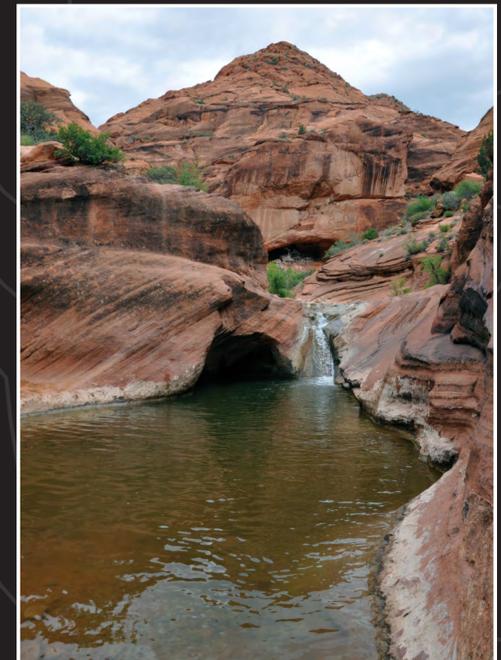


# BLM-Utah Planning Open House

September 2015

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

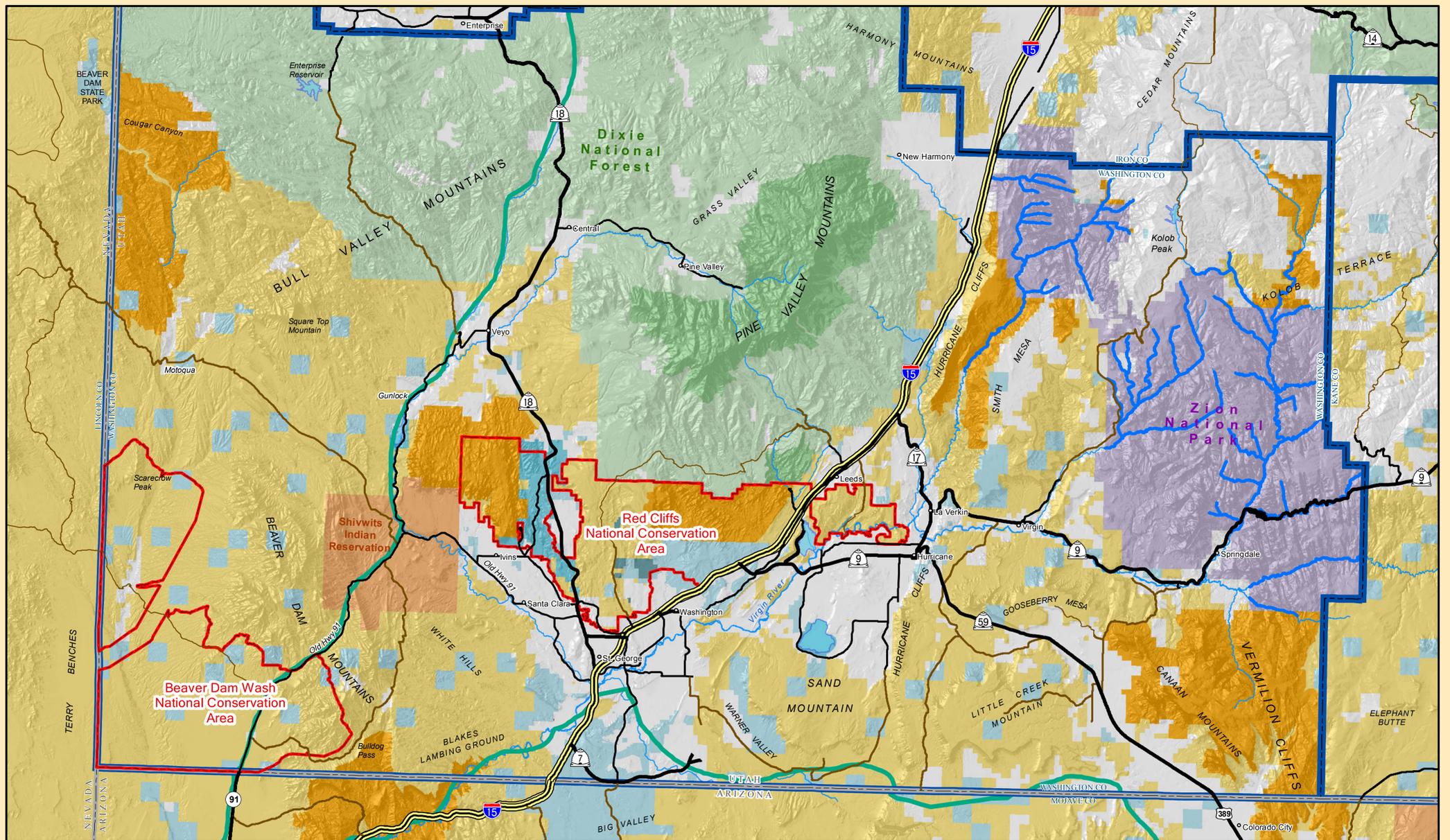
**Draft Resource Management Plans  
for  
Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area  
Red Cliffs National Conservation Area  
and  
Draft Amendment to the St. George Field Office  
Resource Management Plan  
and  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**



# Planning Impetus Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

On March 30, 2009, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 was signed into law. Section O of this legislation addressed public lands in Washington County managed by BLM's St. George Field Office, through the following:

- > Designation of the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area (63,500 acres);
- > Designation of the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (45,000 acres);
- > Designation of 14 new Wilderness areas (129,300 acres);
- > Designation of 19 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers;
- > Conveyance of 640 acres to the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah;
- > Conveyance of 353 acres to local municipalities for community recreation and public purposes.



St. George Field Office Planning Area

- |                                       |                                   |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| — National Conservation Area Boundary | ■ BLM Wilderness Area             | ■ State Parks and Recreation             |
| — Planning Area Boundary              | ■ Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | ■ State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area |
| — State Boundary                      | ■ Indian Reservation (IR)         | ■ US Forest Service (USFS)               |
| — Wild and Scenic Rivers              | ■ National Park Service (NPS)     | ■ USFS Wilderness Area                   |
| — Old Spanish National Historic Trail | ■ State                           |  |



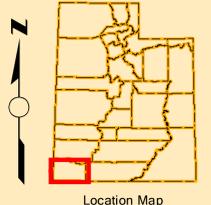
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# Land Use-Level Planning Requirements Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

The purpose of this planning process is to satisfy specific mandates from Omnibus Public Land Management Act that directed the development of comprehensive plans for the long-term management of Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area and Red Cliffs National Conservation Area and land use allocations on public lands in Washington County that required an amendment to the St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan.

## 1 Resource Management Plans for the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs NCAs

### Purpose and Need

- > “Conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources” of the NCA.
- > “To protect each species that is located in the [Red Cliffs] National Conservation Area; and listed as a threatened or endangered species on the list of threatened species or the list of endangered species published under... the Endangered Species Act of 1973.”

## 2 Plan Amendment for 1999 St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan

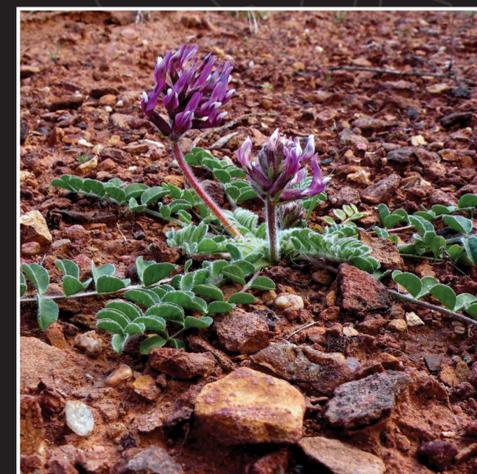
### Purpose and Need

- > Designate new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to “identify areas located in the County where biological conservation is a priority” and to “undertake activities to conserve and restore plant and animal species and natural communities within such areas.”
- > Identify and manage priority biological conservation areas.
- > Modify off highway vehicle area designations (open, limited, or closed).

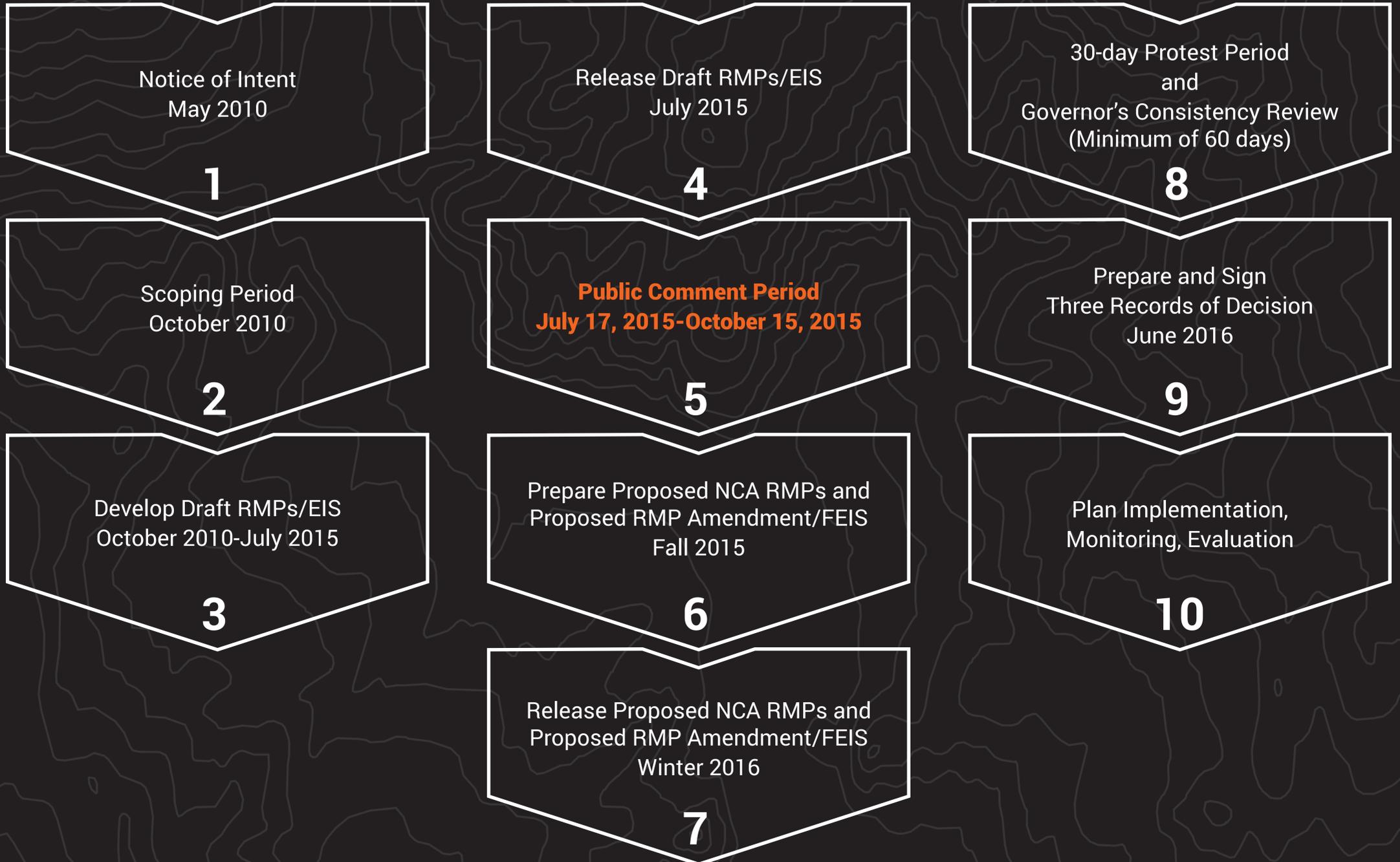
### — NCA Resources —



### — Species for Biological Conservation —



# Steps in the Planning Process



## — Scoping Workshops in 2010 —



# Planning Alternatives Summary

Implementing regulations for NEPA require the formulation of a reasonable range of alternatives to address identified resource conflicts or concerns. Each action alternative must meet the purpose and need for the plans, be viable and reasonable, be responsive to issues identified in scoping, and consistent with the established planning criteria.

## Alternatives for National Conservation Area Resource Management Plans

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Preferred)	Alternative C	Alternative D
Continues management under current St. George FO RMP, as modified by OPLMA withdrawals and designations.	Balanced approach to management and restrictions on land uses to achieve NCA purposes.	Conservative approach to management with more restrictions on land uses to achieve NCA purposes.	Greatest management flexibility and fewest restrictions on land uses while achieving NCA purposes.

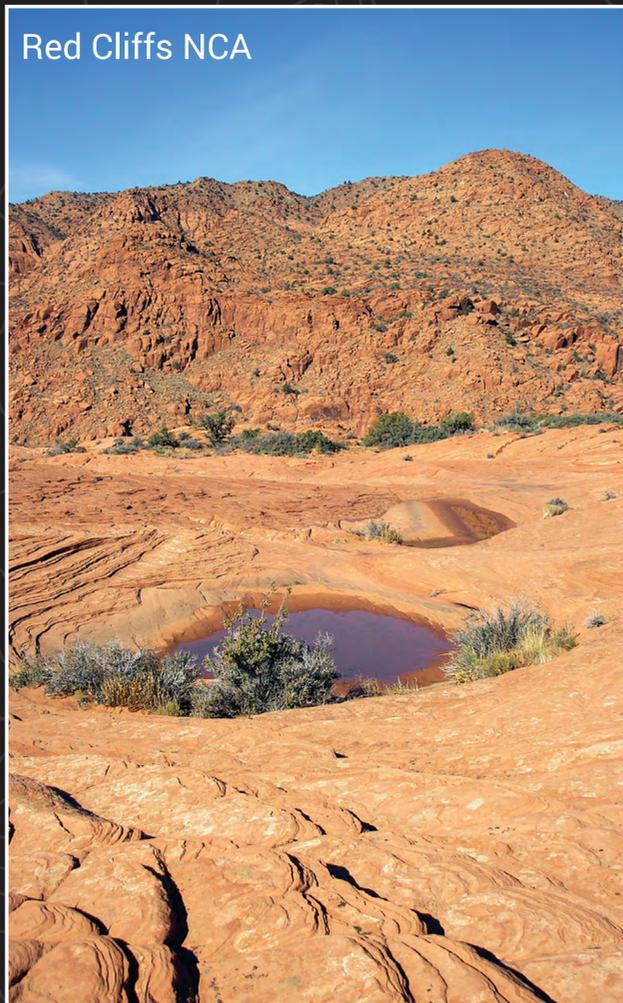
## Alternatives for St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Preferred)	Alternative C	Alternative D
Relies on laws, regulations, policies, and management decisions from RMP to satisfy biological conservation mandate from OPLMA. Continues OHV area designations from RMP, except where modified by OPLMA designations.	Proposes special designations and management changes to achieve biological conservation, only where current RMP decisions are not adequate.  Balances resource protection, recreation and access in OHV area designations.	Relies on special designations and changes to current management to achieve biological conservation.  Emphasizes resource protection in OHV Area Designations.	Relies on laws, regulations, policies, and management decisions from RMP to satisfy biological conservation mandate from OPLMA.  Emphasizes recreation and access in OHV Area Designations, in concert with resource protection.

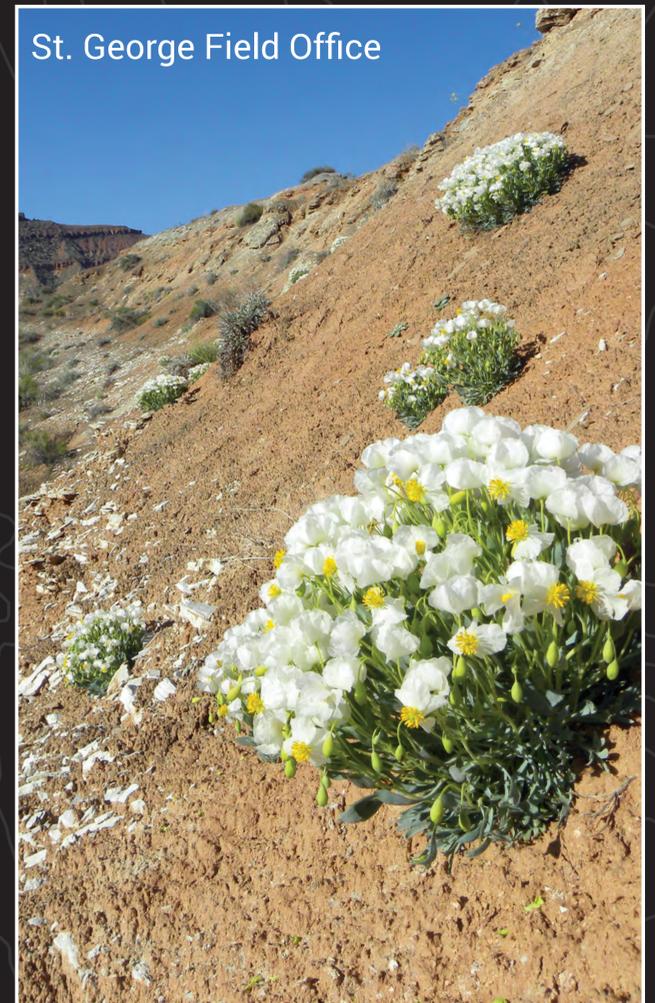
Beaver Dam Wash NCA



Red Cliffs NCA



St. George Field Office



# Off Highway Vehicle Area Designations Overview

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) area designations must be consistent with the management and protection objectives for sensitive public land resources, such as cultural resources, endangered species, community watersheds, and healthy lands. All public lands are required to have one of the following OHV area designations:

## Open

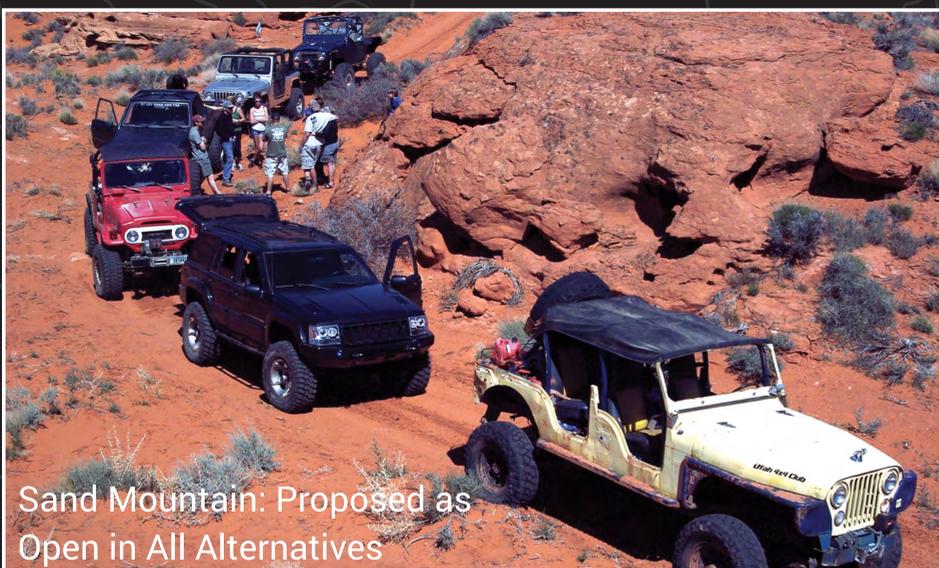
Open OHV areas are available to motorized cross-country travel with no restrictions. Open OHV areas are conducive to cross-country travel and offer a quality OHV opportunity for participants. Sand Mountain retains the open OHV status in all alternatives.

## Limited

Limited area designations means that travel for all motorized users is limited to designated roads and trails. Individual route designations are not part this process. They are being addressed in the Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan that is being conducted on a parallel track with this process. Until that process is complete, the St. George Field Office Existing Transportation System Map shows all routes that are available for public use.

## Closed

Closed areas are closed to all motorized vehicles. This typically applies to areas like designated wilderness. It does not apply to emergency response.



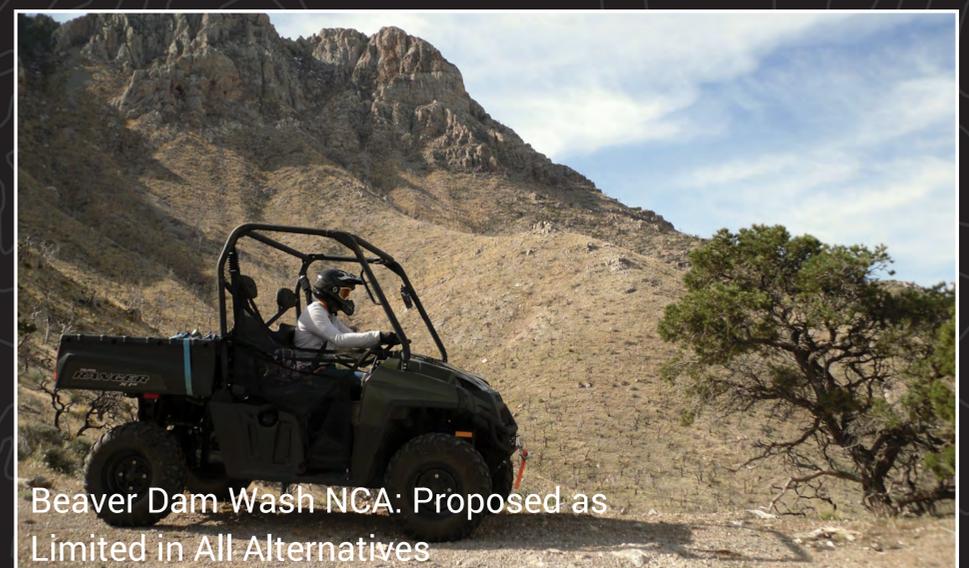
Sand Mountain: Proposed as Open in All Alternatives



Cottonwood Canyon Wilderness: Closed in All Alternatives



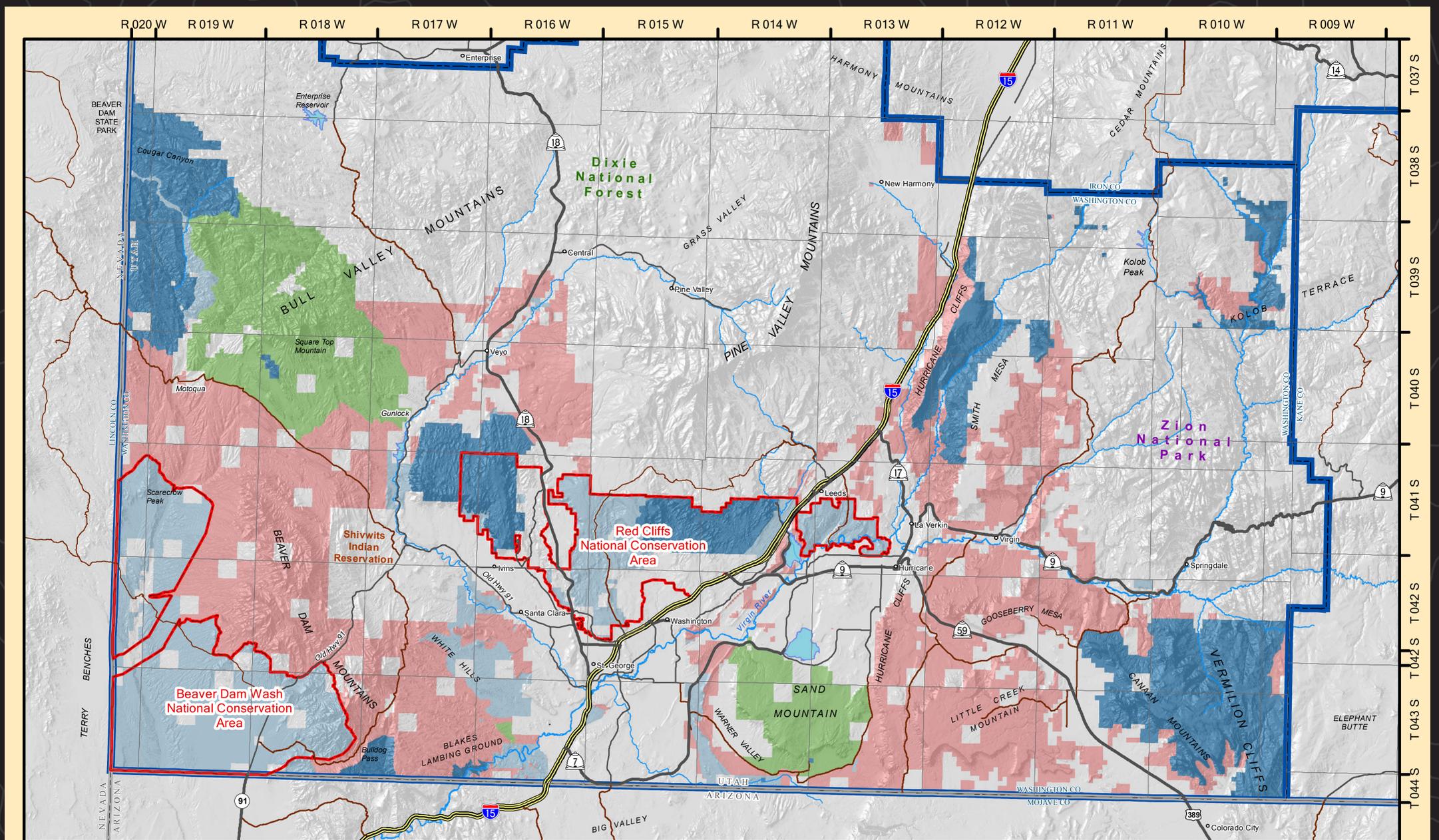
Little Creek Mountain: Proposed as Limited in Alternatives B, C, and D



Beaver Dam Wash NCA: Proposed as Limited in All Alternatives

# Off Highway Vehicle Area Designations Alternative A

Alternative A (No Action) is required by NEPA and serves as a baseline against which to compare the environmental consequences that could be associated with implementation of other alternatives. Under this alternative, public lands affected by the RMP Amendment, would primarily be derived from management decisions in the 1999 St. George Field Office Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, as amended.



OHV Area Designations - St. George Field Office - Alternative A (No Action)

- |   |                                      |   |                                     |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
|  | Closed to Motorized Vehicles         |  | National Conservation Area Boundary |
|  | Limited to Designated Roads & Trails |  | Field Office Boundary               |
|  | Limited to Existing Roads & Trails   |  | State Boundary                      |
|  | Open to All Vehicles                 |   |                                     |

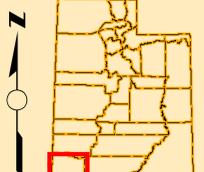
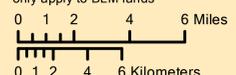


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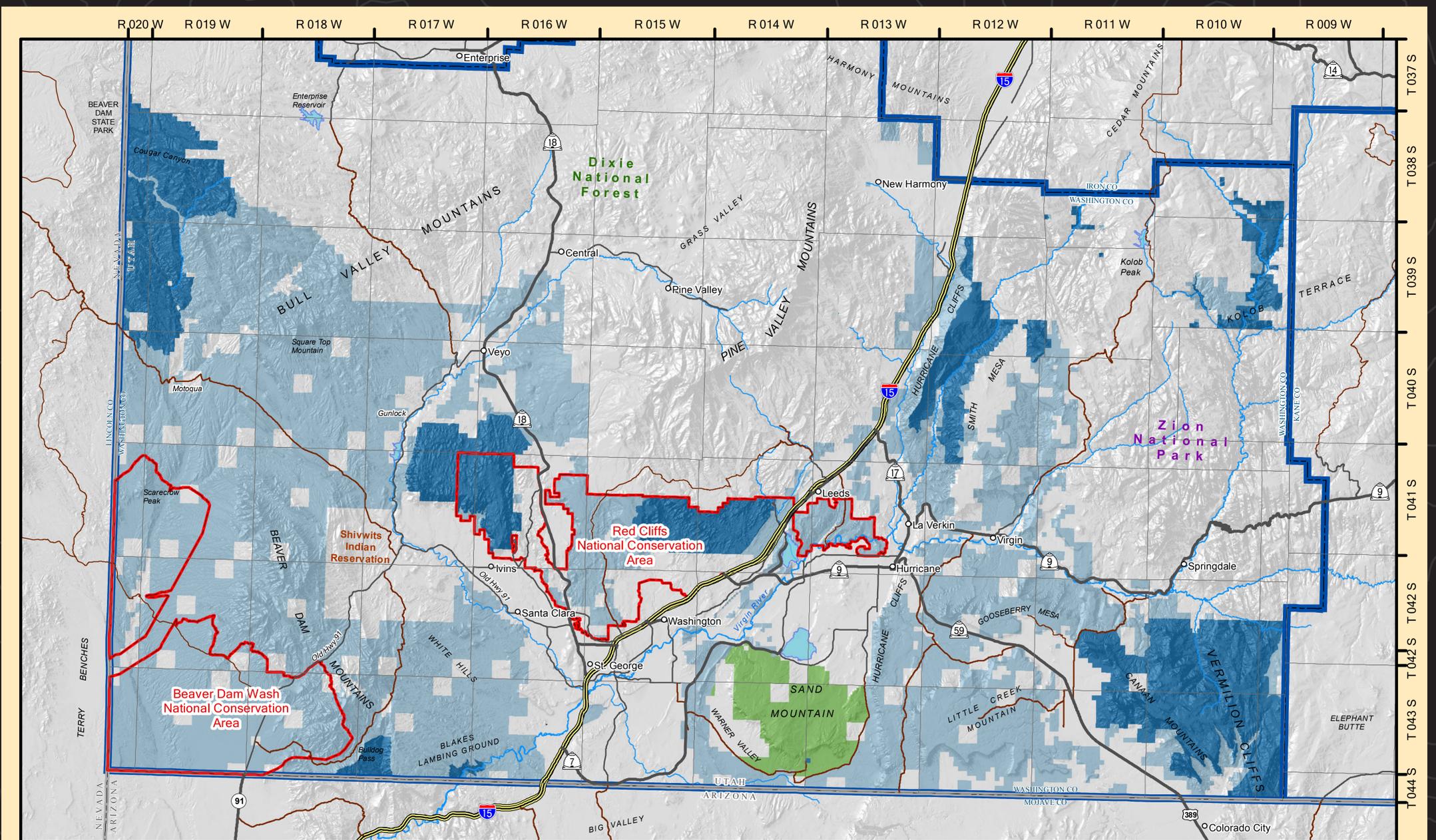
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# Off Highway Vehicle Area Designations Alternative B

Alternative B attempts to balance resource protection and human uses of the public lands in the two NCAs and on public lands that are addressed in the Amendment.



OHV Area Designations - St. George Field Office - Alternative B

- Closed to Motorized Vehicles
- Limited to Designated Roads & Trails
- Open to All Vehicles
- National Conservation Area Boundary
- Field Office Boundary
- State Boundary



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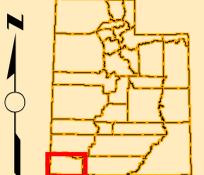
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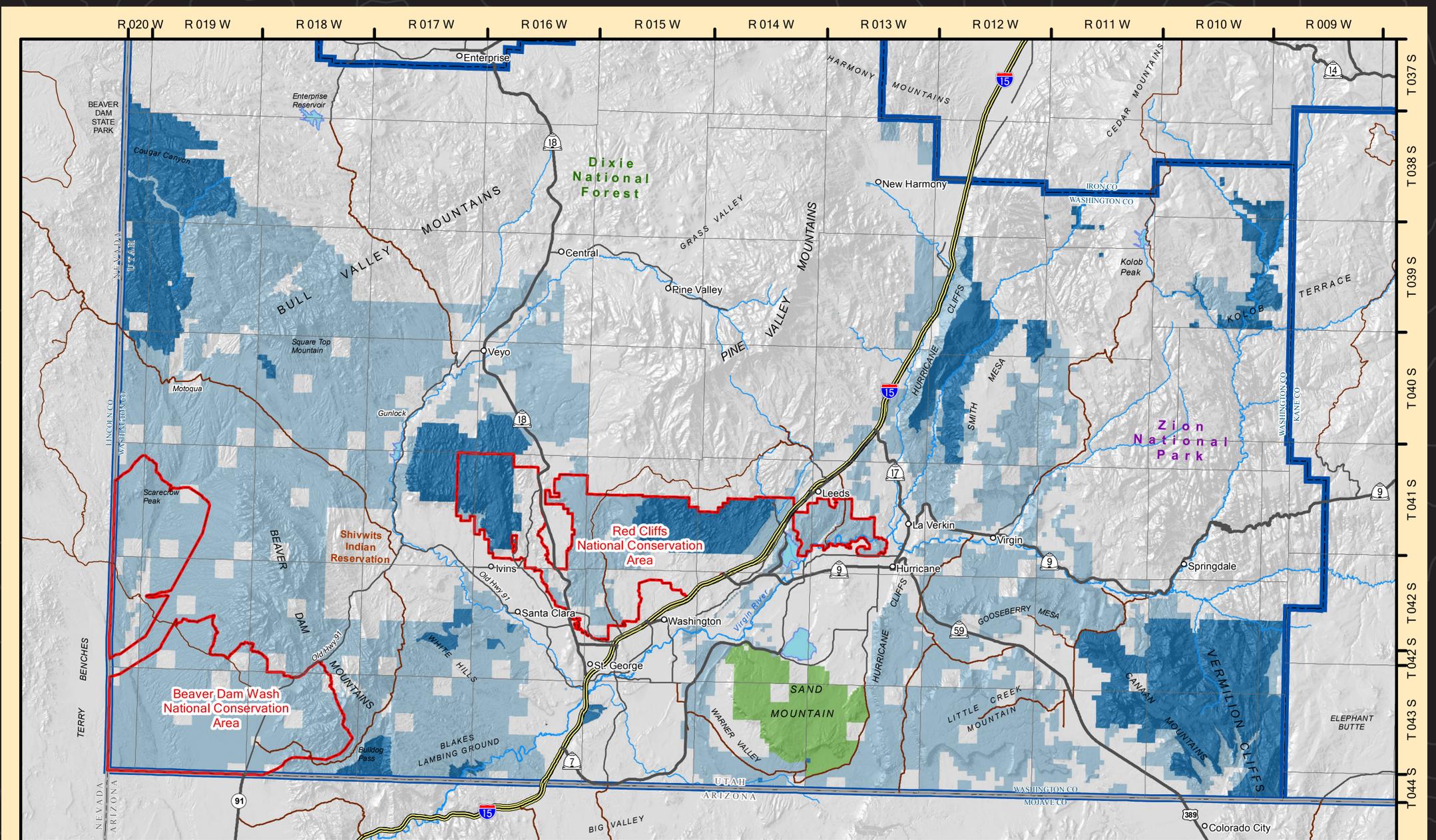
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Location Map

# Off Highway Vehicle Area Designations Alternative C

Alternative C represents an approach to the conservation and protection of resource values that emphasizes higher levels of restrictions on certain land uses and activities, while continuing to allow for compatible public uses.



OHV Area Designations - St. George Field Office - Alternative C

- Closed to Motorized Vehicles
- Limited to Designated Roads & Trails
- Open to All Vehicles
- National Conservation Area Boundary
- Field Office Boundary
- State Boundary



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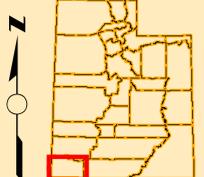
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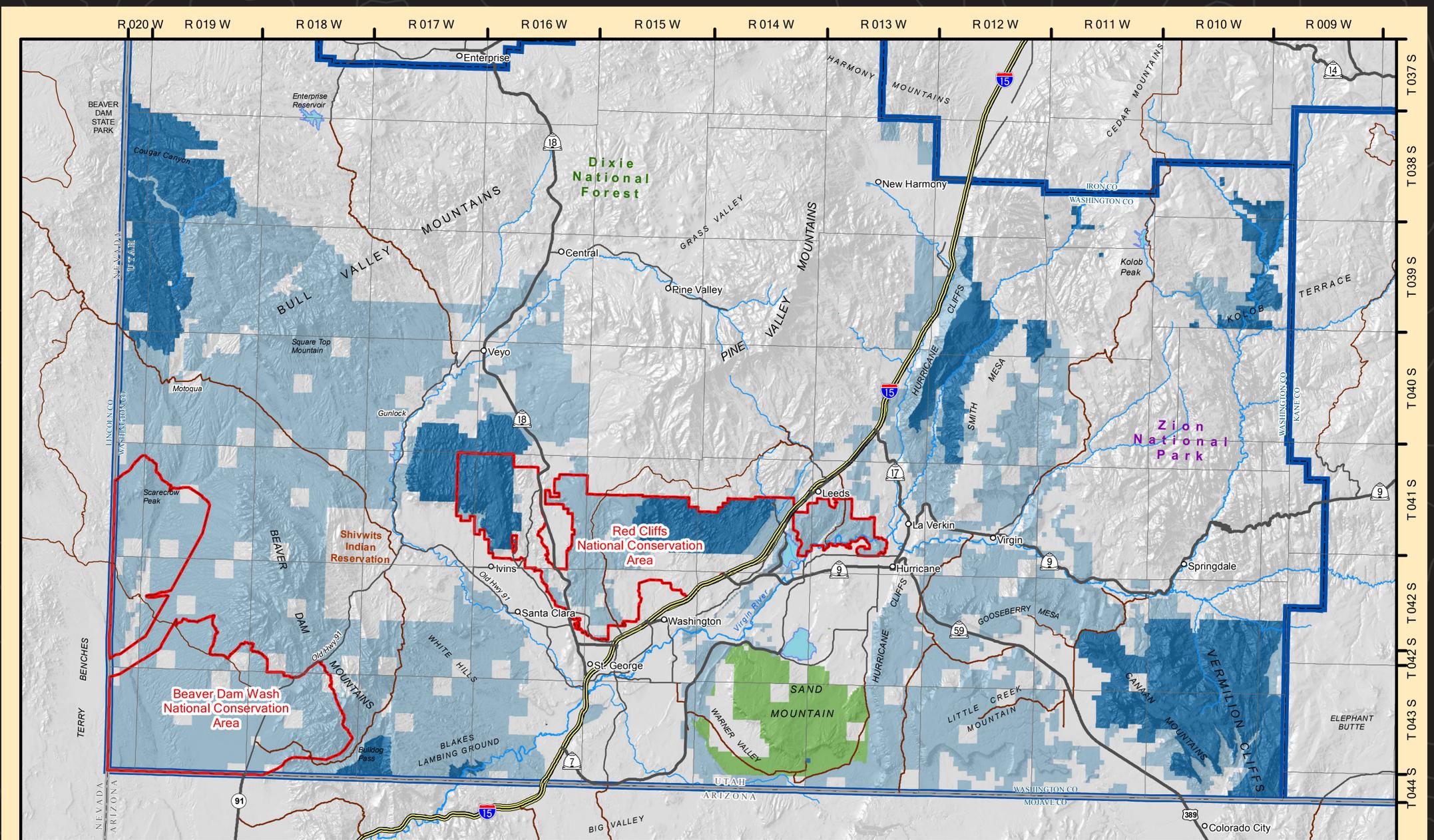
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Location Map

# Off Highway Vehicle Area Designations Alternative D

Alternative D emphasizes a broader array and higher levels of public use and access, while still meeting the mandates of “conservation, protection, and enhancement” of resource values in the two NCAs.



OHV Area Designations - St. George Field Office - Alternative D

- Closed to Motorized Vehicles
- Limited to Designated Roads & Trails
- Open to All Vehicles
- National Conservation Area Boundary
- Field Office Boundary
- State Boundary



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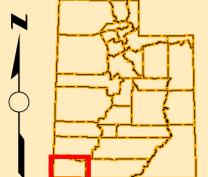
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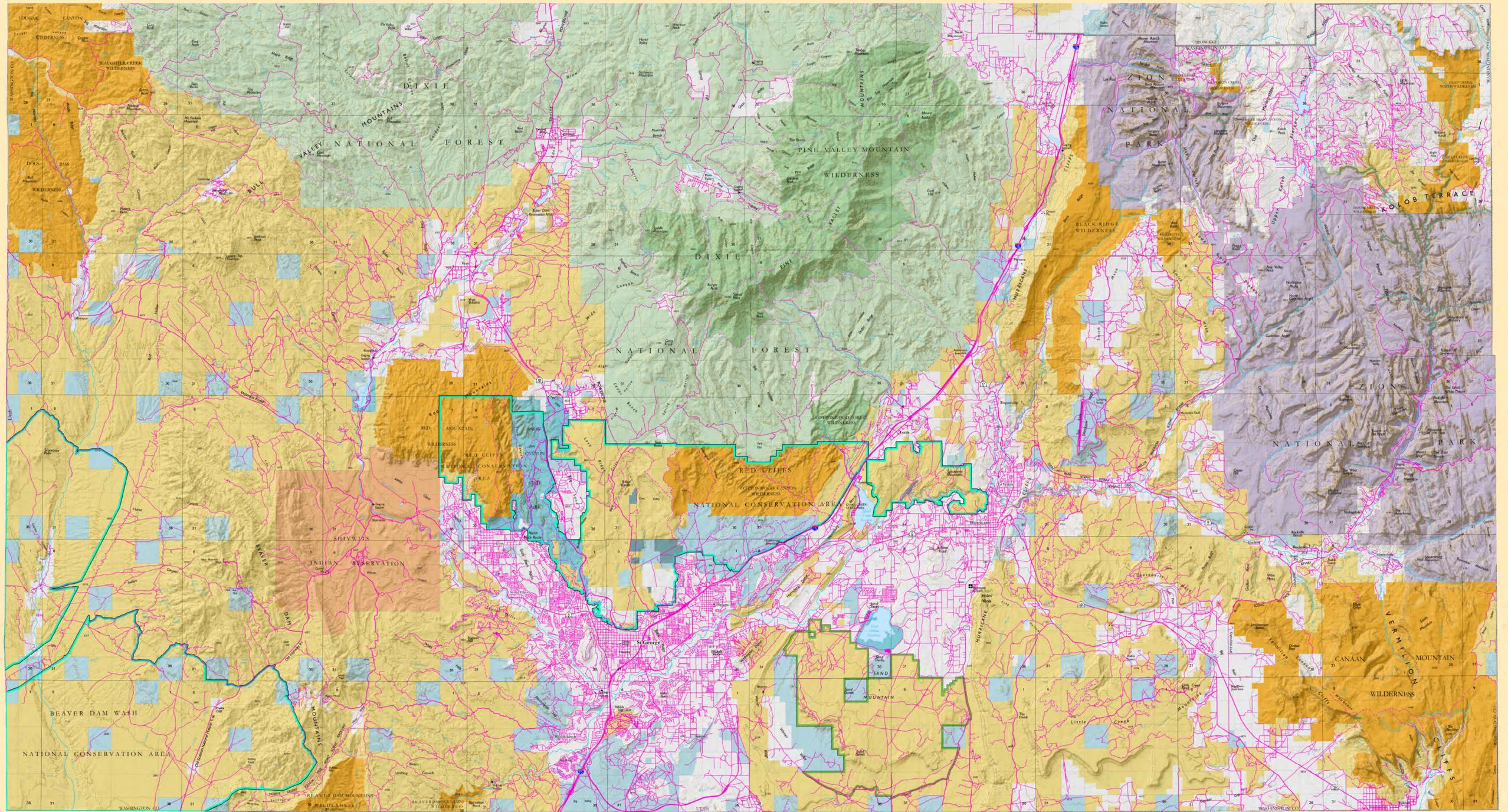
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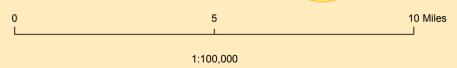
Location Map

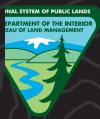
# St. George Field Office Existing Transportation System Map



- |                |                                 |  |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Road           | NCA Boundary                    | National Park Service (NPS)            |
| Primitive Road | Sand Mountain Open OHV Area     | State                                  |
| Trail          | Field Office Boundary           | State Parks and Recreation             |
|                | BLM Wilderness Area             | State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area |
|                | Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | US Forest Service (USFS)               |
|                | Indian Reservation (IR)         | USFS Wilderness Area                   |

Note: Transportation legend applies only to roads and trails on public lands. Roads and trails on state/private lands are shown for cartographic display purposes only.





# Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs NCAs & SGFO RMP Amendment Key Planning Issues

## 1 Planning Issues Common to Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs NCAs

- > How will the ecological resources of the NCAs be conserved, protected, and restored?
- > How will cultural and paleontological resources be conserved and protected in the NCAs?
- > How will native plant and animal species and their habitats be managed in the NCAs?
- > How will recreation uses be managed in the NCAs?
- > What types of recreation facilities should be developed in the NCAs?
- > How will livestock grazing be addressed in the NCAs?
- > What land uses should be authorized in the NCAs?
- > How will transportation and access be managed in the NCAs?

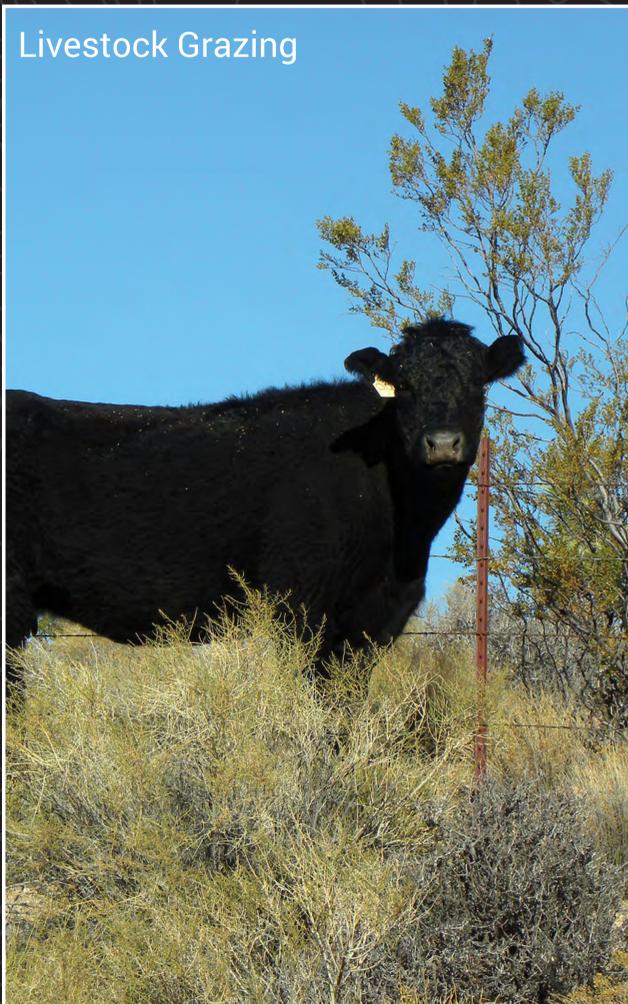
## Planning Issues Specific to Red Cliffs NCA

- > Should a “northern transportation route” be designated through the NCA?

## 2 Planning Issues Outside the Scope of this Planning Process

- > Managing public lands in the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs NCAs for mining, oil and gas development, and sale of mineral materials
- > Selling or exchanging public lands in the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs NCAs or elsewhere in Washington County
- > Eliminating or changing Congressional designations related to motorized vehicle travel in Beaver Dam Wash NCA
- > Designating new ACECs for resource values other than priority biological species on public lands managed by the SGFO
- > Evaluating and Analyzing new Wild and Scenic River proposals
- > Resolving Revised Statute 2477 claims

Livestock Grazing



Paleontological Resources



OHV Area Designations



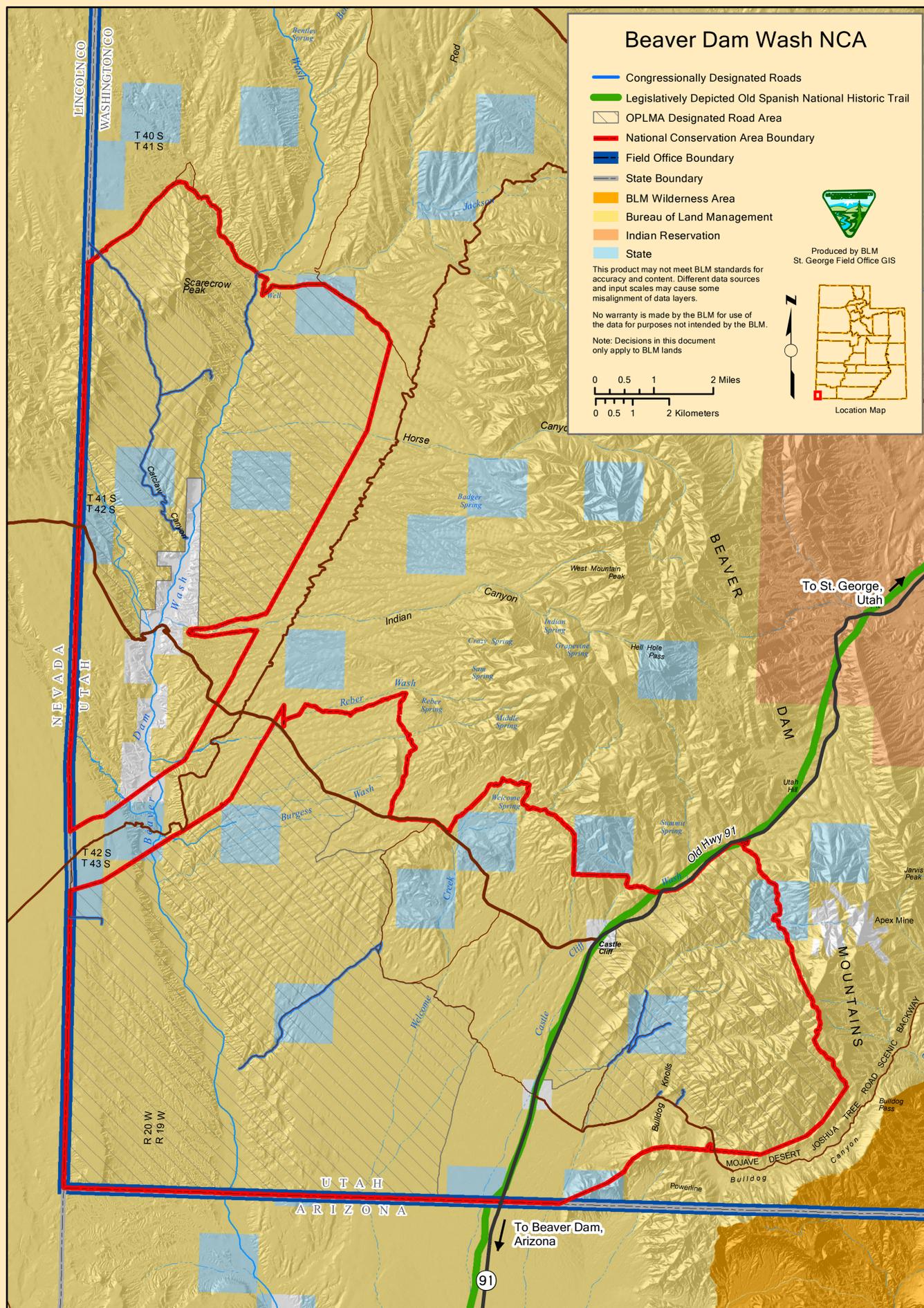


# Beaver Dam Wash NCA Resource Management Plan

Through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Congress designated the 63,500 acre Beaver Dam Wash NCA in Washington County, Utah “to conserve, protect, and enhance... the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources” of these public lands. Three areas of the NCA were identified by Congress as “designated road areas,” where all public motorized vehicle travel, including off-highway vehicles, is restricted to the specific roads shown on the map.

## Unique Values and Special Features

This NCA is within an ecological transition zone between the Mojave Desert and the Great Basin. Creosote bush, white bursage, and other desert shrubs grow at lower elevations and provide habitat for desert bighorn sheep and the Mojave desert tortoise, a threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Joshua trees and dense stands of blackbrush cover the slopes of the Beaver Dam Mountains, along the eastern boundary of the NCA. Surface water flows in the upper reaches of Beaver Dam Wash, but rarely travels all the way through the NCA. Riparian vegetation along the stream channel is important habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.



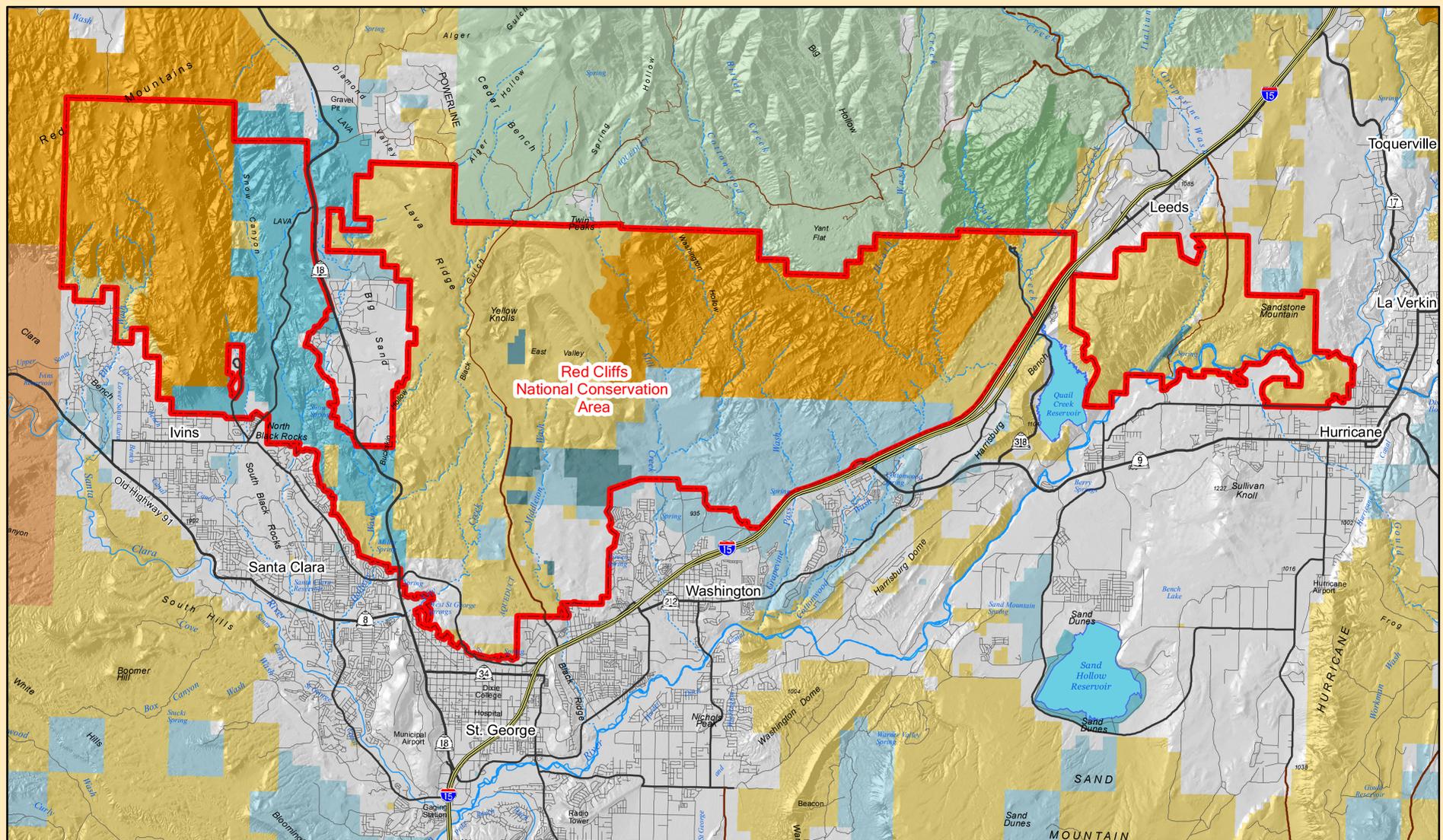


# Red Cliffs National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan

Through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Congress designated the 45,000 acre Red Cliffs NCA in Washington County, Utah “to conserve, protect, and enhance...the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the National Conservation Area and to protect each species that is located in the National Conservation Area and listed as a threatened or endangered species...”

## Resource Values and Special Features

The Red Cliffs NCA is located where the Colorado Plateau, Great Basin and Mojave Desert overlap in Washington County. In this transition zone, unusual plant and animal species have evolved, including the dwarf bearclaw poppy and Shivwits milkvetch, small native plants that grow nowhere else. The hot, arid Mojave Desert provides habitat for diverse wildlife species, such as the kit fox, Gila monster, and the Mojave desert tortoise, listed as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Dinosaur tracks, Ancestral Puebloan rock art sites, and mid-19th century Mormon farmsteads are preserved on public lands in the Red Cliffs NCA. Hikers, mountain bikers, and trail riders enjoy miles of designated trails in the NCA, just a few miles drive from local communities. The newly-designated Cottonwood Wilderness is within the boundaries of the NCA, while the Red Mountain Wilderness forms the western boundary of the NCA. Opportunities for solitude, natural quiet, and wilderness experiences abound for hikers, backpackers, and equestrians in these wilderness areas, where motorized and mechanized vehicles are not authorized.



Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA)

- National Conservation Area Boundary
- BLM Wilderness Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- Indian Reservation
- State
- State Parks and Recreation
- State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- USFS Wilderness Area



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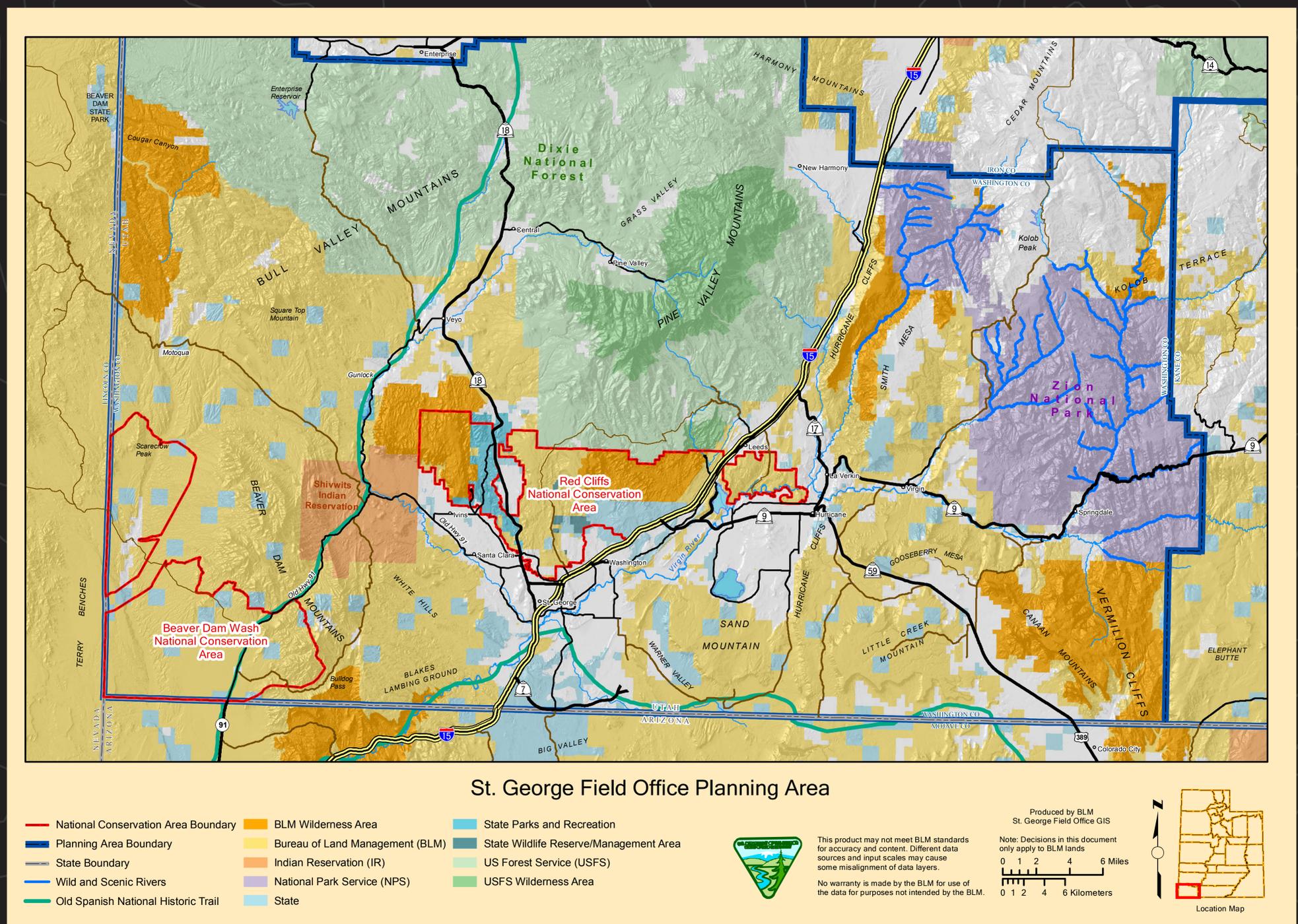


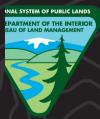
# St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 directs the BLM to “identify areas located in the county where biological conservation is a priority” and to “undertake activities to conserve and restore plant and animal species and natural communities within such areas.”

Through this planning process, the 1999 St. George Resource Management Plan (RMP) will be amended to satisfy this direction through the consideration of nominated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) that meet relevance and importance criteria for “priority biological and natural community conservation areas.”

ACECs are areas of BLM-managed public land where special management attention 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 (43 USC 1702a).





# Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area Recreation and Visitor Services

## Objectives for Alternative A

BLM's objective for recreation management will be to provide an array of quality recreation experiences within the agency's capability and logical recreation niche to meet the reasonable needs and expectations of local residents and visitors from outside the area. Because the fiscal and staffing resources available to BLM are likely to remain inadequate to fully accomplish this objective, BLM will use innovative partnerships, pursue grant monies, and work with volunteers, organized user groups, and other recreation providers in developing and managing selected recreation opportunities on the public lands.

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

Protect NCA resource and recreation values using the following:

- > Trail and facility design;
- > Directional, informational, regulatory, traffic control, boundary, and trail signs;
- > Maps and associated digital technology;
- > Appropriate law enforcement;
- > Interpretative materials and educational programs; and
- > Citizen stewardship.

## Selected Management Actions from Preferred Alternative (B)

- > Develop a nationally recognized non-motorized trail system that provides high quality opportunities for a wide range of recreational activities.
- > Develop trailheads and waysides that share a signature design emblematic of the NCA.



FROM THIS

TO THIS



# Red Cliffs National Conservation Area Recreation and Visitor Services

## Objectives for Alternative A

BLM's objective for recreation management will be to provide an array of quality recreation experiences within the agency's capability and logical recreation niche to meet the reasonable needs and expectations of local residents and visitors from outside the area. Because the fiscal and staffing resources available to BLM are likely to remain inadequate to fully accomplish this objective, BLM will use innovative partnerships, pursue grant monies, and work with volunteers, organized user groups, and other recreation providers in developing and managing selected recreation opportunities on the public lands.

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

Protect NCA resource and recreation values using the following:

- > Trail and facility design;
- > Directional, informational, regulatory, traffic control, boundary, and trail signs;
- > Maps and associated digital technology;
- > Appropriate law enforcement;
- > Interpretative materials and educational programs; and
- > Citizen stewardship.

## Selected Management Actions from Preferred Alternative (B)

- > Construct site improvements and recreational facilities to protect resource values, respond to recreational use demand, and enhance visitor experiences.
- > Design and construct a non-motorized trail system that offers opportunities for varying distances, provides a high quality visitor experience, and protects diverse NCA resource values.



FROM THIS



TO THIS



# Red Cliffs & Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Areas Lands and Realty

## Objectives for Alternative A

In accordance with national policy, BLM will retain lands within its administration except where necessary to accomplish important objectives outlined in resource sections throughout this Plan.

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

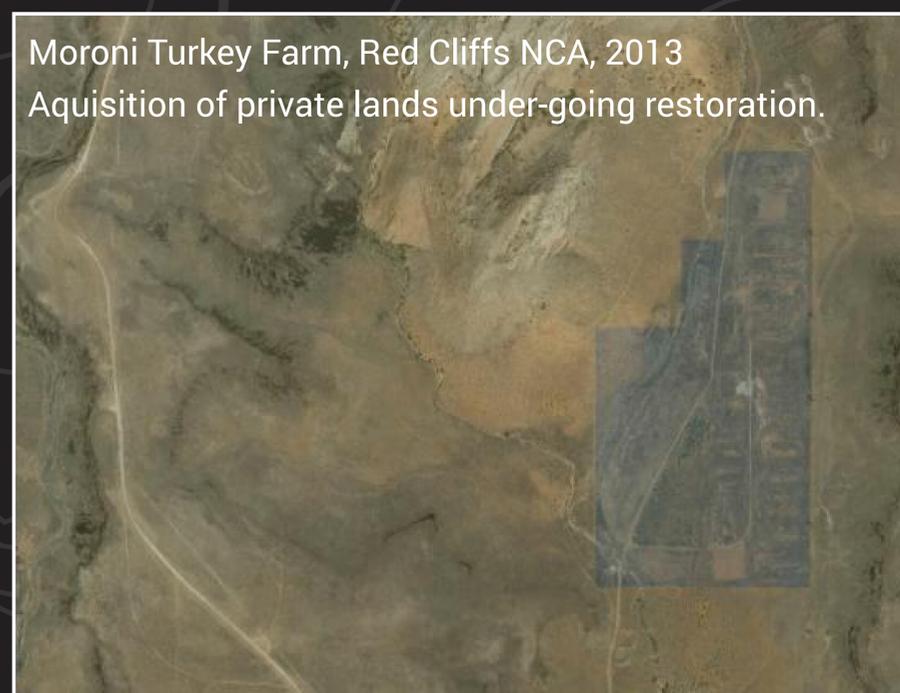
- > Non-federal lands are acquired from willing land owners through purchase, exchange or donation.
- > Surface and subsurface rights would be acquired whenever possible to avoid creating split estates.
- > Conservation easements may be acquired where such interest would further the management objectives of the NCA.
- > Land tenure adjustments would be prioritized based on manageability, the feasibility of successful acquisition, and the ecological, cultural, recreational, and scenic values of the tract to be acquired.
- > Ensure that long and short term land use authorizations are consistent with the NCA purposes of resource conservation, protection, and enhancement.

## Selected Management Actions from Preferred Alternative (B)

- > Work with willing land owners or administrators to acquire in-holdings and edge-holdings that are in the public interest through purchase, exchange of public lands targeted for disposal outside of the NCA boundaries, donation, or conservation easement.
- > Do not authorize leases under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act within the NCA.



Moroni Turkey Farm, Red Cliffs NCA, 2006  
Private inholding.



Moroni Turkey Farm, Red Cliffs NCA, 2013  
Aquisition of private lands under-going restoration.

FROM THIS

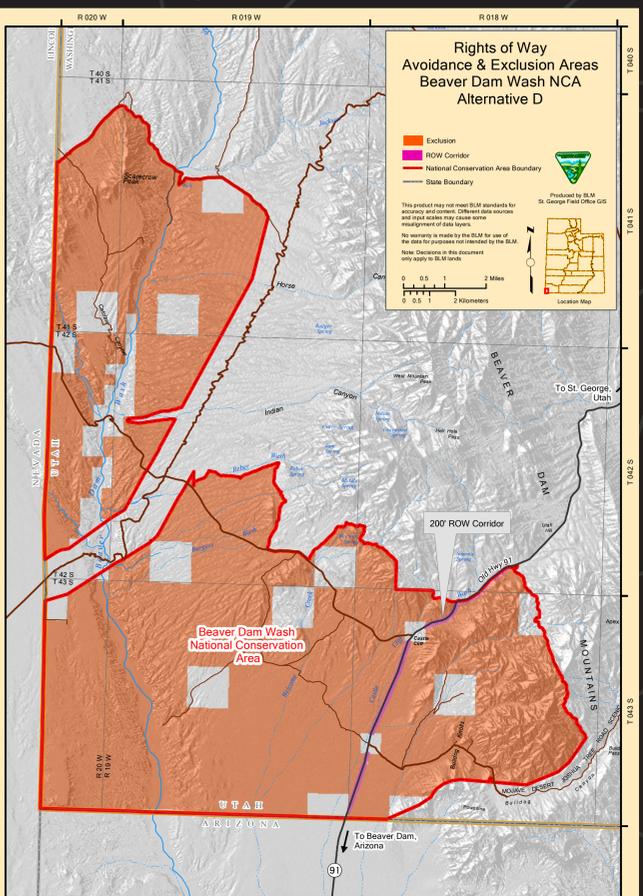
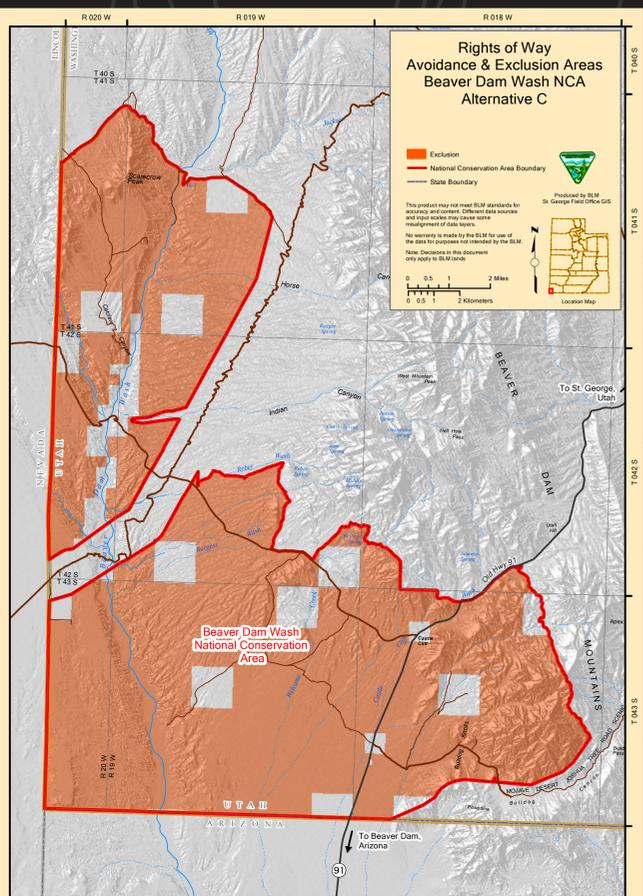
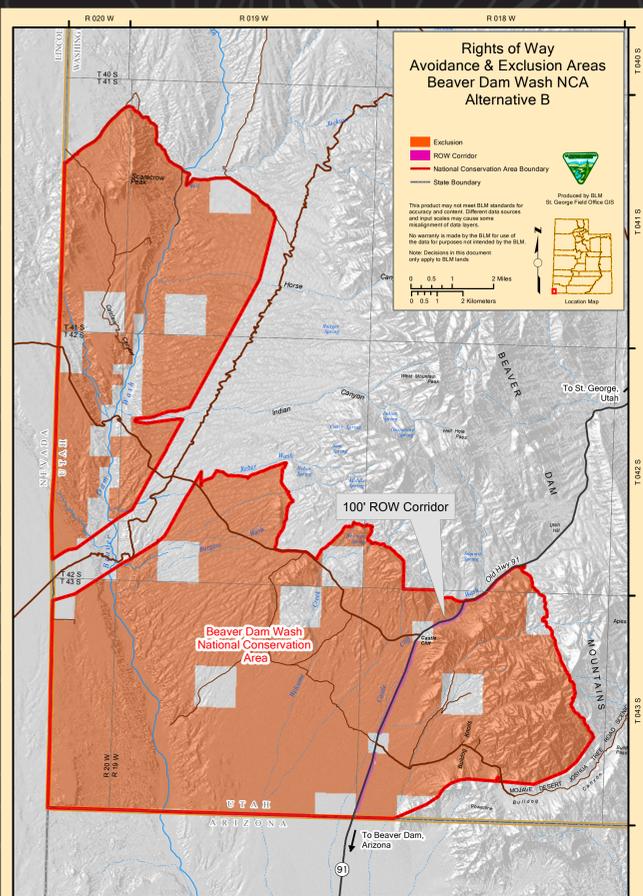
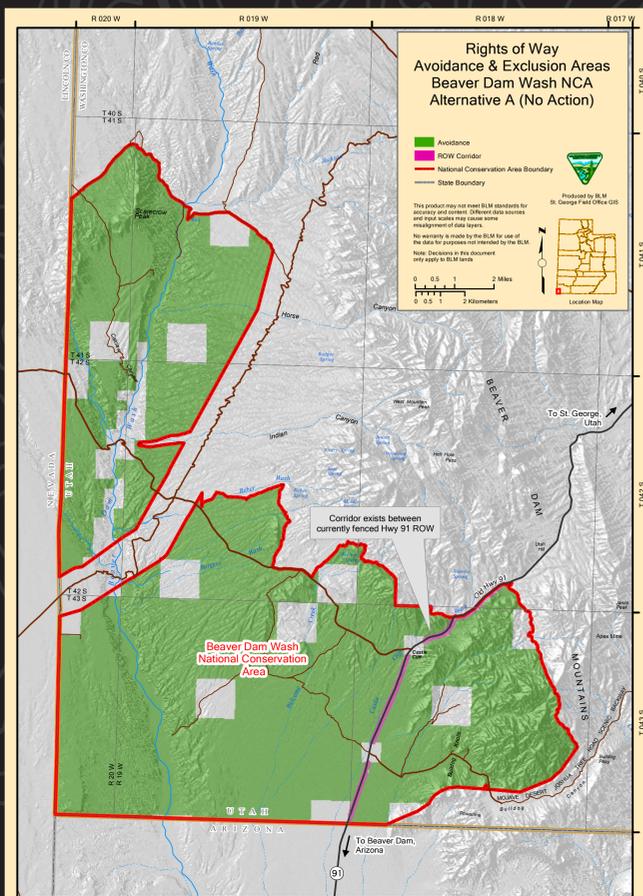
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# Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area Lands and Realty: ROWs

## Alternatives for Linear ROWs

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Preferred)	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>Designated Utility Corridor: Following the route of Old Highway 91 across the Beaver Dam slope from the Arizona border to the Shivwits Indian Reservation, then from the northern boundary of the Shivwits Indian Reservation to Gunlock Reservoir following the Gunlock road. This corridor would be the width of the currently fenced road ROWs.</p>	<p>Continue to manage a designated utility and transportation corridor through the NCA that follows the route of Old Highway 91 from the Arizona state line to the Shivwits Indian Reservation. Establish the width of that designated corridor to be 100 feet in total width, 50 feet from either side of the centerline of the current highway. Limit new utility ROWs to subsurface installations within that 100 foot wide designated corridor, to protect the scenic qualities of the NCA and the OST Management Corridor from visual intrusions.</p>	<p>Subject to valid existing rights, revoke the designated utility and transportation corridor through the NCA that follows the route of Old Highway 91 from the Arizona state line to the Shivwits Indian Reservation and is defined as the width of the currently fenced road ROW, to protect NCA values from impacts associated with the development of utilities and roads in this corridor.</p>	<p>Continue to manage a designated utility and transportation corridor through the NCA that follows the route of Old Highway 91 from the Arizona state line to the Shivwits Indian Reservation. Establish the width of that designated corridor to be 200 feet in total width, 100 feet from either side of the centerline of the current highway. Limit new utility ROWs to subsurface installations within that 200 foot wide designated corridor, to protect the scenic qualities of the NCA and the OST Management Corridor from visual intrusions.</p>
<p>Avoidance area: 63,284 acres Exclusion area: 0 acres</p>	<p>Avoidance area: 0 acres Exclusion area: 63,420 acres</p>	<p>Avoidance area: 0 acres Exclusion area: 63,480 acres</p>	<p>Avoidance area: 0 acres Exclusion area: 63,352 acres</p>

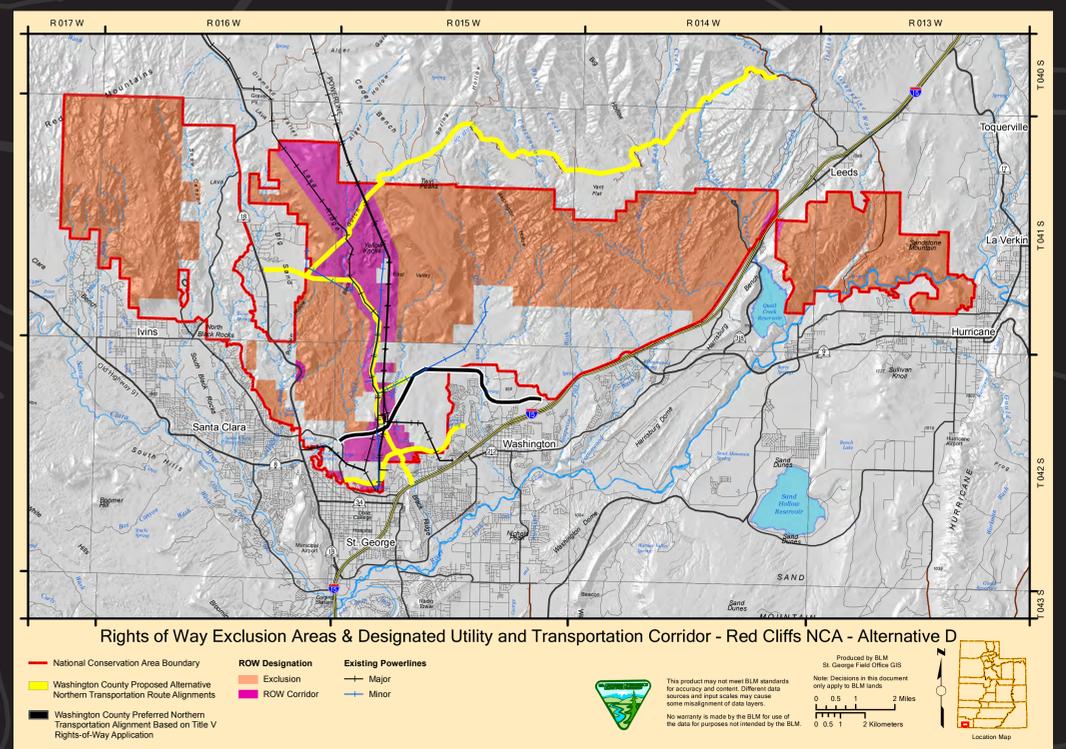
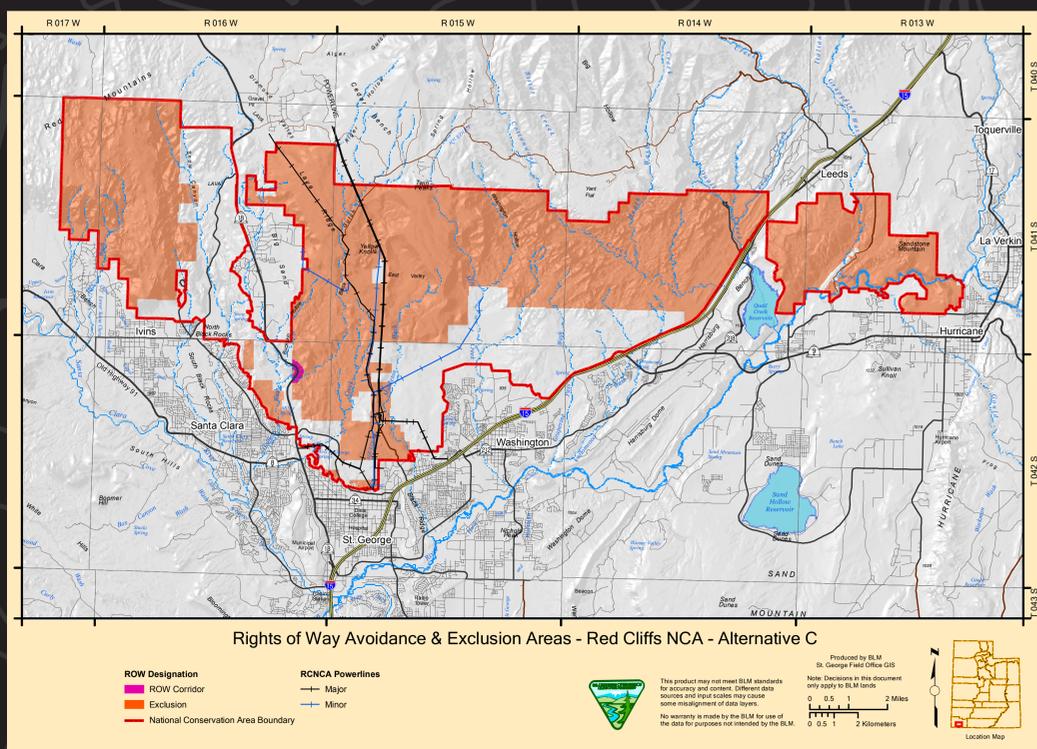
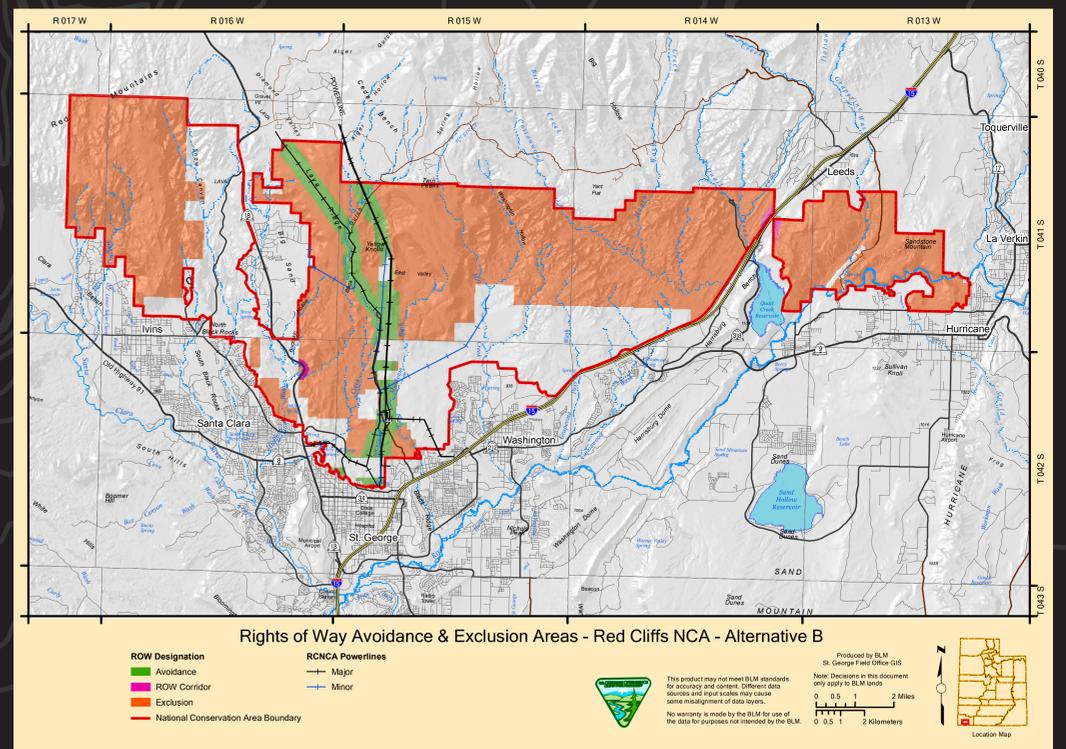
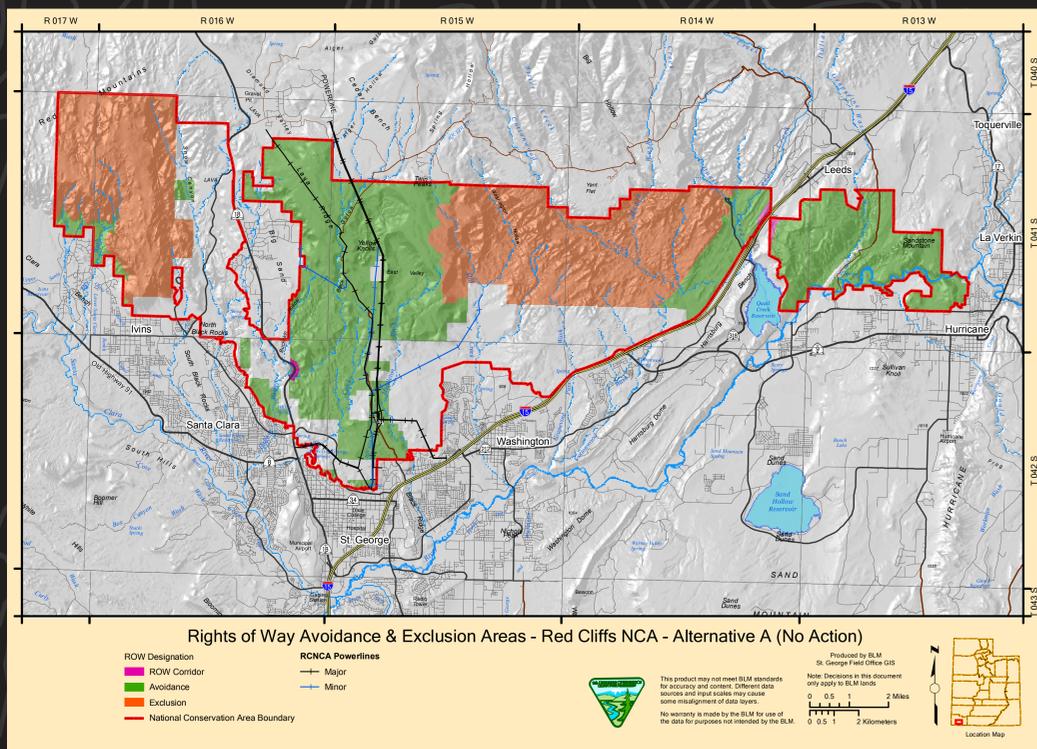




# Red Cliffs Wash National Conservation Area Lands and Realty: ROWs

## Alternatives for Linear ROWs

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Preferred)	Alternative C	Alternative D
Retain the existing designated ROW corridors along SR 18 and I-15 (total of 183 acres) through the NCA.	Retain the existing designated ROW corridor along SR 18 through the NCA (50 acres). Revoke the existing designated ROW corridor along I-15 through the NCA (133 acres), subject to valid existing rights.	Retain the existing designated ROW corridor along SR 18 through the NCA (50 acres). Revoke the existing designated ROW corridor along I-15 through the NCA (133 acres), subject to valid existing rights.	Retain the existing designated ROW corridors along SR 18 and I-15 (total of 183 acres) through the NCA. Designate a new 6,350 acre utility and transportation ROW corridor.
Avoidance area: 24,686 acres Exclusion area: 19,989 acres	Avoidance area: 3,652 acres Exclusion area: 41,023 acres	Avoidance area: 0 acres Exclusion area: 44,808 acres	Avoidance area: 0 acres Exclusion area: 38,324 acres





# Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas Heritage Resources

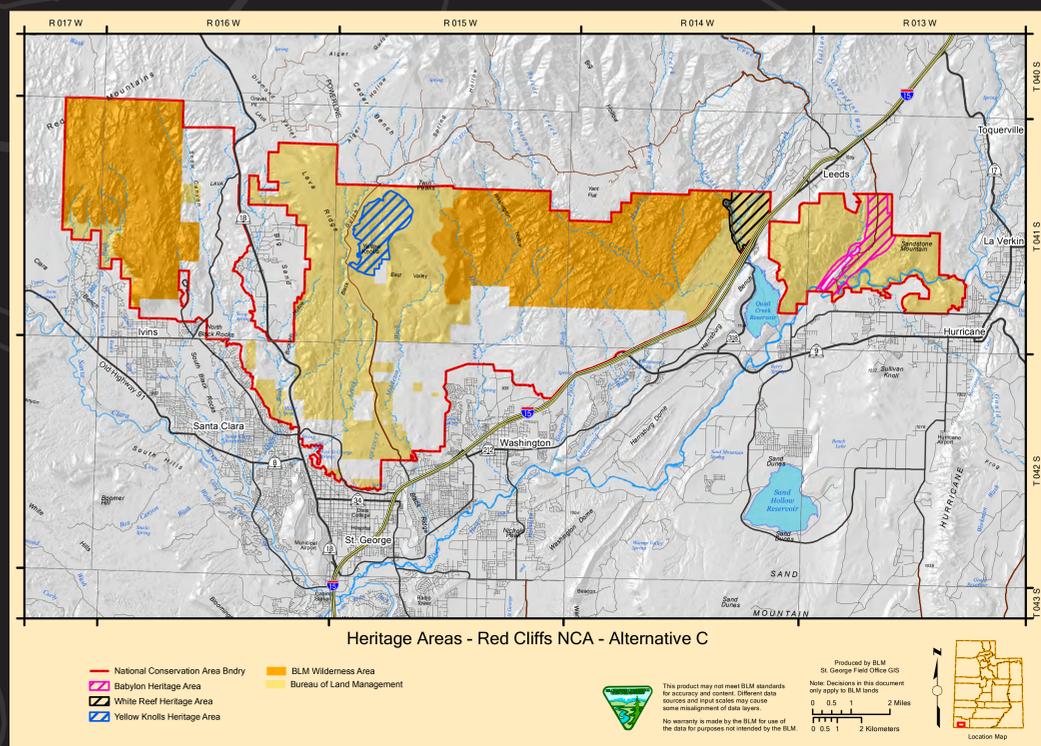
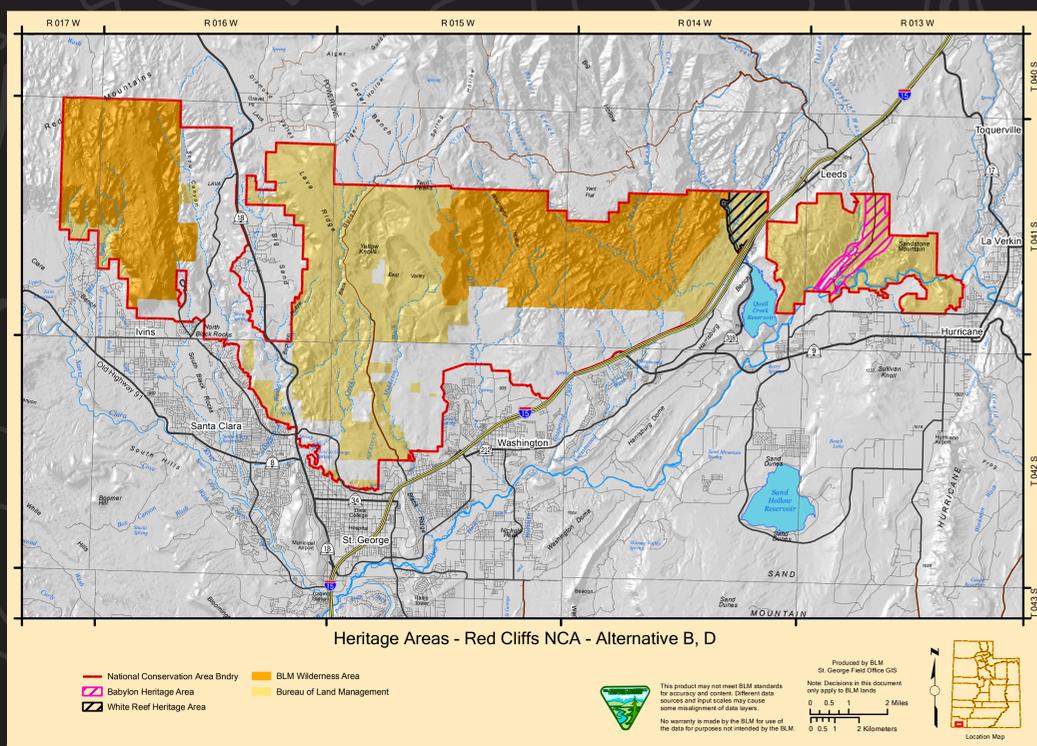
## Objectives for Alternative A

In managing cultural and paleontological resources on public lands, BLM will seek to:

- > Employ reasonable measures and land use controls needed to reduce impacts from urbanization and human encroachment;
- > Apply the principles of conservation management to selected areas to maintain such resources in their present condition for future study and enjoyment;
- > Reduce looting and vandalism through increased public education, surveillance, and enforcement;
- > Provide for legitimate field research by credible scientists and institutions;
- > Ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws for consultation, assessment, and mitigation including consultation with interested or affected Indian tribes;
- > Provide for stabilization, maintenance, and interpretation of selected sites for public enjoyment and education.

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

Heritage resources currently documented or that may be documented in the future within the NCA are allocated and managed to the Use Allocations (as defined by *BLM Manual Section 8110.42 and Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1*) that are consistent with the legislative mandates from OPLMA for the NCA: Scientific Use, Conservation for Future Use, Public Use, and Traditional Use. Heritage resources of scientific interest currently documented in the NCA or that may be documented in the future are not allocated to Experimental Use or Discharged from Management, as these would not be consistent with the Congressionally-designated purposes for the NCA, as they relate to cultural and historical resources. Public awareness and appreciation of heritage resources is enhanced through education and volunteer stewardship opportunities. Appropriate heritage resource sites or groups of sites are nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), whenever warranted. The integrity of setting and place is conserved, protected, and restored in areas where natural and cultural resources combine to form an important heritage landscape.

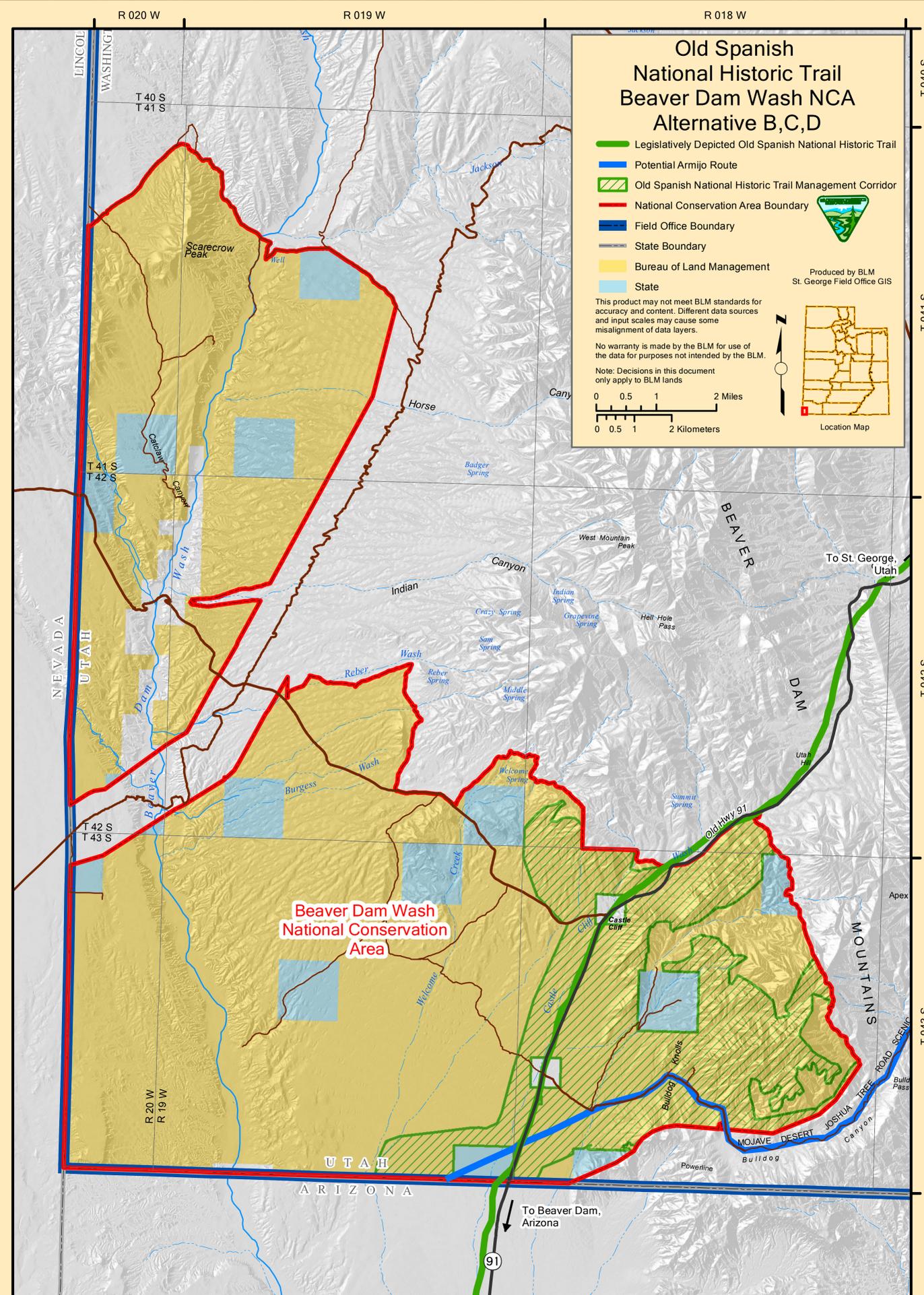




# Beaver Dam Wash NCA National Historic Trails Old Spanish National Historic Trail

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

- > Establish an OST National Historic Trail Management Corridor that provides diverse opportunities for the public to connect with and experience trail history and resources.
- > Manage the OST National Historic Trail Management Corridor to identify, conserve, and protect the historic trail and historic remnants and artifacts for their historic, scientific, educational, interpretative, and recreational values.
- > Manage the OST National Historic Trail Management Corridor to conserve and protect the associated visual setting and natural landscape elements that are evocative of the period of trail significance and contribute to resource protection.
- > Manage the OST National Historic Trail Management Corridor to restore altered natural landscape elements of the associated setting to trail-era condition.
- > Enhance opportunities for shared OST stewardship through partnerships with the Old Spanish Trail Association, American Indian Tribes, state, county, and municipal governments, private landowners, and other groups and organizations.





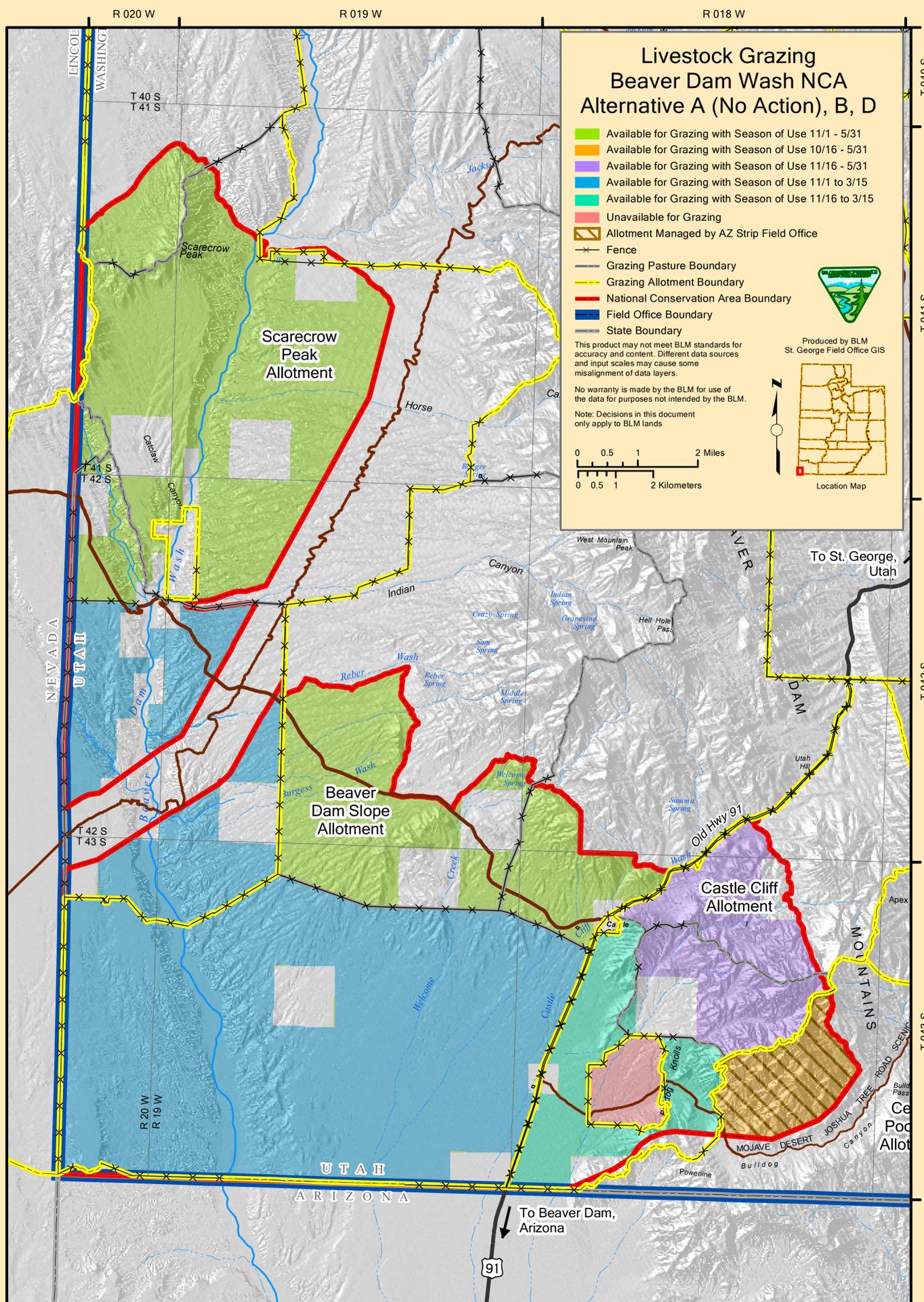
# Beaver Dam Wash NCA Vegetation Resource Uses Livestock Grazing

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

- > Manage livestock grazing to ensure the long-term sustainability of Mojave Desert and Great Basin ecosystems and to promote the resilience and survival of native vegetation communities under predicted climate change scenarios.
- > Manage livestock grazing to achieve Utah Standards and Guides for upland and riparian vegetation communities, by adjusting use levels, timing and intensity of grazing, and by developing improvement and restoration projects.

**Selected Management Actions**

	Alternative A No Action	Alternative B Preferred	Alternative C	Alternative D
Acres Available for Grazing	61,995 Acres (all or portions of 3 allotments)	Same as Alternative A	0 Acres	Same as Alternative A
AUMs	3,099 AUMs	1,861 AUMs	0 AUMs	Same as Alternative A
Voluntary Relinquishment	No applicable planning decision.	When grazing permits and preference are voluntarily relinquished, the allotment or portion of the allotment within the NCA would no longer be available for grazing over life of the RMP.	NCA lands unavailable for grazing over life of the RMP.	Same as Alternative A





# Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas Fire and Fuels Management Fire Suppression

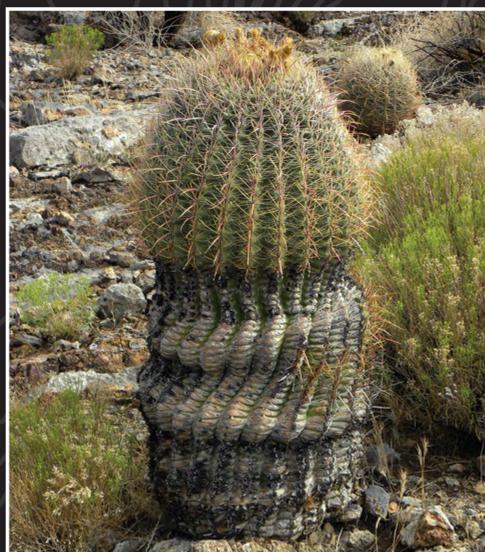
## Objectives for Alternative A

- > Fire suppression on public lands in Washington County will be directed by objectives and prescriptions identified in the Dixie Fire Management Plan scheduled for completion in 1999. The highest priorities of fire suppression will be to protect life, firefighter safety, property, and critical resource values. The BLM will coordinate with stakeholders at local and regional levels as well as adjacent land management agencies in formulating and implementing the final Fire Management Plan.

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

- > Suppression activities prioritize firefighter and public safety, protect private property, conserve and protect NCA resource values, and minimize overall suppression costs through planning and efficient management of tactical and human resources.
- > Research is supported that increases the understanding of ecosystem processes, natural cycles, and anthropogenic factors that affect the fire return intervals that influence climate change.

### — Fire Damaged Resources—



Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area



Red Cliffs National Conservation Area



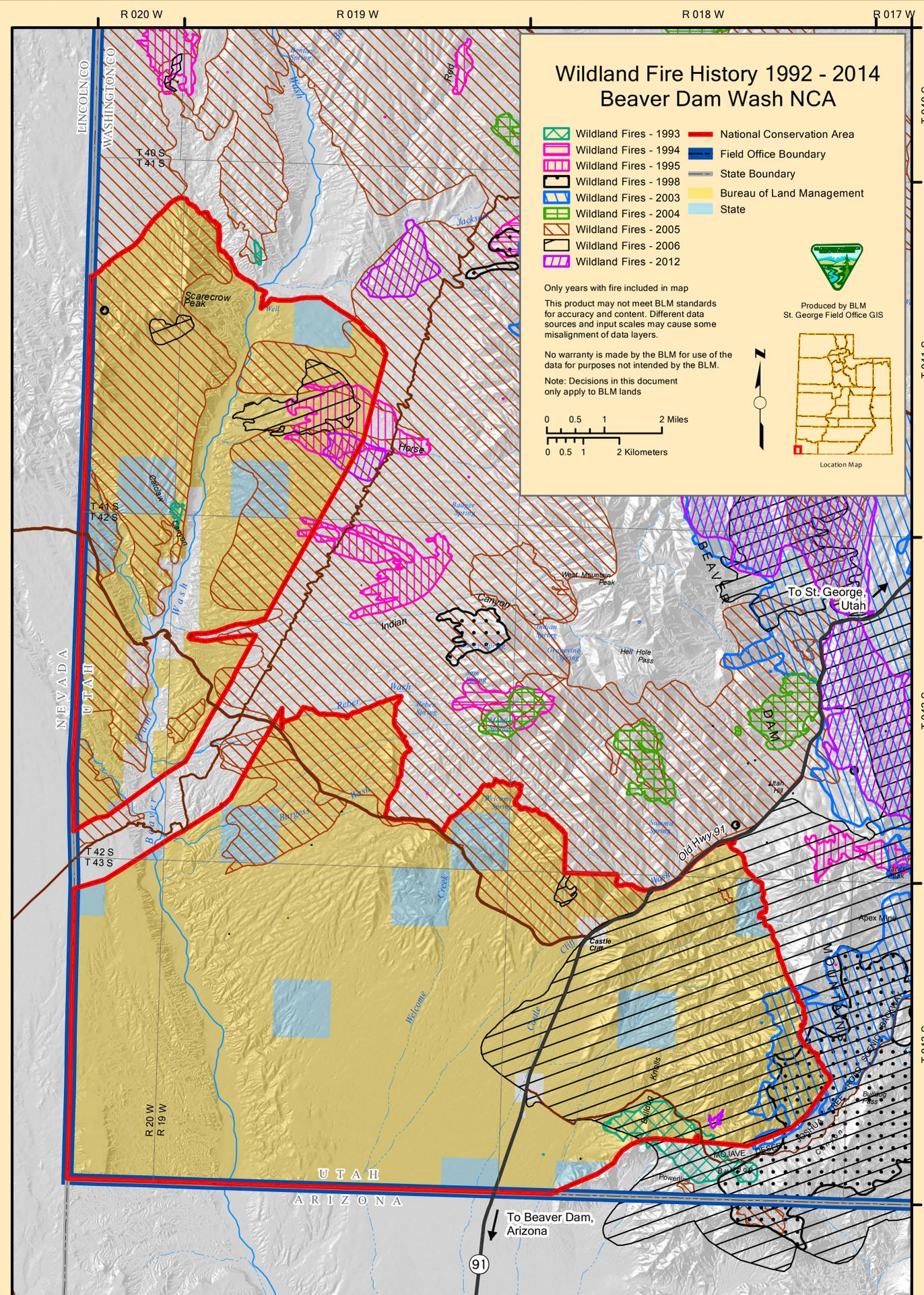


# Beaver Dam Wash NCA Fire and Fuels Management Fire History

Wildland fires have burned approximately 50% of the NCA and consumed nearly 80% of the blackbrush-Joshua tree community. Large-scale or frequent wildland fires were not part of the natural fire regime of the Mojave Desert, as desert shrublands are not fire-adapted species. Historically, wildfire was a rare occurrence because Mojave Desert ecozones did not produce enough vegetation to “carry” a fire, species like creosote bush were naturally fire-resistant, and the gaps between the shrubs impeded the spread of fires. Invasive annual brome grasses today fill in the gaps between the desert shrubs, creating a continuous and highly flammable fine fuel source that has completely altered the intensity and fire return intervals in the Mojave Desert.

Fire Occurrence Data		
Year	# of Fire Starts	Acreage* Burned
2000	1	96
2001	1	0.1
2003	3	1,094
2004	1	0.1
2005	7	20,664
2006	8	13,406
2007	1	0.5
2009	1	1
2011	1	0.9
2012	3	365

\*Acreage is counted individually for each fire. Acres that burned more than once in these years are therefore counted multiple times.



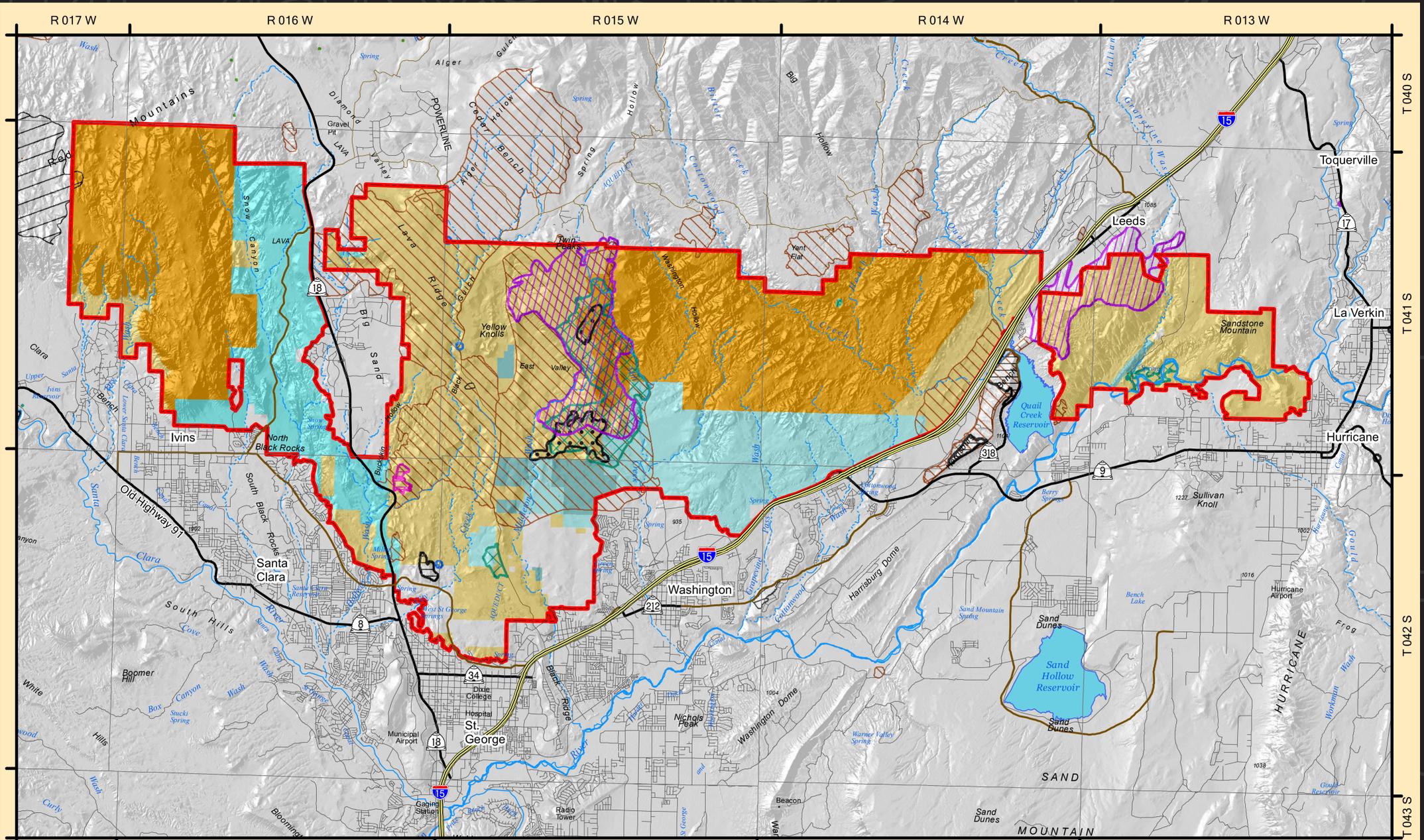


# Red Cliffs National Conservation Area Fire and Fuels Management Fire History

Warmer annual temperatures, prolonged droughts punctuated by years of above average fall-winter precipitation, and the proliferation of invasive annual grasses are fueling an annual burn-reburn wildfire cycle in the Red Cliffs NCA. Mojave Desert species are not adapted to frequent and large-scale wildfires and do not recover quickly or successfully from the effects of fires. Conversions of native communities from desert shrublands to invasive grasslands have already occurred in areas of the NCA. Some of these areas have burned repeatedly—two, three, or even four times during the past 20 years.

Fire Occurrence Data		
Year	# of Fire Starts	Acreage* Burned
1993	5	2,458
1994	1	62
1998	2	508
1999	3	18
2000	1	8
2001	1	0.1
2003	1	0.1
2004	4	0.3
2005	12	14,482
2006	3	44
2011	1	64
2012	2	4,195

\*Acres burned more than once are counted multiple times.



Wildland Fire History 1992-2014 - Red Cliffs NCA

- Wildland Fires - 1993
- Wildland Fires - 2006
- National Conservation Area Boundary
- State Parks and Recreation
- Wildland Fires - 1994
- Wildland Fires - 2008
- BLM Wilderness Area
- State Wildlife Reserve
- Wildland Fires - 1998
- Wildland Fires - 2011
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Wildland Fires - 1999
- Wildland Fires - 2012
- State
- USFS Wilderness Area
- Wildland Fires - 2005



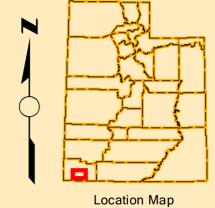
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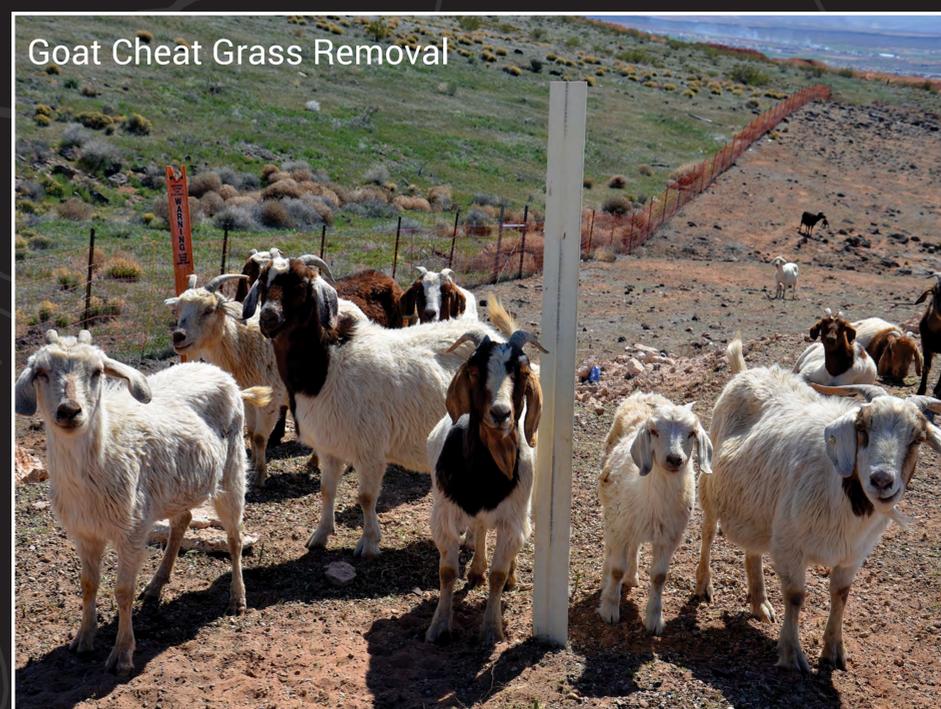
# Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

- > Infestations of noxious weeds and exotic invasive species are controlled and ultimately eradicated using Integrated Weed Management (IWM).
- > New infestations of noxious weeds and exotic invasive species are prevented through management actions and project design.
- > Ecologically sustainable and cost effective methods are employed for all IWM treatments.
- > Research is supported that increases the understanding of ecosystem processes, natural cycles (e.g., seasonal precipitation), and anthropogenic factors (e.g., livestock grazing, recreation) that affect the establishment and proliferation of noxious weeds and invasive species, and alter the historic fire regime.

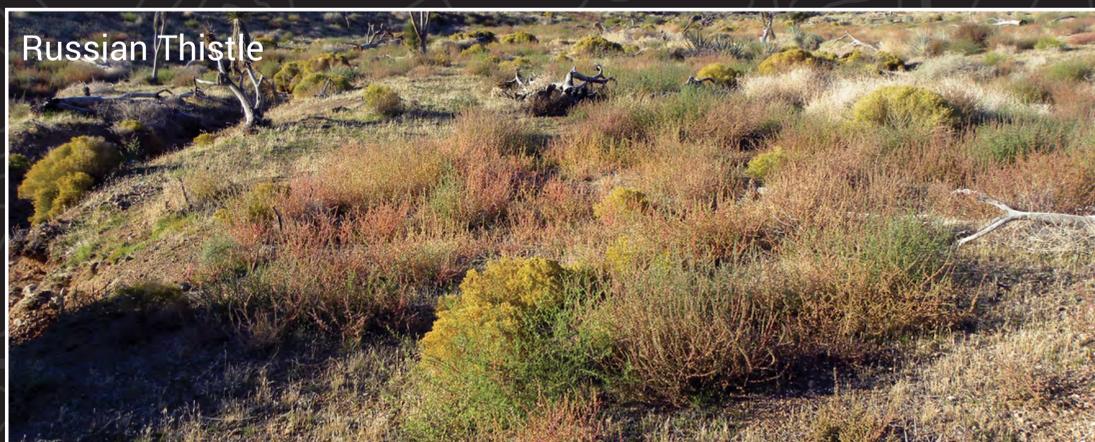
## Selected Management Actions from Alternative B (Preferred)

- > Develop and maintain a GIS database of all noxious weed and invasive species treatment projects conducted in the NCA.
- > Authorize the use of biological controls, targeted grazing, hand removal, herbicides, mechanical methods, or a combination of methods for weed treatments, depending on target species, infestation level, site characteristics, and project scale.





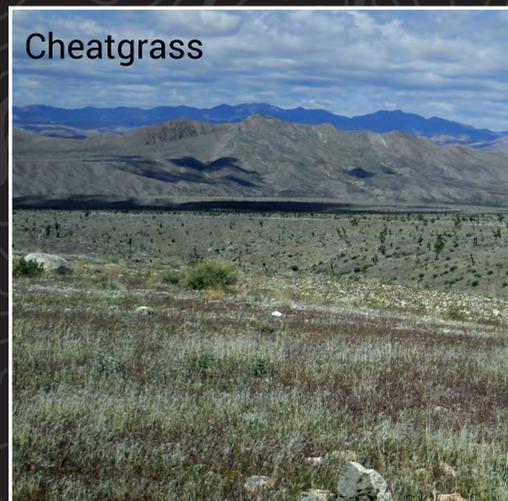
# Beaver Dam Wash NCA Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species



Russian Thistle



Field Bindweed



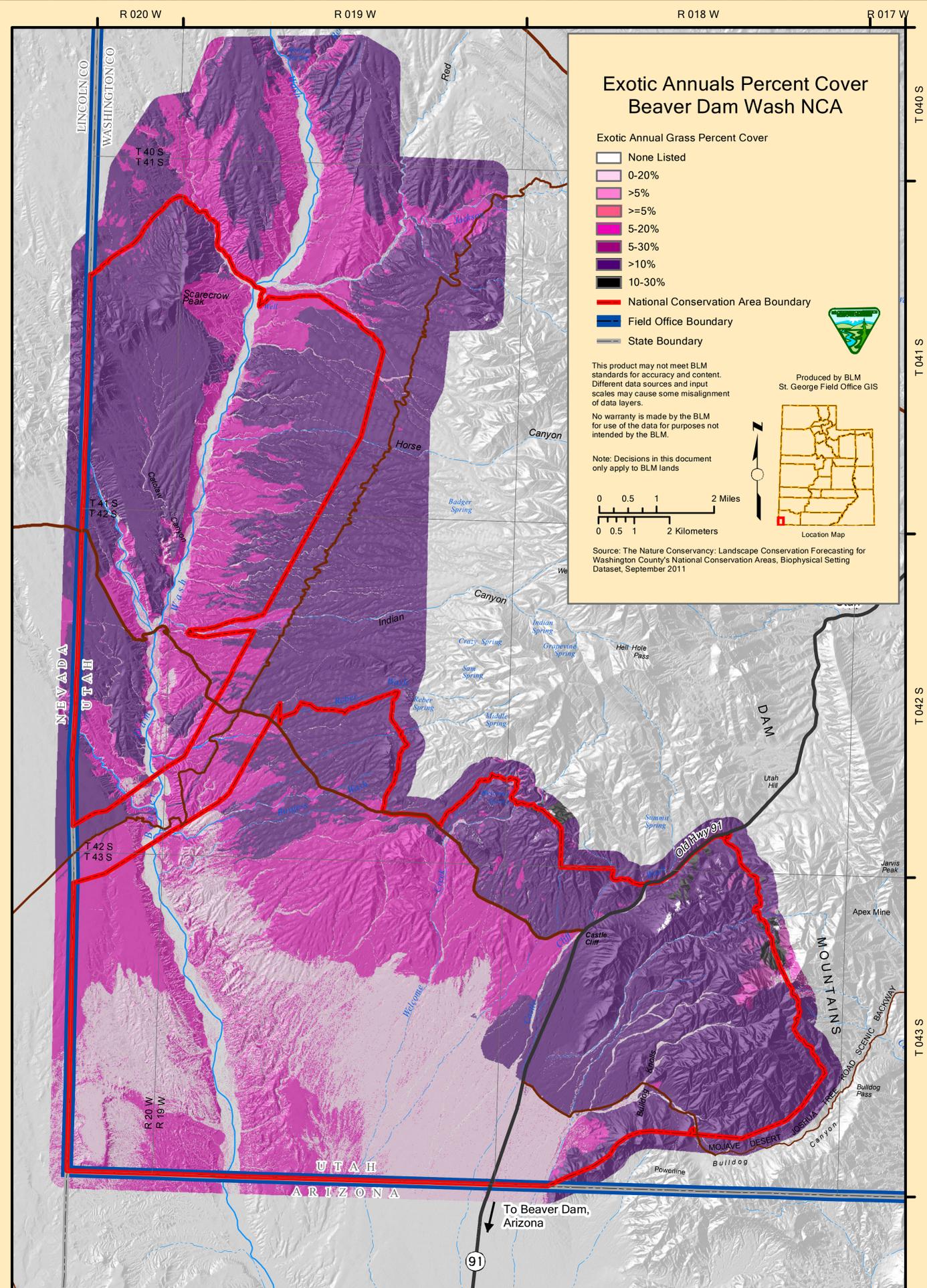
Cheatgrass



Tamarisk

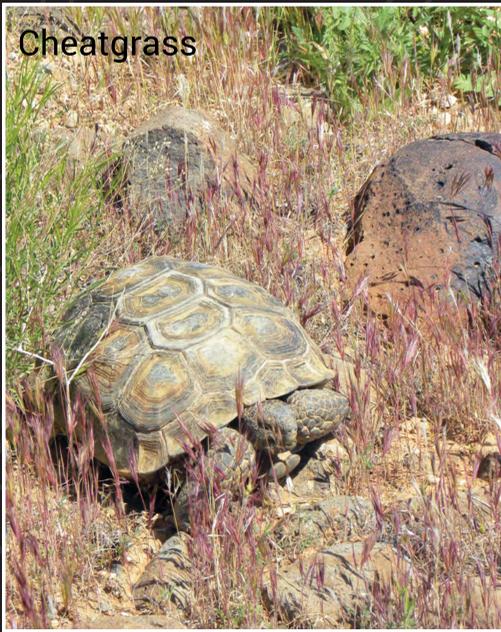


Scotch Thistle





# Red Cliffs National Conservation Area Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species



Cheatgrass



Tamarisk & Cheatgrass



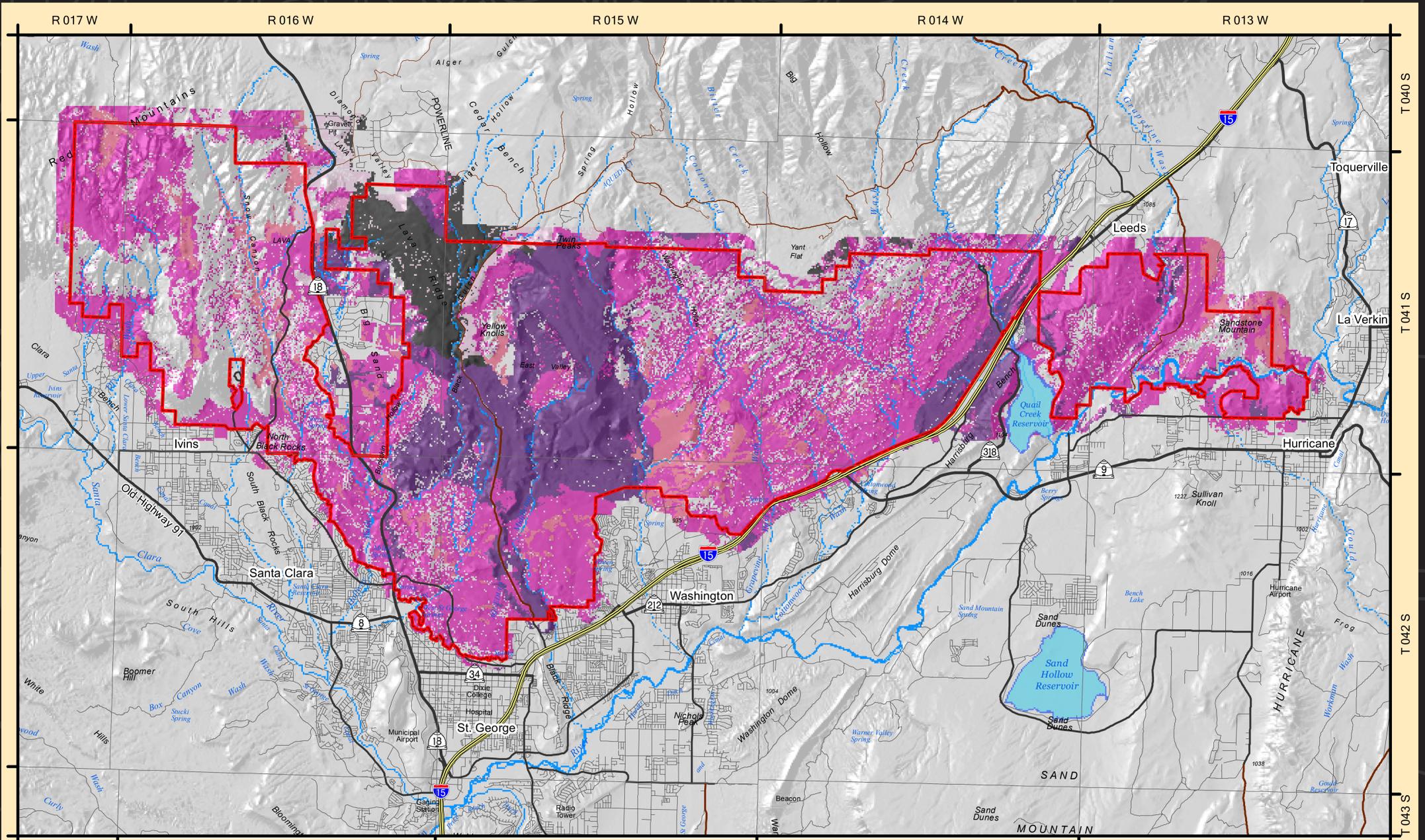
Russian Olive



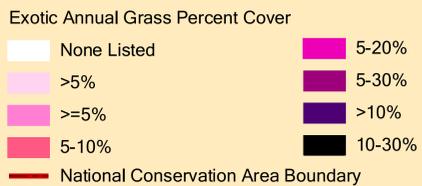
Silverleaf Nightshade



Puncture Vine



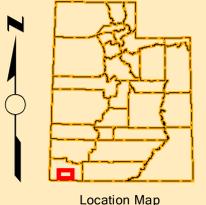
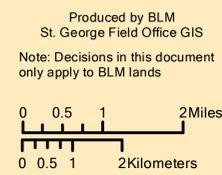
Exotic Annuals Percent Cover - Red Cliffs NCA



Source: The Nature Conservancy: Landscape Conservation Forecasting for Washington County's National Conservation Areas, Biophysical Setting Dataset, September 2011



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# Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas Special Status Reptile Species: Desert Tortoise

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

- > Land uses and authorized activities are managed to conserve, protect, and restore habitats to meet the nutritional, metabolic (shade/cover), reproductive, and home range requirements of viable desert tortoise populations.
- > Ecologically intact core areas of designated critical habitat are conserved and protected from fragmentation and loss of native vegetation communities through appropriate land use allocations and management actions across BLM programs.
- > Ecological integrity of damaged native vegetation communities is restored through appropriate re-vegetation methods and the control and eradication of noxious weeds and non-native invasive species.
- > Land uses and authorized activities are managed so that habitats provide ecological diversity and connectivity to create genetic resilience for desert tortoise populations under changing climatic conditions.
- > Research is supported that increases the knowledge of Mojave desert tortoise life histories and population dynamics in the NCA.
- > Research is supported that increases the understanding of ecosystem processes, natural cycles, and anthropogenic factors that may influence predicted climate change scenarios.

## Selected Management Actions from Alternative B (Preferred)

- > Beaver Dam Wash NCA: Prohibit the discharge of firearms on 50,908 acres of designated critical habitat for the desert tortoise (pursuant to the Recovery Plan 1994, revised 2011), except in the act of licensed hunting according to state laws during prescribed seasons.
- > Red Cliffs NCA: Require reclamation for activities that result in the loss or degradation of tortoise habitat. Good quality habitat would be restored to as close to pre-disturbance conditions as practicable. Damaged habitats would be improved to good quality through restoration, wherever practicable. Additional mitigation measures may be included in decision documents to offset the loss of quality and quantity of tortoise habitat.





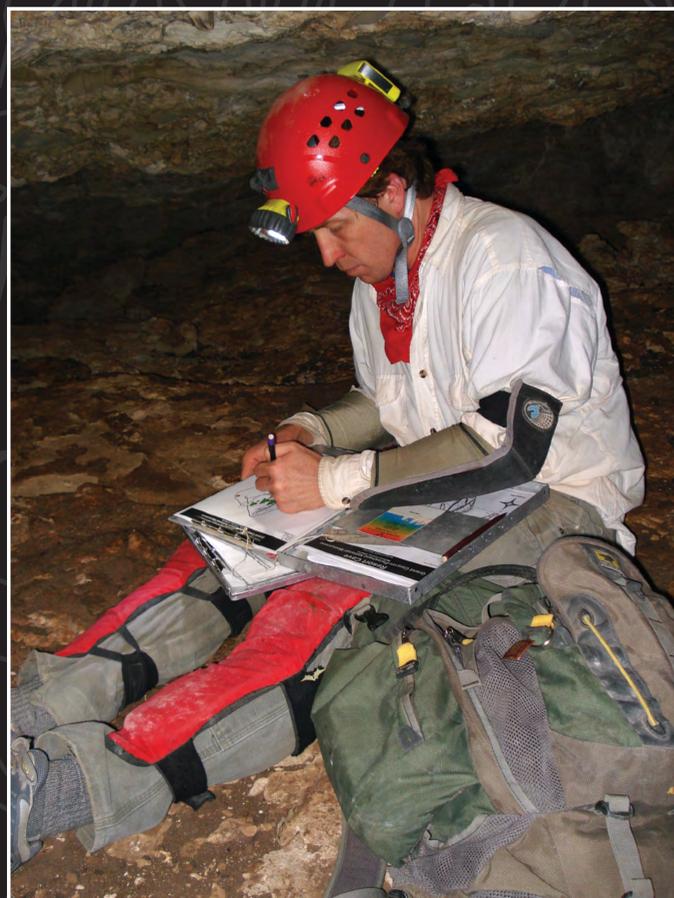
# Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas Scientific Research and Climate Change Monitoring

## Selected Management Actions for Scientific Research from Alternative B (Preferred)

- > Beaver Dam Wash NCA: Recruit and train youth and veteran groups, citizen stewards, and other volunteers to participate in inventory and data recovery projects that enhance public understanding of the earth history of the NCA.
- > Red Cliffs NCA: Develop new volunteer opportunities for partners, youth groups, and citizen scientists to assist with collecting observations of southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, and other riparian-obligate avian species in the NCA along Quail Creek, Leeds Creeks, and the Virgin River.
- > Red Cliffs NCA: Pursue opportunities for scientific studies that focus on developing cost-effective methods to restore biological (cryptogamic) soil crusts in disturbed and fire-altered desert ecosystems.

## Selected Management Actions for Climate Change Monitoring from Alternative B (Preferred)

- > Beaver Dam Wash NCA: Monitor the timing, frequency, and intensity of fall precipitation events in the NCA, as these events can be used to predict high invasive annual grass production in the following spring that will fuel catastrophic wildfires during the summer months.
- > Beaver Dam Wash NCA: Pursue opportunities to install one or more solar-powered weather stations in the NCA to collect data on temperature, precipitation, wind speed, humidity, soil moisture, solar radiation, and other variables that could signal changing climatic conditions that influence wildfire frequency and severity.
- > Red Cliffs NCA: Pursue opportunities to identify key riparian features within and adjacent to the NCA that must be protected to allow multi-species habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors under changing climate conditions.



# St. George Field Office Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

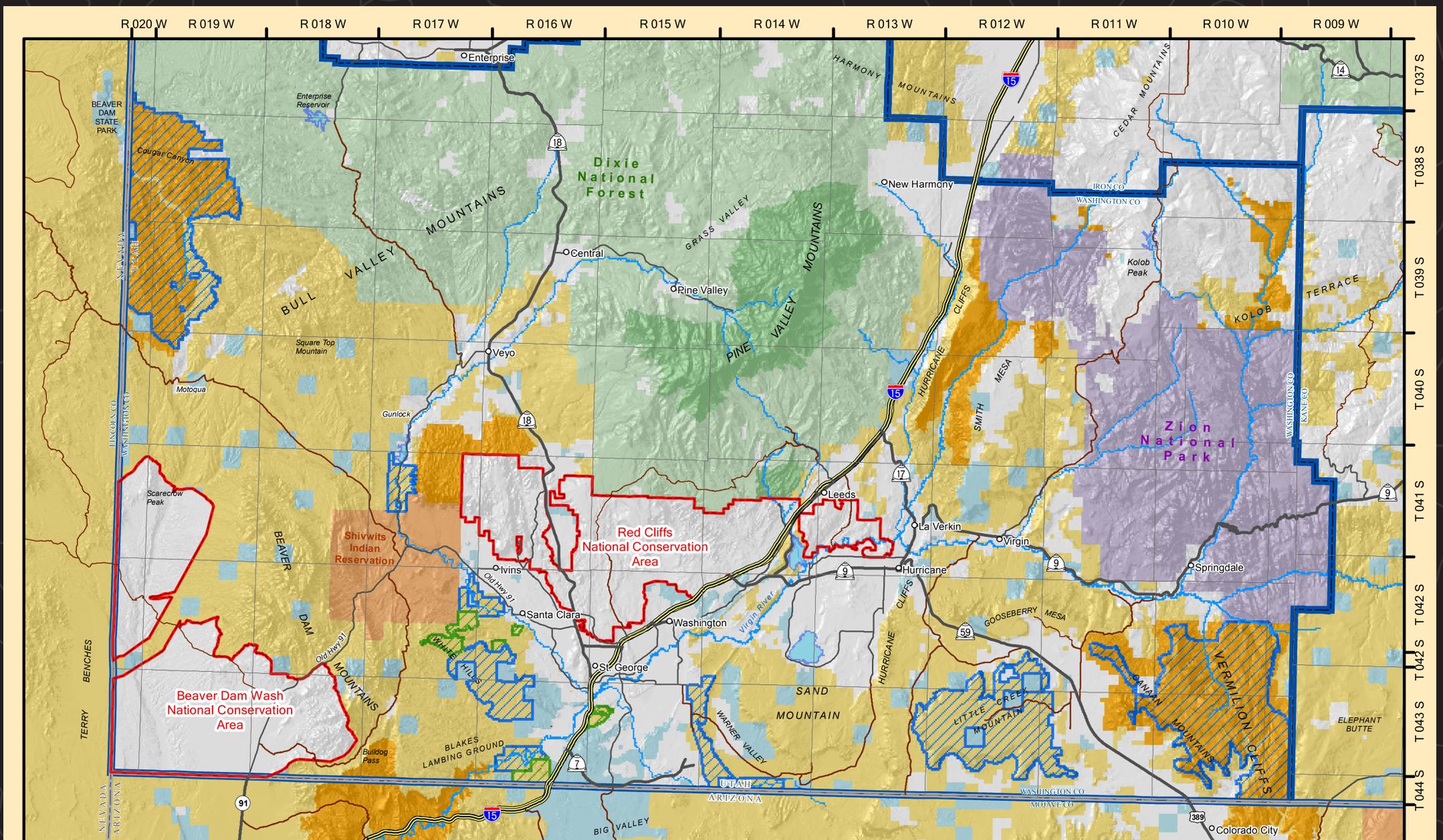
## Alternative B

Retain eight current ACECs:

- > Red Bluff ACEC (6,166 acres)
- > Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC (4,286 acres)
- > Santa Clara/Gunlock ACEC (2,002 acres)
- > Santa Clara River/Land Hill ACEC (1,664 acres)
- > Lower Virgin River ACEC (1,806 acres)
- > Little Creek Mountain ACEC (19,331 acres)
- > Canaan Mountain ACEC (33,955 acres)
- > Upper Beaver Dam Wash ACEC (33,108 acres)

Designate three new ACECs:

- > South Hills ACEC (1,950 acres) (Endangered Species: Dwarf Bearclaw Poppy and Holmgren Milkvetch)
- > State Line ACEC (1,410 acres) (Endangered Species: Holmgren's Milkvetch and Gierisch Globemallow)
- > Webb Hill ACEC (520 acres) (Endangered Species: Dwarf Bearclaw Poppy)



Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) - St. George Field Office - Alternative B

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  Proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern                 |  BLM Wilderness Area       |  State                |
|  Existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern                 |  Bureau of Land Management |  US Forest Service    |
|  Field Office Boundary   |  Indian Reservation        |  USFS Wilderness Area |
|  State Boundary  |  National Park Service     |  |
|  National Conservation Area Boundary Outside Plan Amendment Area |   |  |

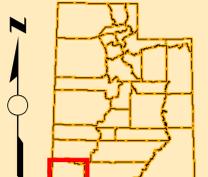
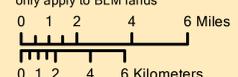


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# St. George Field Office Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

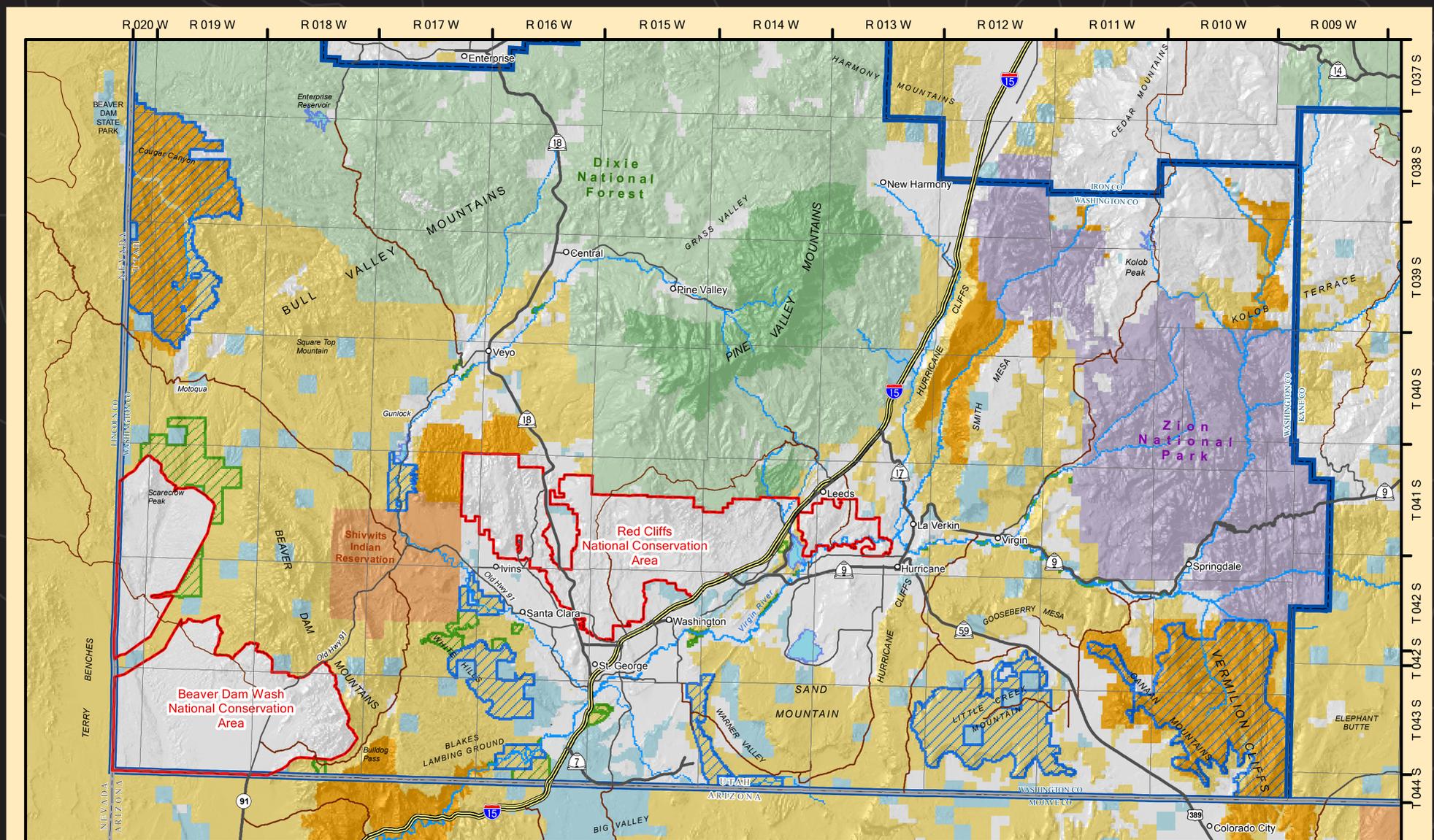
## Alternative C

Retain eight current ACECs:

- > Red Bluff ACEC (6,166 acres)
- > Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC (4,286 acres)
- > Santa Clara/Gunlock ACEC (2,002 acres)
- > Santa Clara River/Land Hill ACEC (1,664 acres)
- > Lower Virgin River ACEC (1,806 acres)
- > Little Creek Mountain ACEC (19,331 acres)
- > Canaan Mountain ACEC (33,955 acres)
- > Upper Beaver Dam Wash ACEC (33,108 acres)

Designate 14 new ACECs:

- > Dalton Wash ACEC (14 acres)
- > Grafton ACEC (45 acres)
- > Harrisburg Bench ACEC (111 acres)
- > Moody Wash ACEC (24 acres)
- > Mosquito Cove ACEC (88 acres)
- > North Creek ACEC (54 acres)
- > Santa Clara River Baker ACEC (32 acres)
- > Santa Clara River Veyo ACEC (16 acres)
- > Scarecrow Peak ACEC (9,664 acres)
- > Shinob Kibe ACEC (70 acres)
- > South Hills ACEC (1,950 acres)
- > State Line ACEC (1,410 acres)
- > Virgin River ACEC (245 acres)
- > Webb Hill ACEC (520 acres)



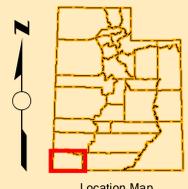
Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) - St. George Field Office - Alternative C

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  Proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern        |  BLM Wilderness Area       |  State                |
|  Existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern        |  Bureau of Land Management |  US Forest Service    |
|  Field Office Boundary                                  |  Indian Reservation        |  USFS Wilderness Area |
|  State Boundary   |  National Park Service     |  |
|  National Conservation Area Outside Plan Amendment Area |   |  |



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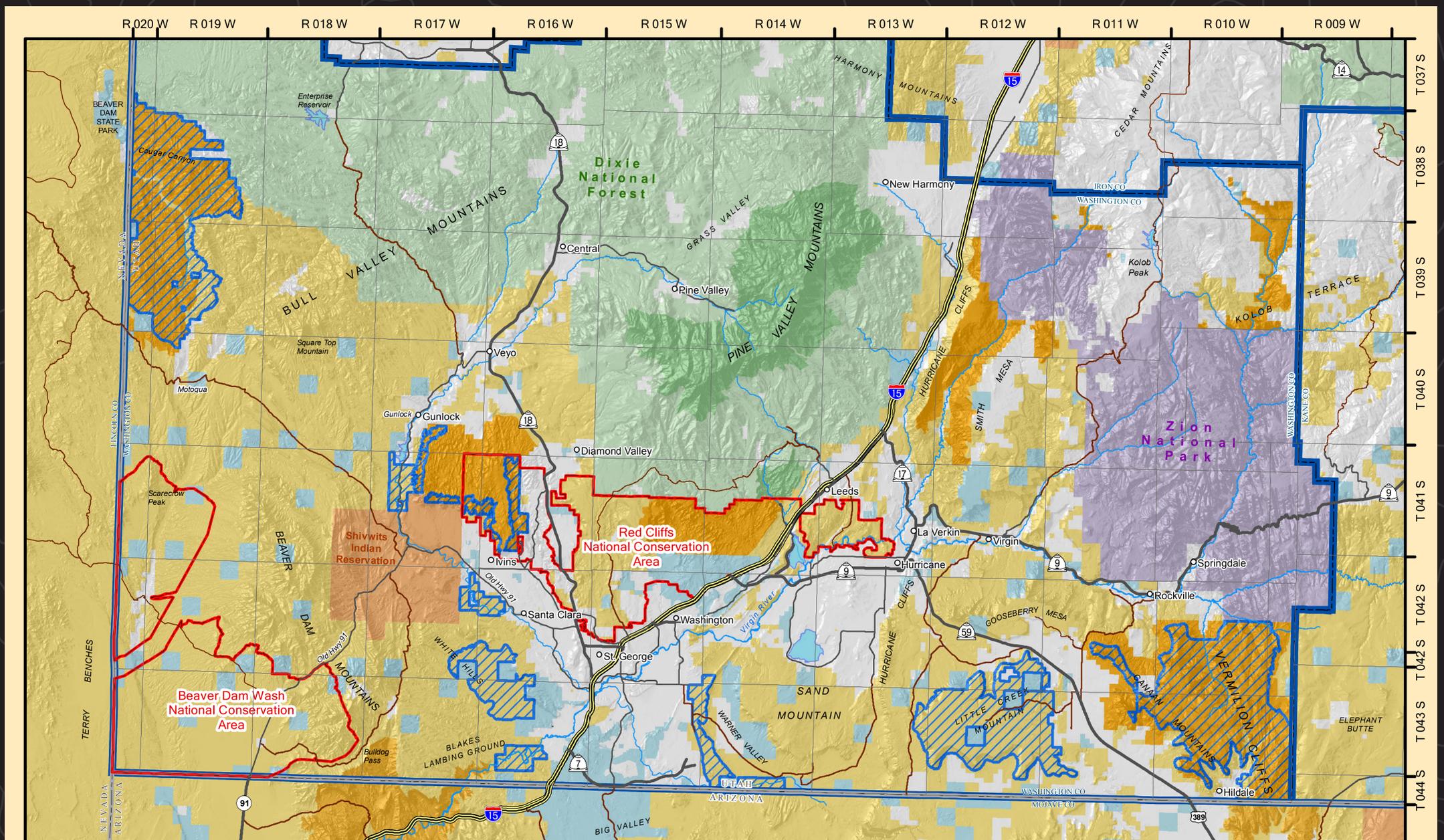
# St. George Field Office Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

## Alternative A & D

Retain eight current ACECs:

- > Red Bluff ACEC (6,166 acres)
- > Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC (4,286 acres)
- > Santa Clara/Gunlock ACEC (2,002 acres)
- > Santa Clara River/Land Hill ACEC (1,664 acres)
- > Lower Virgin River ACEC (1,806 acres)
- > Little Creek Mountain ACEC (19,331 acres)
- > Canaan Mountain ACEC (33,955 acres)
- > Upper Beaver Dam Wash ACEC (33,108 acres)

No new ACECs would be designated.



Established Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) - St. George Field Office - Alternative A (No Action), D

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  Existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)          |  BLM Wilderness Area       |  State                |
|  Field Office Boundary   |  Bureau of Land Management |  US Forest Service    |
|  State Boundary  |  Indian Reservation        |  USFS Wilderness Area |
|  National Conservation Area Boundary Outside Plan Amendment Area |  National Park Service     |  |



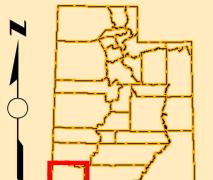
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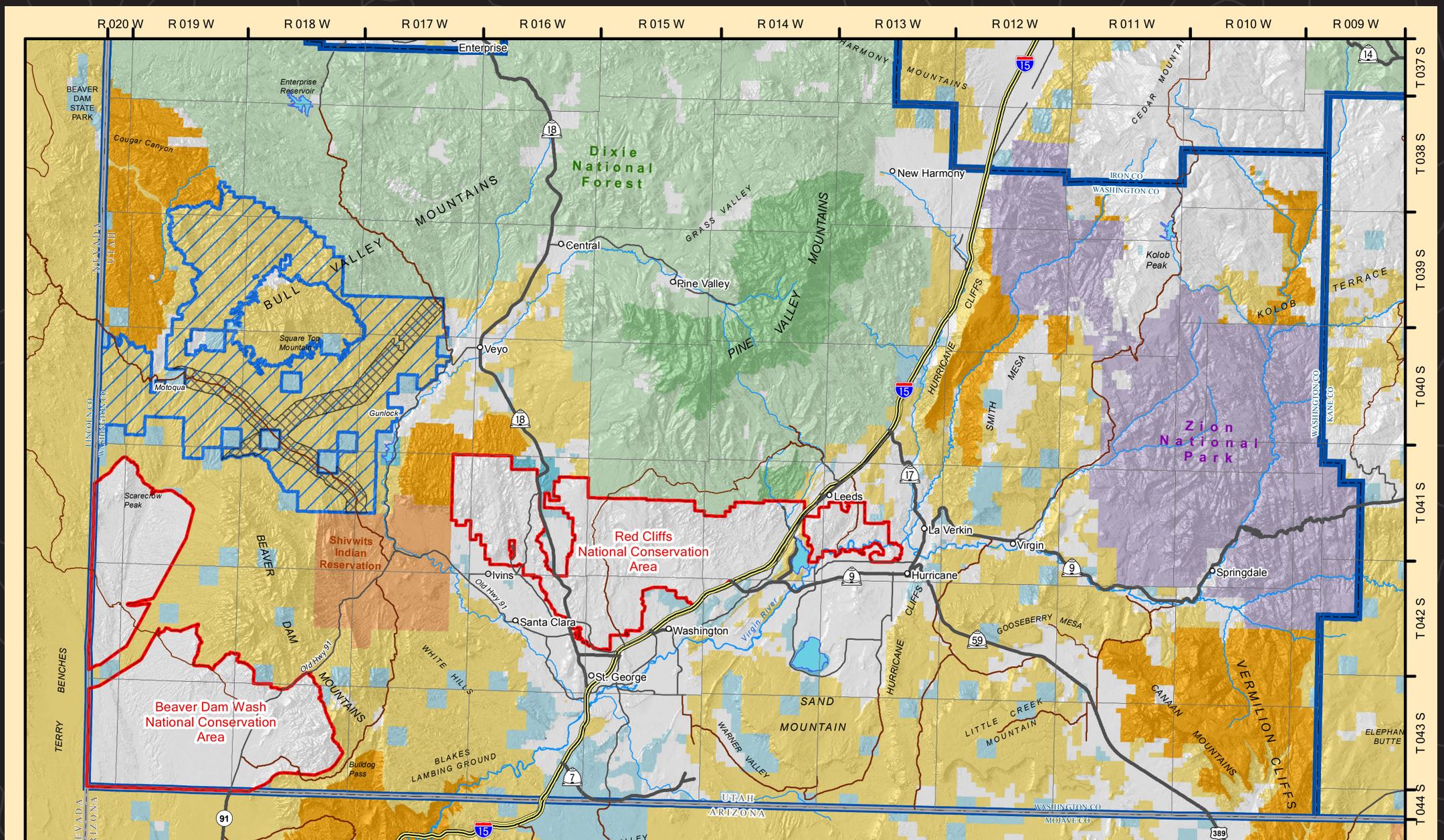
# St. George Field Office Priority Biological Conservation Areas

## Objectives for Alternative B, C, D

Manage public lands to conserve and restore plant and animal species and natural communities.

## Selected Management Actions from Alternative B (Preferred)

- Establish the Bull Valley Mountains Multi-Species Management Area (87,031 acres) as a priority biological conservation area to protect crucial habitats and seasonal migration corridors for mule deer, bighorn sheep, and predators.
- Retain approximately 87,031 acres of public land in the Management Area in federal ownership.
- Manage 72,423 acres of this area as an Avoidance area for new linear and site-type ROWs.



Bull Valley Mountains Proposed Multispecies Management Area - St. George Field Office - Alternative B, C, D



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Note: Decisions in this document only apply to BLM lands

0 1 2 4 6 Miles  
0 1 2 4 6 Kilometers

