

RED CREEK WATERSHED ACEC

Objective

Manage the watershed to continue the reduction of sedimentation into Red Creek (and the downstream Green River) by stabilizing channels and streambanks and by maintaining or increasing vegetation cover throughout the watershed, and to enhance wildlife habitat values.

Management Levels

- Level 2 - Sage grouse strutting grounds, cultural sites eligible or listed on the NRHP (2%)
- Level 3 - Highly erodible and salt-containing soils, riparian, crucial big game habitat, sage grouse nesting areas, potential bighorn sheep habitat, raptor nesting sites (93%)
- Level 4 - Remaining resources (5%)
- Total Federal Acreage - 24,600 acres
- Refer to Map 3-6

Management Prescriptions

Cultural.

- RC01** Allocate cultural sites including ethnographic properties into one of three management categories using the criteria established in Table 2-2.
- RC02** Consult with the Ute Tribe for the protection of areas and items of traditional lifeways and religious significance.

Fire.

- RC03** Allow fires to burn under prescribed conditions only to enhance the stated resource values.

Fish and Wildlife.

- RC04** Do not allow activities that will result in adverse impacts to deer and elk from December 1

through April 30 on crucial deer and elk winter range.

- RC05** Do not allow surface-disturbing activities within 1,000' of sage grouse strutting grounds year 'round, which cannot be mitigated or would not enhance sage grouse habitat. OHV use is limited to designated roads and trails.

- RC06** No construction or surface-disturbing activities (does not apply to casual use) are allowed year 'round within 1/2 mile of known golden eagle or ferruginous hawk nests which would adversely affect current use, or limit or preclude potential future use of the nest, or unless a permit to take is obtained from the USF&WS.

- RC07** No construction or surface-disturbing activities (does not apply to casual use) are allowed year 'round within 1/2 mile of known bald eagle nests or 1 mile of known peregrine falcon nests. These restrictions do not apply to maintenance and operation of existing facilities. They do not apply if impacts could be mitigated through other management actions. Site-specific analyses are completed to determine if terrain features adequately protect the nest site from the proposed surface-disturbing activity.

- RC08** Provide habitat and allow for the reintroduction of upland game birds.

Lands and Realty.

- RC09** Establish a right-of-way avoidance area in level 2 lands. Make level 3 lands available to support permitted activities with special restrictions to protect the identified resource values.

- RC10** Acquire fee title or interest in lands (e.g., water rights, scenic easements) with a priority placed on lands within levels 2 and 3.

Livestock.

- RC11** Level 3 lands are open to grazing. Level 2 lands are open to prescribed grazing designed to maintain or enhance the watershed and wildlife habitat values. No grazing is allowed on cultural sites eligible for, or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- RC12** Allow rangeland improvements and grazing prescription to maintain or improve the values identified within the ACEC.

Minerals.

- RC13** About 530 acres within the ACEC are Category 1 for leasable minerals; 21,530 acres are Category 2; and 2,540 acres are Category 3.
- RC14** About 530 acres are open to geophysical activities; 21,530 acres are restricted; and 2,540 acres are open with no significant surface disturbance.
- RC15** About 530 acres are Category 1 for mineral material disposal; 21,530 acres are category 2; and 2,540 acres are Category 4.
- RC16** Any mineral activity other than casual use will require a mining plan of operations. Operations are restricted by stipulations designed to protect the identified resource values.

Recreation.

- RC17** Level 3 lands, excluding critical soils, are open to OHV use with seasonal restrictions for watershed and wildlife protection; level 2 lands and critical soils in level 3 are open to OHV use on designated roads and trails.
- RC18** Develop interpretive sites and/or facilities in the Clay Basin Gas Field.

Riparian.

- RC19** Provide sufficient herbaceous forage biomass to meet requirements of plant vigor maintenance, bank protection, and sediment entrapment.
- RC20** 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.
- RC21** Improve riparian habitat in early and mid ecological stages by establishing grazing systems and implementing rangeland improvements designed to enhance the riparian values of the ACEC.



Soil and Water.

- RC22** Allow new surface-disturbing activities on critical soils within level 3 lands if watershed values are maintained.
- RC23** 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).
- RC24** Level 3 lands are available for major (larger than 1 acre-foot capacity) water developments with special restrictions. Outside of these areas, major water developments could be permitted if the project is consistent with these management prescriptions.

Vegetation.

- RC25** Allow mechanical, fire, biological, or chemical control of noxious weeds and insect infestations within the ACEC with restrictions designed to protect the vegetation ground cover, watershed conditions, and water quality values.
- RC26** Manage the vegetation to attain the ecological stage that would most benefit wildlife in crucial habitat, and manage vegetation in the remaining areas in a way which results in the highest vegetation species diversity for the maintenance and enhancement of watershed values.
- RC27** Manipulate 500 acres of pinyon-juniper woodlands to increase forage production and improve wildlife habitat.
- RC28** 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.
- RC29** The guidelines provided in Chapter 2 will be incorporated into sagebrush vegetation treatments involving sage grouse habitat within the ACEC.

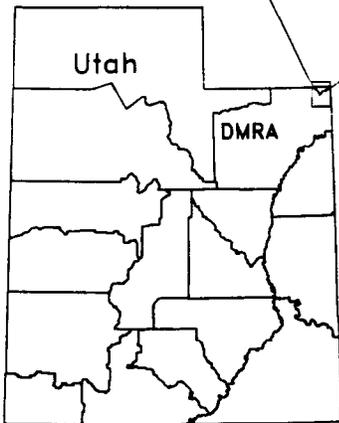
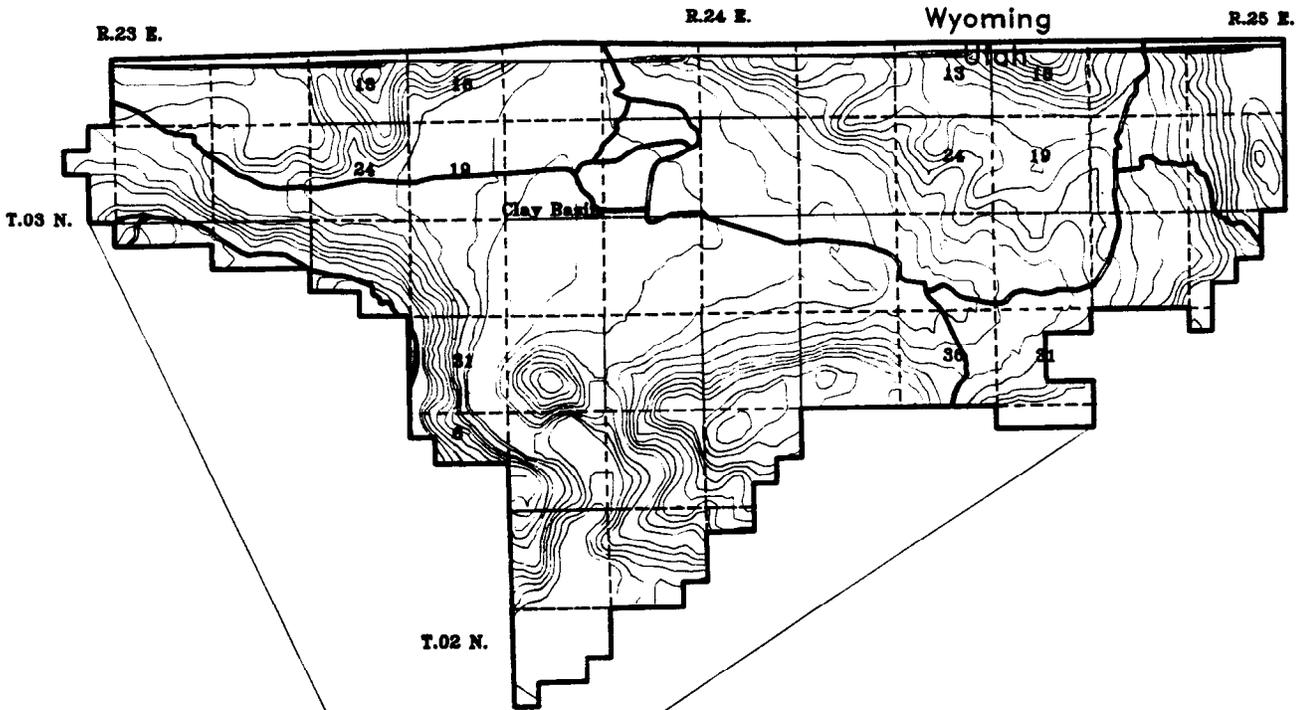
Woodlands.

- RC30** Level 3 lands are open to the sale and/or harvest of woodland products. Level 2 lands are closed.

RC31 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

sRC32 Develop a coordinated resource activity plan for the ACEC providing specific management prescriptions for those resource values within the ACEC. This plan will replace the existing Red Creek Watershed Activity Plan.



Red Creek ACEC Diamond Mountain RMP

- 100 Ft. Contour ———
- Section Lines - - - -
- Roads ———
- ACEC Bounds ———

Scale 1:125000

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