

WILDLIFE AND WILD HORSES

Objective:

Wildlife habitats will be managed for optimum wildlife levels where conflicts with livestock do not exist. Wild horse habitat will be managed to support desired population levels at one herd location (Hill Creek), by removing two herds.

Actions:

Forage will be provided to support approximately 17,300 deer, 1,900 elk, 900 antelope, and 195 wild horses.

The following wildlife and wildhorse AUMs will be authorized during the first three years of the monitoring period:

A. BLUE MOUNTAIN LOCALITY	
Wildlife	1,768 AUMs
B. BONANZA-RAINBOW LOCALITY	
Wildlife	
Antelope	1,123 AUMs
Deer	(Unknown part of deer herd unit 28A, Proposed Herd Use = 32,577 AUMs)
Wild Horses	0 AUMs
C. BOOK CLIFFS LOCALITY	
Wildlife	(Unknown part of deer herd unit 28A, Proposed Herd Use = 32,577 AUMs)
	(Unknown part of elk herd unit 21, Proposed Herd Use = 12,128 AUMs)
Wild Horses	0 AUMs
D. HILL CREEK LOCALITY	
Wildlife	(Unknown part of deer herd unit 28A, Proposed Herd Use = 32,577 AUMs)
	(Unknown part of elk herd unit 21, 2,340 AUMs)
Wild Horses	2,340 AUMs
Totals:	
Wildlife	47,596 AUMs
Wild Horses	2,340 AUMs

Habitat for deer herd unit 26 (Blue Mountain) will be managed to support current levels. Habitat for deer herd unit 28A (Book Cliffs) will be managed to support significantly increased levels.

Antelope habitat will be managed to support increased levels at both the Bonanza and East Bench herd locations.

Four habitat management plans will be prepared. They will include plans for Blue Mountain (deer herd 26), Bonanza (antelope herd 7), East Bench (newly reestablished antelope herd) and Book Cliffs (deer herd 28A and elk herd 21).

Approximately 11,000 acres will receive some type of vegetation modification (Figure 2-15). Burning will be concentrated on 9,000 acres of mature sagebrush canyon bottoms, mature browse stands and old chainings, and old burns where pinyon-juniper is becoming reestablished. Two thousand acres of pinyon/juniper will be chained or clearcut to improve deer and elk forage in crucial winter habitats. Natural regeneration, mechanical reseeding and/or tubeling transplants could be used to reestablish vegetation.

Over the next decade, approximately 50 to 100 water projects will be developed for wildlife. The specific locations will be determined in the Habitat Management Plans.

Rangeland improvements generally will be designed to benefit or accommodate both wildlife and livestock. Vegetation manipulation projects will be designed to minimize damage to and improve wildlife habitat. Existing livestock fences could be modified, and new livestock fences will be built to allow wildlife passage. Water will be provided, where practical, in allotments (including rested pastures) during seasonal periods of need for wildlife.

A Wild Horse Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Hill Creek herd. A gathering plan will be prepared for the Bonanza and Winter Ridge herds. Approximately 40 horses will be relocated to the Hill Creek herd or be adopted.

Impacts to fish and wildlife habitat will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of fish and wildlife habitat in the affected area. Mitigations will be attached, as appropriate, to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for fish

and wildlife habitat. Habitat improvement projects will be implemented where necessary to stabilize and/or improve unsatisfactory or declining wildlife habitat condition.

Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, and if necessary, restore their natural functions (as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990). Management techniques will be used to minimize the degradation of stream banks and the loss of riparian vegetation.

Seasonal restrictions on mineral development would be the same as described in the previous minerals discussion.

Disturbed wildlife habitat resulting from mineral exploration and development, woodland harvest, etc. will be required to be returned to a state comparable to that which existed prior to development.

Support

Monitoring for all wildlife species will be closely coordinated with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. District Operations Staff will need to provide project engineering design, construction, and prescribed burning support. The woodlands program will need to provide support through timber harvest designs which enhance wildlife habitat. Water projects developed for livestock will need to be designed so that wildlife may use the water without hazard.

Specific Management Actions

Action	Priority	Year to Begin	Time Required In Work Months	Cost Estimate	Monitoring Method
Activity Plans:					
Prepare Blue Mountain HMP	1	1	3 WM	\$7,200	District review.
Prepare Book Cliffs HMP	2	2	3 WM	\$7,200	District review.
Prepare Hill Creek HMP	3	3	3 WM	\$7,200	District review.
Prepare Bonanza HMP	4	4	3 WM	\$7,200	District review.
Wild Horse Management:					
Prepare Wild Horse Gathering Plan	1	2	0.5 WM	\$1,300	District review.
Wild Horse Removals of Bonanza and Winter Ridge Herds	2	2	2 WM	\$15,000	Field observations, contract supervision.
Prepare Wild Horse HMP	3	2	0.5 WM	\$1,200	District review.
Projects:					
Develop 2 Guzzlers on East Bench	1	1	1 WM	\$13,400	Field observations and maintenance.
Habitat Utilization Studies (Areawide)	2	1 (Annually)	1 WM	\$13,400	Field observations and maintenance.
Prescribed Burns on Blue Mountain (750-1,500 acres)	3	2	1.5 WM	\$3,600	Field observations.

Action	Priority	Year to Begin	Time Required		Cost Estimate	Monitoring Method
			In Work Months			
Blue Mountain Water Projects (6-12 projects)	4	2	0.5	WM	\$2,700	Field observations and maintenance.
Protective Fencing for Ponds on Blue Mountain	5	2	0.5	WM	\$3,000	Habitat studies.
Modify Sunday School Pasture Fence	6	2	0.25	WM	\$600	Field observations and maintenance.
Prescribed Burns for Book Cliffs HMP (6,000 acres)	7	3	7	WM	\$16,800	Field observations.
West Tom Patterson Deer/Elk Guzzler	8	3	1.5	WM	\$18,000	Field observations and maintenance.
Book Cliffs Water Projects (26-53 projects)	9	3	2.5	WM	\$14,000	Field observations and maintenance.
Protective Fencing for Ponds, Springs, and Streams in Book Cliffs	10	3	2.5	WM	\$15,000	Habitat studies.
Monument Ridge Deer/Elk Guzzlers (2)	11	3	3	WM	\$36,000	Field observations and maintenance.
Little Dry Canyon Fishery	12	3	5	WM	\$25,000- \$35,000	Habitat studies.
Hill Creek Prescribed Burns (750-1,000 acres)	13	4	1	WM	\$2,400	Field observations.

Action	Priority	Year to Begin	Time Required In Work Months	Cost Estimate	Monitoring Method
Hill Creek Water Projects (8-15 projects)	14	4	1 WM	\$3,900	Field observations and maintenance.
Protective Fencing for Ponds, Springs, and Streams in Hill Creek	15	4	0.5 WM	\$3,000	Habitat studies.
Prescribed Burns for Bonanza HMP (2,500 acres)	16	5	3 WM	\$7,200	Field observations.
Bonanza Water Projects (10-20 projects)	17	5	1 WM	\$4,000	Field observations and maintenance.
Protective Fencing for Ponds, Springs, and Streams in Bonanza	18	5	0.5 WM	\$3,000	Habitat studies.
East Bench Antelope Guzzlers (3)	19	5	1.5 WM	\$18,900	Field observations and maintenance.
Brennan Bottoms Antelope Guzzler	20	5	0.75 WM	\$7,300	Field observations and maintenance.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES

Objective:

To comply with appropriate legislation and regulations directing management of threatened and endangered species.

Actions:

No activities will be permitted in habitat for endangered or threatened species that will jeopardize the continued existence of such species (Figure 2-16).

Whenever possible, management activities in habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement.

The BLM will complete either a clearance (minor actions and projects) or a biological assessment (major actions and projects requiring an EIS) for endangered or threatened species before implementing projects. Any project or action that could affect an endangered or threateed species or its habitat will be determined through the clearance or biological assessment process and will require a consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended.

Support

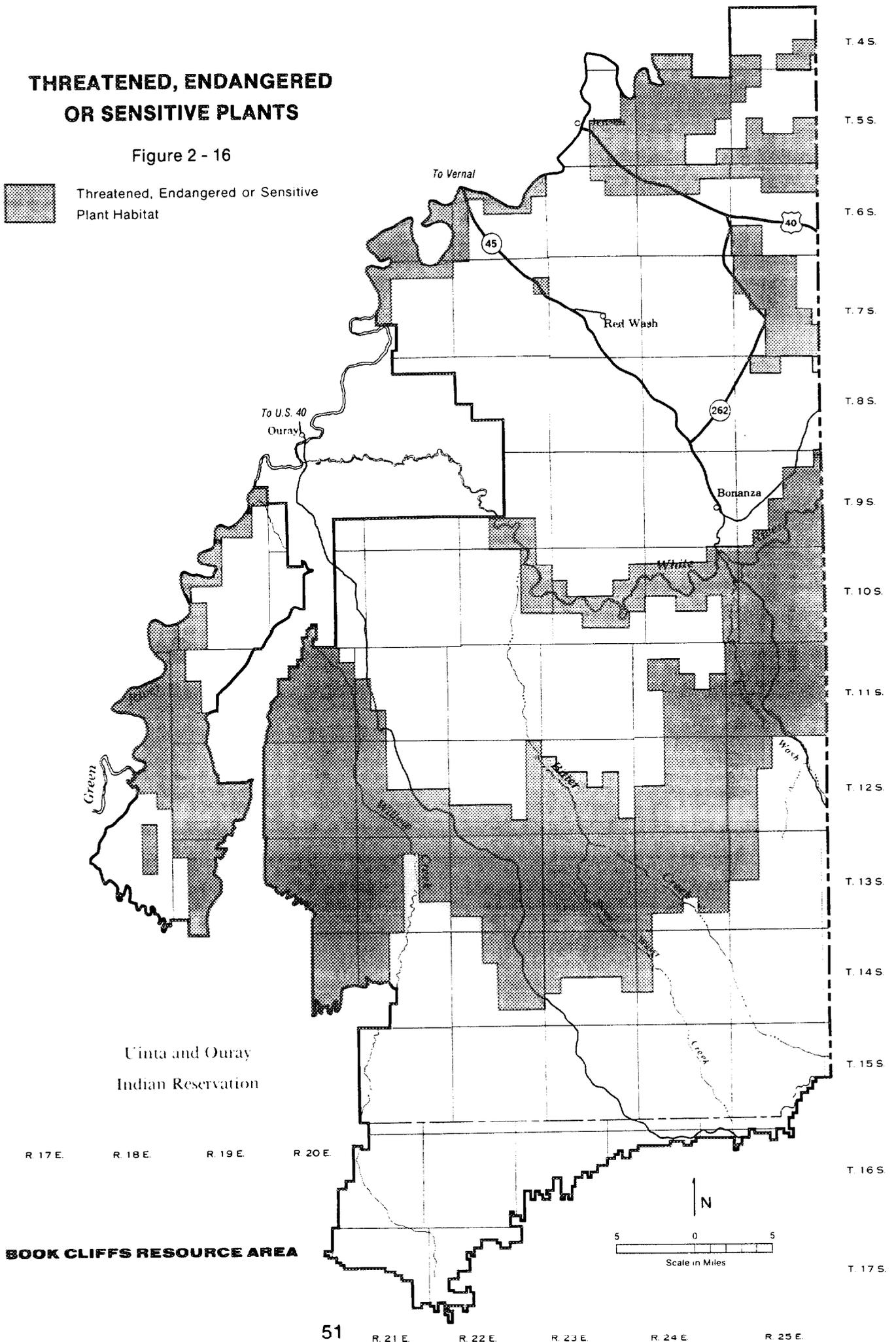
If contracting of the inventories proves to be the most effective method of accomplishment, up to four work months could be required for contract preparation, technical proposal evaluation and contract supervision by BLM personnel.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED OR SENSITIVE PLANTS

Figure 2 - 16



Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive
Plant Habitat



BOOK CLIFFS RESOURCE AREA

Specific Management Actions

Action	Priority	Year to Begin	Time Required In Work Months	Cost Estimate	Monitoring Method
Project Clearances	1	Annually	4 WM	\$8,600	Literature search.
Black-footed Ferret Survey (60,000 acres)	2	1			Literature search, map- ping, field observations, photographic recordation.
Tabyago/West Tabyago Vicinity Flora Inven- tory (48,000 acres)	3	1	7 WM	\$16,800	Literature search, profes- sional consultations, spot checking field work, photographic recordation, specimen collection.
Upper Sweetwater and Bitter Creek Drain- ages Flora Inventory (100,000 acres)	4	2	15 WM	\$35,000	Literature search, profes- sional consultations, spot checking field work, photographic recordation, specimen collection.
Upper Evacuation Creek Drainage Flora Inven- tory (23,000 acres)	5	3	3.5 WM	\$8,050	Literature search, profes- sional consultations, spot checking field work, photographic recordation, specimen collection.
Bull Canyon Road and West to Indian Res- ervation Flora Inven- tory (23,000 acres)	6	4	3.5 WM	\$8,050	Literature search, profes- sional consultations, spot checking field work, photographic recordation, specimen collection.

Action	Priority	Year to Begin	Time Required In Work Months	Cost Estimate	Monitoring Method
Main Canyon Flora Inventory (40,000 acres)	7	5	6 WM	\$14,000	Literature search, profes- sional consultations, spot checking field work, photographic recordation, specimen collection.