

JMH CAP Record of Decision

JMH CAP FACTS Special Management Areas

BACKGROUND:

Special Management Areas in the JMH CAP include Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Special Recreation Management Areas.

SPECIFICS:

Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

- Seven existing WSAs in the JMH CAP area were established under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and cover approximately 116,000 acres. The seven existing WSAs are:

Buffalo Hump	10,300
Sand Dunes	27,109
Alkali Draw	16,990
South Pinnacles	10,800
Honeycomb Buttes	41,404
Oregon Buttes	5,700
Whitehorse Creek	4,002

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

- Five existing ACECs in the JMH CAP area encompass approximately 135,000 acres:

Greater Sand Dunes	38,650
Oregon Buttes	3,450
South Pass Historic Landscape	48,270
Steamboat Mountain	44,230
White Mountain Petroglyphs	20

- The Steamboat Mountain ACEC will be expanded by approximately 4,000 acres to include the Indian Gap Historic Trail and key habitats with the rare sagebrush/scurfpea vegetation type.

Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA)

Greater Sand Dunes SRMA

- The Greater Sand Dunes SRMA is inside the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC and provides outstanding motorized and non-motorized recreational values.
- The SRMA also contains a parking lot and camping area.

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Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express National Historic Trails

- The National Historic Trails SRMA is located in the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC
- The SRMA is managed for a range of visitors, from local OHV users to visitors passing through the area

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

- Congress designated the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) in 1978
- About 25 miles of existing roads and routes have been identified as a side trail for the CDNST. The remainder of the route (less than one mile, requires cross-country travel).

Other Management Areas

West Sand Dunes Archaeological District

- The West Sand Dunes Archaeological District is established as a new management area to protect important scientific values involving the earliest stages of human occupation of North America (7,000 to 12,000 years ago).

Steamboat Mountain Management Area

- The CAP establishes the Steamboat Mountain Management Area which includes the existing Steamboat Mountain ACEC to focus management on important Native American cultural values, important watershed values, unique habitat features, and crucial and overlapping big game habitat.