special Management: To protect the relevant and important values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Direction
Fire Management	Suppress unwanted wildfire in crucial deer winter range to protect important browse species.
Recreation	Limit OHV use to designated trails and close winter range seasonally to protect mule deer habitat.
Lands and Realty	Retain ACEC in public ownership. Acquire in-holdings.
Vegetation	Manage riparian habitat to attain/maintain properly functioning condition.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Special Status Species Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for isolated and scattered locations of listed plant and wildlife species identified in the evaluations of the various ACEC nominations as relevant and important and not included in other potential ACECs.

Description. The species includes Winkler’s pincushion cactus, Wright’s fishhook cactus, Last Chance townsendia, rabbit valley gilia, Cronquist’s wild buckwheat, Creutzfeldt flower, Wards penstemon, Basalt milkvetch, Bicknell milkvetch, Hole-in-the-rock prairie clover, Dana’s milkvetch, Barbeby milkvetch, Psoralea globemallow, Heil’s beavertail, Janes globemallow, flat-top wild buckwheat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, Allen’s big ear bat, big free-tailed bat, fringed miotis, ferruginous hawk, bald eagle, burrowing owl, long-billed curlew, southwest willow flycatcher, Williamson sapsucker, northern goshawk, greater sage grouse, bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, round-tail sucker, leatherside chub, and desert night lizard.

Area: The Special Status Species ACEC is represented by documented locations of the above-listed species. In contrast with other potential ACECs, the Special Status Species ACEC is composed of many small, discrete areas rather than a large contiguous area.

Acreage: 15,100

Special Management: To protect the relevant and important values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Special Status Species	Increase law enforcement patrols to deter collecting and poaching.
Recreation	Close or limit OHV use in Special Status Species habitat. If documented adverse recreation impacts occur or could occur to Special Status Species as a result of recreation uses, limit recreation use as necessary.
Lands and Realty	Retain Special Status Species documented locations in public ownership. Where determined necessary to acquire important habitat for Special Status Species, pursue acquisition of nonfederal lands. Avoid granting rights-of-ways and other realty use authorizations that would affect Special Status Species and habitats.
Vegetation	Avoid or mitigate impacts to Special Status Species and habitats when conducting vegetative treatments.
Livestock grazing	Comply with Rangeland Healthy Standards and Guidelines.
Minerals	Manage Special Status Species areas as open to leasing with minor constraints such as seasonal restrictions and buffer zones. When considering requests for mineral materials disposal, avoid or mitigate impacts to Special Status Species.

THOUSAND LAKE BENCH CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL POTENTIAL ACEC

Purpose: The purpose of the Thousand Lake Bench Cultural and Ecological Potential ACEC is to recognize and provide special management for relevant and important cultural resources, special status plants and riparian areas. The relevant and important values were determined by evaluating the Thousand Lake Bench Nominated ACEC.

Description: The potential ACEC is located in southeastern Sevier County south of I-70, east of Thousand Lake Mountain.

Area: The potential ACEC is defined by riparian areas and the locations of cultural resources and special status plants.

Acreage: 500 acres.

Special Management: To protect the relevant and important values, the following management prescriptions were identified.

Resource/Use	Management Direction
Cultural	Reduce vandalism to cultural resources by increasing public awareness of their value, increasing law enforcement presence and, if necessary, fencing or otherwise directly protecting important sites.
Special Status Species	Increase law enforcement presence to deter collection of Wright's fishhook cactus.
Livestock	Implement Rangeland Healthy Standards.
Recreation	Close area to OHVs or limit OHVs to designated routes to protect cultural resources, riparian areas, and special status plants.