

Table 2.1.21 Proposed RMP and Alternatives – Special Status Species

PROPOSED RMP	Alternative A (Draft RMP/EIS Preferred Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D Current Management (No Action)	Alternative E
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES					
Special Status Species — Plants					
<p>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and protect special status species and enhance their habitats. • Implement recovery measures for special status species, including listed species and the ecosystems on which they depend. • Mitigate or reduce long-term habitat fragmentation through avoidance and site-specific reclamation to return areas to productive levels. • Manage all listed T&E plant species and the habitats upon which they depend in such a manner as to conserve and recover these species to the point where protection under the ESA is no longer necessary. • Manage non-listed sensitive species and the habitats upon which they depend in such a manner as to preclude the need to list them as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The guidance for this management is put forth in the BLM 6840 Manual. • Implement the specific goals and objectives of recovery plans, conservation agreements and strategies, and approved activity level plans. The BLM would continue to work with USFWS and others to ensure that plans and agreements are updated as necessary to reflect the latest scientific data. • Implement the direction contained in the Northwest National Fire Plan Project Design and Consultation Process and the Counterpart Regulations, including Alternative Consultation Agreements. • Implement the management necessary to increase populations of special status species, including federally listed animal species, and restore them to their historic ranges by enhancing, protecting, and restoring known and potential habitat. 					
<p>MANAGEMENT COMMON TO THE PROPOSED RMP AND ALL ALTERNATIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BLM would continue to implement the specific goals and objectives of all recovery plans, conservation plans and strategies, and activity level plans. • The BLM would continue to work with USFWS and others to ensure that plans and agreements are updated as necessary to reflect the latest scientific data. Recovery plans have been finalized for Uinta Basin hookless cactus, shrubby reed–mustard, and clay reed-mustard. A draft plan is being developed by the USFWS for Ute ladies’ tresses. A Conservation Plan has been prepared for <i>Astragalus equisolensis</i>, <i>Penstemon goodrichii</i>, <i>Penstemon grahamii</i>, and <i>Penstemon scarious</i> var. <i>albifluvis</i>. • Where special status plant species, including listed T&E plant species, occur on public lands in the VPA, the BLM would collaborate with affected local, state, and federal agencies and researchers in the implementation of approved recovery plans and conservation strategies to protect, stabilize, and recover such species and their habitats. In addition to on-the-ground actions, strategies would be developed to provide public education on species at-risk, significance of the species to the human and biological communities, and reasons for protective measures that would be applied to the lands involved. Continue or develop monitoring studies in order to determine population dynamics and trends. • Complete inventories and map current occupied and potential habitats for all listed and non-listed special status plant species. • Develop relevant species-specific plans utilizing USFWS guidelines where applicable. This may include habitat management plans, conservation agreements, or other suitable plans. 					
Special Status Species — Wildlife					
<p>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and recover all state special status species, including federally listed species and the ecosystems on which they depend. • Mitigate or reduce long-term habitat fragmentation through avoidance and site-specific reclamation to return areas to productive levels. • Manage all listed T&E animal species and the habitats upon which they depend in such manner as to conserve and recover these species to the point where protection under the ESA is no longer necessary. • Manage non-listed sensitive species and the habitats upon which they depend in such a way as to preclude the need to list them as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The guidance for this management is put forth in the BLM 6840 Manual. • Implement the direction contained in the Northwest National Fire Plan Project Design and Consultation Process and the Counterpart Regulations, including Alternative Consultation Agreements. • The BLM would continue to work with USFWS and others to ensure that plans and agreements are updated as necessary to reflect the latest scientific data. Recovery plans have been finalized for six species (black-footed ferret, Mexican spotted owl, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, and razorback sucker). Two recovery plans were finalized for the peregrine falcon species and the bald eagle, which has been delisted. • Implement the management necessary to increase populations of special status species, including federally listed animal species, and restore them to their historic ranges by enhancing, protecting, and restoring known and potential habitat. • In cooperation with UDWR and USFWS, continue to implement the goals of the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan by augmenting existing population in the Snake John Wash area. 					
<p>MANAGEMENT COMMON TO THE PROPOSED RMP AND ALL ALTERNATIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies to promote public education on species, their importance to the human and biological community, and reasons for protective measures that would be applied to the lands involved. • Continue inventories and map current occupied and potential habitats for all special status animal species. • In collaboration with the USFWS, DWR, and other partners, develop and implement habitat management plans or conservation strategies for sensitive species. • As additional data are collected over the life of the RMP, land managers would continually re-evaluate population and habitat status. Management emphasis would be to accumulate ecological information and distributional data to enhance the BLM’s ability to protect, conserve, recover, and manage these species in the future. • The BLM would continue to implement the specific goals and objectives of all Recovery Plans, Conservation Plans and Strategies, and activity level plans. Recovery Plan revisions or new Recovery Plans would also be implemented. • The BLM will work with UDWR and other partners to implement conservation actions identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy) (UDWR, 2005), which identified priority wildlife species and habitats, assessed threats to their survival, and identified long-term conservation action needs (per WO IM 2006-114). • Conservation Measures developed during the consultation on existing LUPs (June 2007) would be implemented as part of committed mitigation on new oil and gas leases. Appendix L contains lease notices developed from the conversation measures. • Enhance habitat and remove or control of non-native fish that threaten various life stages of the special status species fish. <p>BLACK-FOOTED FERRET:</p> <p>The BLM would manage the black-footed ferret consistent with the 1999 Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Plan Amendment and those portions of the Cooperative Plan for the Reintroduction and Management of Black-footed Ferret in Coyote Basin, Uintah County, Utah that are consistent with the Black-footed ferret plan amendment.</p>					

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SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES					
<p>WHITE-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG: In conjunction with the USFWS and UDWR, participate in the development of a conservation plan for the white-tailed prairie dog.</p> <p>BONYTAIL, COLORADO PIKEMINNOW, HUMPBACK CHUB, AND RAZORBACK SUCKER: Implement recovery plans actions for bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, and razorback sucker.</p> <p>COLORADO RIVER CUTTHROAT TROUT: Implement Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Colorado River cutthroat trout in the states of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming (signed April 2001), or more recent revisions of this agreement of which the BLM is a signatory. The following measures from the agreement would be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor vegetation with low level infra-red photography • Continue macro-invertebrate sampling • Fencing • Stream bank stabilization • Stream flow modifications • Pursue in flow agreements <p>BLUEHEAD SUCKER, FLANNELMOUTH SUCKER, AND ROUNDTAIL CHUB: Implement range-wide conservation agreement for bluehead sucker (<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>), flannelmouth sucker (<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>), and roundtail chub (<i>Gila robusta</i>).</p> <p>YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and conserve riparian areas and develop specific riparian vegetation objectives that would benefit bird species dependent on riparian areas • Fence riparian areas to reduce or eliminate grazing pressure on young trees, especially willow and cottonwood. • Apply rotation grazing or consider eliminating hot-season grazing in riparian areas to allow young trees to become established. • Control or eliminate non-native plant species in riparian habitats. 					
COLORADO RIVER CUTTHROAT TROUT					
Per the Conservation Agreement/Conservation and Sportfishing Management Strategy for the Colorado River cutthroat trout, habitat would be provided, maintained and/or enhanced in Beaver, Bitter, Crouse, Davenport, Jackson, Sears, Sweetwater Creeks, Tolivers, and Upper Willow (Brown's Park), including tributaries for the reintroduction of Colorado River cutthroat trout.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Suitable habitat would be provided and maintained to reintroduce Colorado River cutthroat trout in Upper Willow (Brown's Park), Beaver, Sears, Crouse, Tolivers, Davenport, Jackson, and Argyle Creeks as found applicable.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Special Status Species — Raptors					
<p>MANAGEMENT COMMON TO THE PROPOSED RMP AND ALL ALTERNATIVES</p> <p>BALD EAGLE: Protect and restore cottonwood bottoms for Bald Eagle winter habitat along the Green and White rivers, at Pelican Lake, and at the Cliff Creek Bald Eagle roost site, as well as any new roost sites discovered in the future.</p> <p>BURROWING OWL AND SHORT-EARED OWL: In cooperation with UDWR, maintain nesting habitat and maintain/enhance prey-base habitat.</p> <p>FERRUGINOUS HAWK: In cooperation with UDWR, maintain and enhance white-tailed prairie dog and other foraging habitat to provide primary food sources for the Ferruginous Hawk.</p> <p>MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Protected Activity Centers (PACs) at all known Mexican Spotted Owl nest sites. • Maintain habitat to support small mammal populations as a prey base for Mexican Spotted Owls in occupied and suitable owl habitats. • Retain large down logs, large trees, and snags as prey habitats in occupied and suitable Mexican Spotted Owl habitats. <p>PEREGRINE FALCON:</p>					

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Protect and enhance riparian habitat in Pariette Draw, as well as along the Green River, White River, Bitter Creek, and other drainages.					
BUFFERS					
Raptor management would be guided by the use of "Best Management Practices for Raptors and Their Associated Habitats in Utah" (Utah BLM, 2006, Appendix A), utilizing seasonal and spatial buffers, as well as mitigation, to maintain and enhance raptor nesting and foraging habitat, while allowing other resource uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raptors would be managed under the auspices of Best Management Practices (BMPs) (see Appendix A), which would include implementation of spatial and seasonal buffers comparable to the USFWS's Guidelines for Raptor Protection From Human and Land Use Disturbances, with modifications allowed as long as protection of nests is ensured. Seasonal and spatial buffers (including USFWS's) are listed in Appendix H. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raptors would be managed at a level less restrictive than the USFWS guidelines. Protections for nests of threatened and endangered raptor species and Ferruginous Hawks would include implementation of spatial buffers comparable to the USFWS guidelines with modifications allowed as long as protection of nests is insured. Seasonal buffers would generally be less restrictive. Other raptor species would be provided protection at a level less than recommended in the USFWS guidelines. Seasonal and spatial buffers for raptor nests are listed in Appendix H. 	USFWS's spatial and seasonal buffers would be implemented for raptors as recommended in Table 2 of the Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection From Human and Land Use Disturbances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Cliffs: Unspecified Diamond Mountain: Spatial and seasonal buffers listed in the Diamond Mountain RMP would continue to be applied to twenty special status or sensitive raptor species. (See Appendix H.) 	Same as Alternative C.
NEST PROTECTION FOR RAPTORS					
On unoccupied nests for all activities, including new oil and gas leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raptor management would be guided by the use of "Best Management Practices for Raptors and Their Associated Habitats in Utah" (Utah BLM, 2006, Appendix A), utilizing seasonal and spatial buffers, as well as mitigation, to maintain and enhance raptor nesting and foraging habitat, while allowing other resource uses. 	On unoccupied nests for all activities, including new oil and gas leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nests would be protected for a period of seven years yet allow for permanent (long-term) facilities and structures to be constructed outside of the breeding season as long as they would not cause the nest site to become unsuitable for future nesting. Non-permanent (short-term) activities would be allowed within the spatial buffer of nests during the nesting season as long as those activities are shown to be non-impacting to nesting raptors. Existing Oil and Gas leases: Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, and Burrowing Owl nests would be protected for two years by not allowing permanent surface-disturbing activities during the breeding season. Permanent surface-disturbing activities would be allowed outside of the seasonal buffer within the seasonal buffer within the spatial 	On unoccupied nests for all activities, including new and existing oil and gas leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For T&E species and Ferruginous Hawks, nests would be protected for a period of three years yet allow for facilities and structures to be constructed outside of the temporary spatial and seasonal buffers. However, new or additional surface occupancy would not be allowed within one-quarter mile of nests. For all other raptor nests, a temporary buffer zone would be provided within one-quarter mile between February 15th and August 1st. 	On unoccupied nests for all activities, including new oil and gas leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For long-term land-use activities, nests should be protected for seven years and such activities should not occur proximally to unoccupied nests unless it is determined that mitigation is appropriate. Short-term land use and human activities could progress near a nest or nest territory after sufficient time has elapsed in a specific breeding season to determine a nest is unoccupied and prior to the beginning of the next year's breeding season. Existing Oil and Gas leases: Same as Alternative D. 	On unoccupied nests for all activities, including new oil and gas leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Eagle Nests — active within two years No construction or surface-disturbing activities would be allowed which would adversely affect current use or limit or preclude potential future use of the nest, unless a permit to take is obtained from the USFWS. Known Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk and Bald Eagle Nests No construction or surface-disturbing activities would be allowed year-round. The above restrictions for Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, and Bald Eagle nests would not apply to maintenance and operation of existing facilities. Existing Oil and Gas leases: Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk and Burrowing Owl nests would be 	On unoccupied nests for all activities, including new oil and gas leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For long-term land-use activities, nests should be protected for seven years and such activities should not occur proximally to unoccupied nests unless it is determined that litigation is appropriate. Short-term land use and human activities could progress near a nest or nest territory after sufficient time has elapsed in a specific breeding season to determine a nest is unoccupied and prior to the beginning of the next year's breeding season. On existing oil and gas leases the following management applies: Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk and Burrowing Owl nests would be protected for two years, during which time permanent disturbances would not occur within the spatial buffer; non-permanent activities would be allowed within the spatial buffer, but outside the

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	buffer as long as the activity would not cause the nest site to become unsuitable for future nesting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonpermanent (short-term) activities would be allowed within the spatial buffer of nests during the nesting season as long as those activities are shown to be non-impacting to nesting raptors. 			protected for two years, during which time permanent disturbances would not occur within the spatial buffer; non-permanent activities would be allowed within the spatial buffer, but outside the seasonal buffer.	seasonal buffer.
<u>On occupied nests under all leases:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raptor management would be guided by the use of "Best Management Practices for Raptors and Their Associated Habitats in Utah" (Utah BLM, 2006, Appendix A), utilizing seasonal and spatial buffers, as well as mitigation, to maintain and enhance raptor nesting and foraging habitat, while allowing other resource uses. 	<u>On occupied nests under all leases:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term land-use activities that would have an adverse impact would not be allowed within the spatial buffer of occupied nests. Short-term land-use activities would be allowed outside the breeding/nesting period within the spatial buffer of nests. 	<u>On occupied nests under all leases:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For T&E raptor species and Ferruginous Hawk nests, new or additional surface occupancy would not be authorized within one-half mile of nests between February 15 through August 1. Additionally there would be NSO within one-quarter mile of occupied nests. For all other raptor species, new or additional surface occupancy would not be authorized within ¼ mile of nests between February 15th and August 1st. 	<u>On occupied nests under all leases:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities would not occur within the spatial/seasonal buffer of any nest. Short-term land use and human use activities would only proceed within the spatial buffer of an occupied nest outside the seasonal buffer after coordination with appropriate agency biologists. Long-term land-use activities and human use activities would not occur within the species-specific spatial buffer of nests. 	<u>On occupied nests under all leases:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Cliffs: Unspecified. Diamond Mountain: Surface-disturbing activities would not be allowed within the specified distances of an active Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, or Ferruginous Hawk nest year-round. Surface-disturbing activities within the specified distances of an active nest site would not be allowed within the specified active reproductive periods for the following raptor species: Burrowing Owl, Osprey, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Short-eared Owl, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, American Kestrel, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Mexican Spotted Owl. 	<u>On occupied nests under all leases:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities would not occur within the spatial/seasonal buffer of any nest. Short-term land use and human use activities would only proceed within the spatial buffer of an occupied nest outside the seasonal buffer after coordination with appropriate agency biologists. Long-term land-use activities and human use activities would not occur within the species-specified spatial buffer of nests.
GREATER SAGE-GROUSE					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No surface-disturbing activities within ¼-mile of active Sage-grouse leks would be allowed year-round. No surface-disturbing activities within two miles of active Sage-grouse leks would be allowed from March 1 through June 15. No permanent facilities or structures would be allowed within two miles when possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategic Management Plan for Sage-grouse, State of Utah June 11, 2002, would be adopted and implemented as the baseline threshold. Human disturbances would be avoided within 0.6 mile of a lek during the breeding season (March 1 to May 31) from one hour before sunrise to three hours after sunrise, and construction of routes, fences, poles, and utility lines would be avoided within 1,300 feet of a lek. Exception(s): Livestock, wildlife, and wild horse use would be managed to achieve and maintain sagebrush and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant human disturbances would be avoided within 0.6 mile of a lek during the breeding season (March 1 through May 31) from one hour before sunrise to three hours after sunrise. Construction of routes, fences, poles, and utility lines would be avoided within 1,300 feet of a lek. Any developments within the 1,300 feet would be designed to minimize, to the extent possible, bird structure collision and to prevent raptor perching. Any development within two miles of a lek would be designed to 	Same as the Proposed RMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Cliffs: for minerals only, surface disturbance, exploration, drilling, and other development activity would be allowed only during the period from June 15 through March 15, and no drilling or storage facilities would be allowed within 300 feet of the Sage-grouse leks. Diamond Mountain: Surface-disturbing activities would not be allowed within Sage-grouse nesting areas (a two-mile radius of Sage-grouse strutting grounds within the sagebrush vegetation type) from March 1 through June 	Same as the Proposed RMP.

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	riparian/meadow habitats in good ecological condition per the BLM May 1997 Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management.	minimize, to the extent possible, raptor perching.		30 (identified as 88,500 acres in management priority area III). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface-disturbing activities would not be allowed within 1,000 feet of Sage-grouse strutting grounds. 	
Within 0.5 mile of known active leks, the best available technology would be used to reduce noise, such as installation of multi-cylinder pumps, hospital sound-reducing mufflers, and placement of exhaust systems.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Special measures to reduce noise would not be required.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Unspecified in the current management plans.	Same as the Proposed RMP.