

## **NINE MILE CANYON ACEC**

### **Objective**

*Protect and enhance the cultural and special status plant species values of the canyon while enhancing its scenic, recreation, and wildlife resource values.*

### **Management Levels**

- Level 2 - Cultural sites eligible for or listed on NRHP, scenic and recreational values of Nine Mile and Argyle Creeks, federally-listed plant species habitat, and primitive/natural areas (20%)
- Level 3 - Riparian, raptor habitat, special status plant species habitats, visual resources, highly erodible soils, crucial big game winter habitat, potential bighorn sheep habitat, and highly sensitive cultural areas (80%)
- Total Federal Acreage - 50,600 acres
- Refer to Map 3-4

### **Management Prescriptions**

#### **Cultural.**

- NM01** Allocate cultural sites, including ethnographic properties into three classifications: (1) information potential, (2) public values, and (3) conservation.
- NM02** Develop approximately five miles of recreation and interpretive trails and/or facilities at selected cultural sites. Develop a facility in Nine Mile Canyon to interpret and manage use of the area.
- NM03** Consult with the Ute Tribe for protection of areas and items of traditional lifeways and religious significance.

#### **Fire.**

- NM04** Allow fires to burn under prescribed conditions only to enhance the stated resource values.

#### **Fish and Wildlife.**

- NM05** Provide habitat for and allow for reintroduction of Colorado cutthroat trout, 100-200 head of bighorn sheep, 100 head of moose, and upland game birds.
- NM06** Colorado cutthroat trout habitat management will follow the general guidance present in BLM's Special Status Fishes Habitat Management Plan and UDWR's Native Cutthroat Trout Management Plan, presently being developed. In addition, habitat maintenance objectives on currently satisfactory streams will include monitoring of vegetation with low level infra-red photography, continued macro-invertebrate sampling, and water quality analysis to acquire additional water rights to supply a more consistent summer water flow, decreased livestock grazing pressure to improve early and mid-seral riparian zones, and the planting of additional shrubs and trees. Habitat expansion objectives will involve the isolation of streams with fish barriers to prevent hybridization and contamination with nonnative fish followed by the habitat improvement previously mentioned.
- NM07** Take opportunities to eliminate domestic sheep grazing within 10 miles of identified bighorn sheep habitat by using negotiation of changes in class of livestock (from sheep to cattle), alternative grazing systems, etc.
- NM08** Improve or maintain habitat in bighorn sheep reintroduction areas. Actions may include vegetation treatment, road closures, additional water sources, etc.
- NM09** Permanent human occupation or dwellings will not be allowed on public lands within bighorn sheep habitat. If activities do affect such habitats, mitigation will be required to provide improvements to compensate for habitat loss.
- NM10** Do not allow activities that would result in adverse impacts to deer and elk from December 1 through April 30 on crucial deer and elk winter range.

## **Lands and Realty.**

- NM11** Acquire needed legal motorized vehicular access to Argyle Ridge, Nine Mile Canyon-east end, and Jensen Canyon. Acquire needed nonmotorized access to Nine Mile Canyon and Little Sulfur Canyon.
- NM12** Establish a right-of-way avoidance area within level 2 lands. Make level 3 lands available to support permitted activities with special restrictions designed to protect the stated resource values.
- NM13** Recommend protective withdrawals that preclude entry under the 1872 General Mining Law, as amended or revised, and the agricultural entry laws, or other protective measures on level 2 lands.
- NM14** Acquire fee title or interest in lands (e.g., water rights) within the area as opportunities become available.

## **Livestock.**

- NM15** Level 3 lands are open to livestock grazing. Level 2 lands are open to grazing strategies to enhance or maintain the level 2 values identified above.
- NM16** No grazing is allowed on cultural sites eligible for or listed on NRHP.
- NM17** Allow rangeland improvements and grazing prescriptions to maintain or improve the stated values within the area.

## **Minerals.**

- NM18** About 20,720 acres within the ACEC are Category 1 for leasable minerals; 21,730 acres are Category 2; and 8,350 acres are Category 3.
- NM19** About 20,720 acres within the ACEC are open to geophysical activities; 21,730 acres are restricted; and 8,350 acres are open with no significant surface disturbance.
- NM20** About 20,720 acres within the ACEC are Category 1 for mineral material disposals; 21,730 acres are Category 2; and 8,350 acres are Category 3.

- NM21** Until a protective withdrawal is in place and in force, any mining activity other than casual use will require a mining plan of operations. Operations are restricted by stipulations designed to protect the natural and primitive values of the area within the operating parameters of the 1872 General Mining Law, as amended or revised, and FLPMA.

## **Recreation.**

- NM22** Level 3 lands, except critical soils, are open to OHV use with seasonal restrictions designed for watershed, soils, and vegetation resource protection. Level 2 (except the primitive/natural areas) and the critical soils within level 3 are open to OHV use on designated roads and trails. The primitive/natural areas, within level 2, are closed to OHV use. This does not apply to permitted BLM activities or authorized administrative uses.
- NM23** Developed recreation sites will be closed to grazing and surface-disturbing activities not related to recreational development.
- NM24** Allow development of limited facilities, needed to protect health and human safety, at potential recreation sites within the ACEC.
- NM25** Maintain the character and values of the identified primitive/natural areas by closing the area to OHV use and motorized surface-disturbing activities.
- NM26** Develop hiking and/or horseback trails along Nine Mile Creek.
- NM27** Establish a Special Recreation Management Area to cover the Nine Mile Canyon area.

## **Riparian.**

- NM28** Improve riparian habitat in early and mid ecological stages by establishing grazing systems and constructing rangeland improvements designed to enhance the riparian values.
- NM29** Provide sufficient herbaceous forage biomass to meet requirements of plant vigor maintenance, bank protection, and sediment entrapment.
- NM30** Allow new surface-disturbing activities within 330' of riparian zones, only when it can be

shown there are no practical alternatives, that long-term impacts are fully mitigated, or that the construction is an enhancement to the riparian area.

### Soil and Water.

- NM31** Allow new surface-disturbing activities on critical soils within level 3 areas of the ACEC only if watershed values are maintained.
- NM32** Areas of critical soils and floodplains are closed to OHV use and surface-disturbing activities during periods of saturated soil (usually spring runoff and fall rains).
- NM33** Level 3 are available for major (larger than 1 acre-foot capacity) water developments with special restrictions designed to maintain the visual qualities of the ACEC. Outside of these areas, major water developments could be permitted if the project is consistent with the area's prescriptions.

### Vegetation

- NM34** Allow mechanical, fire, biological, or chemical control of noxious weeds and insect infestations within the ACEC with restrictions to minimize adverse impacts to cultural sites, special status plant species habitat, scenic, and watershed values.
- NM35** Manage the vegetation to attain the ecological stage that would most benefit the special status plant species habitats, primitive/natural, riparian, and scenic resource values.
- NM36** Manipulate 400 acres of pinyon-juniper woodlands to increase forage production and improve wildlife habitat.
- NM37** Do not allow surface-disturbing activities on special status plant species habitat within the ACEC. A site-specific analysis will be completed to determine if site characteristics exclude potential habitat from a proposed surface-disturbing activity.

### Visual.

- NM38** Maintain the natural and primitive qualities of identified segments along Argyle and Nine Mine Creeks and VRM Class II areas. Allow only short-term or mitigable visual intrusions on VRM Class II lands of the ACEC.

### Woodlands.

- NM39** Level 3 lands are open to the sale and/or harvest of woodland products with restrictions designed to protect the stated resource values. Level 2 lands are closed.
- NM40** On a case-by-case basis to meet other resource management goals, allow for the sale of ponderosa pine and other large conifer and aspen on level 3 lands. Level 2 lands are closed.
- NM41** Woodland treatments and harvests will continue to be designed in a mosaic pattern, leaving inclusions of live and dead trees within treated or harvested areas. Irregular boundaries of treatment and harvest areas will be required to reduce the detrimental impacts to the scenic values.

### Support Needs

- sNM42** Develop and implement a coordinated activity plan for the ACEC.
- sNM43** Implement where necessary the *Sclerocactus glaucus* recovery plan as developed by the USF&WS (1990).
- sNM44** Develop and implement activity plans for special status plant species habitats found within the ACEC. Should the USF&WS develop recovery plans for these species, implement those decisions where necessary.

# Nine Mile Canyon ACEC Diamond Mountain RMP

- 200 Ft. Contour 
- Section Lines 
- Roads 
- ACEC Bounds 

Scale 1:275000

BLM, Vernal District Office  
Diamond Mountain Resource Area  
Fall, 1994

