

September 7, 2005

Mr. Greg Goodenow, Roan Plateau Planning
Glenwood Springs BLM
PO Box 1009
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

RE: City of Rifle Roan Plateau Comments

Dear Mr. Goodenow:

This letter is being written to formally submit the City of Rifle's management comments and preferences in regards to the current draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement for the Roan Plateau Planning Area (November 2004).

The City of Rifle is in opposition to any oil/gas or other mineral development on top of the Roan Plateau. It is the City's position that the area above the rim of the Plateau should be reserved and managed for significant historical uses, which include recreation, hunting, livestock grazing, ranching, etc. We feel no plan can make such uses compatible with natural gas exploration. Throughout the west it has been well documented how natural gas activities negatively impact those uses we wish to protect and preserve; uses important to local economy and culture.

Below the Plateau rim, the City of Rifle recommends that BLM investigate the possibility of using a divided federal unit, or similar mechanism, to reduce the number of operators that may have access to, and will therefore impact, lands in the bottom of the Plateau Planning Area. All applications to permit drilling must require a Geographic Area Plan (GAP) that identifies the location of all well pads and supporting infrastructure and facilities. Mitigation measures for any anticipated or suspected impacts and a reclamation plan should also be required as part of all applications to permit drilling. BLM should use submitted GAPs to conduct site specific environmental studies within the areas of direct or indirect impacts (as those areas are demonstrated within the submitted GAP). Only if a drilling plan protects all site specific environmental concerns should any permit to drill be approved.

BLM should determine the size of leases below the rim. The City recommends, however, that not more than one operator be allowed within each 2,560-acre section. To the extent possible, BLM should limit disturbance below the rim in a consecutive or "rolling" type manner. Development rates should be regulated so that previously disturbed areas are reclaimed prior to

additional disturbance being permitted. If BLM is not able to establish a federal unit below the rim, wherein they would have more leverage in regulating the rate of post-lease development, BLM should regulate the timing of leasing to ensure that wildlife winter range is not being too severely impacted by simultaneous activity (or overlapping activity without reclamation) below the rim. The Colorado Division of Wildlife should be consulted to determine what would be considered unacceptable development rates in terms of big game winter range. Surface disturbances should be located according to a 160-acre spacing policy and all disturbances within each 160-acre area should be limited to a maximum of 10-acres.

The City of Rifle recommends BLM review and update its current leasing policy to allow for adjustments to leasing conditions and stipulations as monitoring progresses and impacts are assessed. BLM should configure its leasing process so that, if needs be, leases may be updated and/or altered to protect resources that are not being protected by original lease stipulations. If a health or environmental hazard is discovered in the future, BLM needs to have the ability and authority to alter lease conditions and stipulations to alleviate such hazards or concerns. A more fluid leasing structure and policy will require active and frequent monitoring to verify whether current leasing conditions and stipulations are effective in meeting desired objectives and outcomes. As an example, should it become demonstrated through a scientific study that drilling activities in the lease areas contribute to the degradation of big game populations, the BLM should have the authority to alter leasing programs to assist State wildlife officials with remedying this problem. No lease holder should knowingly be permitted to have a regional and statewide impact on a critical biological resource.

The City of Rifle is concerned that the BLM has not fully evaluated their commitment and responsibility to police activity that will result from oil/gas leasing within the Roan Plateau Planning Area. As the agency responsible for the management of that area, the BLM is also responsible for ensuring environmental compliance as a result of its management decisions. The City of Rifle does not believe that the onus to verify compliance with stated objectives and plans lies with the industry/lessees - those efforts should be handled directly by the BLM or a qualified subcontractor. Lessees, however, should be required to contribute to the funding of a BLM administered monitoring program. Impact fees and other mechanisms can be used to collect required funding for BLM to operate an adequate monitoring and policing program. Monitoring should ensure that both local and cumulative impacts to various resources are being avoided or mitigated to a level of minimal impact as based on the professional judgment of those performing the monitoring.

The BLM also needs to account for cumulative impacts that may be originating from outside the Roan Plateau Planning Area. Activity on a regional or statewide level can affect certain resources being considered as a part of this process, such as wildlife, and BLM should take those impacts into consideration when developing (and/or altering) lease conditions and stipulations. If there comes a time when the Colorado Division of Wildlife believes that the mule deer, or other, population is at a critical threshold on the regional or statewide level, and practices within the Planning Area can be altered to assist in the recovery of those populations, BLM should institute a policy of allowing such considerations to be integrated into current and future development activity.

If the official position of the City of Rifle is not integrated into the final Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement, the City urges the Bureau of Land Management to include the following in any adopted plan configuration:

1. The bottom of the Plateau Planning Area should be managed as indicated above.
2. On top of the Plateau:
 - a. The entire upper plateau should be leased simultaneously in blocks that do not exceed the statutorily-mandated acreage maximum (2,560 acres per lease max).
 - b. All successful lease bidders should be required to immediately join into an undivided federal unit covering all 34,758 federal acres on the upper plateau. By designating the entire top of the plateau as a single undivided federal unit there will be one operator and, as such, one set of pipelines, compressor stations, staging grounds, etc.
 - c. There should be less than 1% total surface disturbance at any one time. Performance Based Management should be stipulated when the undivided federal unit is formed. Therefore, the designated operator, and all lessees, will understand that before new permits are issued it will need to be demonstrated that the total allowed surface disturbance threshold has not been exceeded. Contribution requirements to fund monitoring/policing activity should be stipulated when the federal unit is created. Those that are responsible for monitoring (BLM or subcontractor) will give final approval before any further surface disturbance is allowed.

All surface disturbing activities should be counted against the maximum allowed surface disturbance threshold. Exploratory wells and any existing roads used for development purposes should be included as surface disturbances when figuring the “less than 1% total surface disturbance” calculations.

- d. Development close to existing roads should be encouraged and pipelines should be included within roadbeds (buried) where practical. Development along ridgelines and ridgetops is not consistent with the Class II Visual Resource Management objective, which the City supports for much of the top of the Plateau. Instead, the City recommends that development occurs within consecutive “sections”, proceeding from the north to the south on the upper plateau. The size of sections should be determined by BLM, though a typical lease section of 2,560-acres may be an appropriate starting point. The City recommends that sections be no larger than 2,560-acres in size. Development activity should be limited to no more than two consecutive sections in any one year.

Limiting development to geographic sections, instead of simply limiting development to a linear pattern, will prevent potential scenarios such as a train of rigs or wells along the rim of the upper plateau.

- e. All NSO, CSU, ACEC, VRM, and other surface stipulations and protections must be honored at all times. Absolutely no waiver, exceptions, etc should be granted to the stipulations outlined in the management plan.
 - f. Surface well pad spacing should be no closer than 160-acres.
 - g. All applications to permit drilling atop the plateau must also require a Geographic Area Plan (GAP) that identifies the location of all well pads and supporting infrastructure and facilities. Mitigation measures for any anticipated or suspected

impacts and a reclamation plan should be required as part of all applications to permit drilling. BLM should use submitted GAPs to conduct site specific environmental studies within the areas of direct or indirect impacts (as those areas are demonstrated within the submitted GAP). Only if a drilling plan protects all site specific environmental concerns should any permit to drill be approved.

Additional comments from the Rifle City Council include:

1. Organic dust suppression agents should be used in all road maintenance and dust suppression operations where such agents are required.
2. The City of Rifle favors the Moderate Risk Fish Habitat NSO over the High Risk Fish Habitat NSO.
3. The JQS Trail road should be maintained and managed as a recreational and agricultural road only. Oil/Gas lessees, their employees, and all subcontractors shall be required to use other points of access to the upper plateau.
4. The Hubbard Mesa area should be designated as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) with a NSO designation for recreational (motorized and non-motorized) use. It is recommended that a Hubbard Mesa subcommittee be established to determine those areas within the SRMA that are appropriate for recreational activities and to develop an internal SRMA transportation system. The Hubbard Mesa currently provides unique recreational opportunities for off-highway vehicle transportation and is easily accessible from the City of Rifle. The recreational activities within the area are unique based on their proximity to an urbanized area and the type of activity offered.
5. Any produced maps for the Planning Area and/or the Hubbard Mesa SRMA should be locally oriented and promoted.
6. The City of Rifle believes that a designation of “Administrative Access” is appropriate for new roads used primarily by the oil/gas industry.
7. Roads that currently pose a public danger or that are negatively impacting slopes, streams, etc should be closed and reclaimed.
8. New roads should only be allowed if they improve the general transportation system on top of the plateau. Old or less desirable roads should be removed and reclaimed as any new roads are developed. The City supports a position that the total number of road miles on the upper plateau should be kept constant. There should be no net change in the number of miles atop the plateau. A similar “no net change” position is held for the bottom of the plateau. Road miles may not be transferred between the bottom and the top of the plateau.
9. Timing limitation restrictions should be based primarily on the anticipated impact of an activity, vehicle, etc. More intense activities and larger vehicles should be restricted in those areas that are designated as having timing limitations during periods of protection.
10. The City of Rifle’s preferred/desired surface stipulations are outlined in Table 2-1 under the Section “Oil and Gas Leasing and Development”, Subsections “No Surface Occupancy”, “Controlled Surface Use”, and “Timing Limitations”.

11. NSO designations should be applied with no exceptions, variances, or waivers except when an activity will be less than one-acre in size and will be reclaimed within one-year – in which case such designations do not apply.
12. The City of Rifle supports the ACEC configuration as currently shown in BLM's Alternative II (Map 1). The City supports the number, size, and configuration of the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern shown in that alternative. The City's preferred management of those areas, however, is outlined in Table 2-2.
13. The City's outline for management of the various resources contained within the Roan Plateau Planning Area is contained in Table 2-1. There are additional resources that the City feels are important but that have not been listed in the City's Table 2-1 because the City does not feel that it has adequate knowledge or expertise to submit a comment in regards to those resources. The City is relying on other Cooperating Agencies to comment on resources that more accurately fall under their areas of expertise. Please keep in mind that many of the objectives stated in Table 2-1 are not the City's preferred objectives – but rather those objectives that the City insists be included in the plan if BLM chooses not to respect the City's position that no drilling occur on top of the plateau.
14. Additional language and narration should be included in the Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement in regards to oil shale. The City of Rifle believes that it is very possible that oil shale will be a desired resource within the Planning Area during the lifespan of the current document. To the extent possible, BLM should account for that resource being introduced into the final scenario and plan developed as a result of this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. The City of Rifle hopes BLM will take into serious consideration the position outlined and stated herein.

Sincerely,
Rifle City Council

Keith Lambert, Mayor

cc: File

TABLE 2-1

GENERAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND TECHNIQUES	
Emphasize landscape management, visual aesthetics, natural values, wilderness character, geological features, and ecological richness. Encourage nonconsumptive resource uses, while allowing for limited consumptive resource uses.	
Emphasize highest natural values through extension of current stipulations, administrative, and legislative designations.	
Designate four ACECs (Anvil Points, Magpie Gulch, East Fork Parachute Creek, and Trapper/Northwater Creek).	
Protect important ecological values outside ACECs through site-specific mitigation.	
LAND HEALTH STANDARDS	
Implement appropriate management actions that result in meeting all Land Health Standards with emphasis on natural processes.	
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND CONSTRAINTS BY RESOURCE	
GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Protect and preserve the scientific and historic values of the Anvil Points claystone cave and karst system. Allow no physical disturbance to the cave or karst system surrounding the cave. Restrict activities that could cause direct or indirect impacts such as collapse or dewatering.
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Require paleontological clearances/mitigation prior to surface disturbance in Condition 1 and some Condition 2 areas. Significant resources should be avoided or recovered through the authorization process. Protect Sharrard Park paleontological resources through SSR/CSU stipulation.
SOIL RESOURCES	Manage to meet or exceed Land Health Standards for soils on a watershed scale. Stipulations developed in the 1999 Oil and Gas FSEIS (described below) should be applied to steep slopes and erosive soils throughout the Planning Area, higher standards of mitigation may apply, and more areas should be managed to surpass the Land Health Standards for soils. Natural processes should be emphasized. Stipulations developed in the 1999 Oil and Gas FSEIS include NGD/NSO on slopes greater than 50% to maintain site stability and site productivity. SSR/CSU on erosive soils and slopes greater than 30%.
WATER QUALITY	Meet or exceed all applicable Federal and State water quality standards, relying on natural processes.
AIR QUALITY	Implement monitoring and mitigation measures required to meet or exceed all applicable Federal and State air quality regulations and any other applicable local standards.
GENERAL ECOLOGICAL VALUES	Protect ecological values and processes and biological diversity by designating four ACECs, managing areas for wilderness character and WSR eligibility, designing and implementing management prescriptions that limit surface disturbance, implementing site-specific mitigation, and limiting or mitigating effects of allowed disturbances.

	<p>Emphasize natural processes to rehabilitate or restore natural vegetative communities following wildland fires or other surface disturbing activities. Where seeding is needed to protect soil, water, and vegetation resources, utilize seed mixtures containing forage-producing, native, and species preferred by wildlife.</p> <p>Maintain or improve the ecological condition and integrity of native stands of aspen, mountain shrubs, grasslands, conifers. Utilize natural processes where practicable.</p> <p>Defer grazing use for 2 years following wildfire and/or prescribed fire, or until monitoring data or professional judgment indicate that desired vegetative cover, composition and root reserves, and litter accumulation have recovered to levels adequate to support and protect watershed values and vegetative objectives.</p> <p>Emphasize natural values and processes associated with the diverse composition and structure of native vegetation. Improve ecological condition and increase forage production where feasible through development and implementation of economically feasible grazing systems and range improvements.</p>
<p>RIPARIAN/WETLAND COMMUNITIES</p> <p>*PFC = Proper Functioning Condition</p>	<p>Manage riparian communities to achieve or exceed PFC while attaining potential natural condition or a late seral plant community stage. Concentrate on achieving diverse native species composition and productivity.</p> <p>The stipulations developed in the 1999 Oil and Gas FSEIS would be carried forward and extended to those streams and associated riparian areas above the rim.</p> <p>Authorize only those uses or activities that result in no negative impacts (direct or indirect) on riparian/wetland systems, and do not impair their ability to achieve or exceed PFC.</p> <p>Riparian restoration projects should be initiated within those systems that have been identified as functioning at a level below PFC or below late seral stage plant community.</p> <p>Implement grazing systems and exclusions on riparian/wetland areas that will result in achieving or exceeding PFC.</p> <p>Close and reclaim, relocating where possible, routes that are negatively impacting the stream and/or riparian zones. New routes should be established outside of the riparian zone or must meet the objectives for maintaining riparian, fishery and watershed conditions.</p>
<p>NOXIOUS WEEDS</p>	<p>Emphasize prevention, inventory, detection, and monitoring and project actions as part of an integrated weed management program (which includes mechanical, biological, and chemical control techniques). Promote natural processes and healthy native plant communities to deter noxious weeds. Continue and expand public education.</p>

<p>BIG GAME AND OTHER TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE</p>	<p>Maintain or enhance habitats capable of sustaining at least the current (and future – as the objectives change) Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) objectives for mule deer populations. Provide habitat capable of sustaining other species to CDOW objectives for those species as well.</p> <p>Provide wildlife seclusion through ACEC designation and special management to protect unfragmented habitat. Allow no long-term (greater than two growing seasons) ground-disturbing activities in unroaded habitat below the rim. Minimize loss of habitat connectivity and displacement of wildlife through management actions such as (1) applying travel restrictions on new routes within wildlife seclusion areas, and (2) clustering disturbances so they do not create fragmentation or loss of more than a 10% contiguous block of unroaded wildlife habitat below the rim.</p> <p>Accomplish habitat management largely via natural processes within special designations. Initiate management actions to enhance habitat where practical.</p> <p>Apply a winter TL to protect big game winter range from December 1 through April 30 below the rim.</p>
<p>RAPTORS</p>	<p>In accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Act, protect raptor nests and nesting raptors from human disturbances to avoid destruction or abandonment of the nest or reduction in nesting productivity.</p> <p>The NGD/NSO and TL stipulations identified in the 1999 Oil and Gas FSEIS should apply throughout the Planning Area.</p>
<p>AQUATIC WILDLIFE</p>	<p>Protect and enhance fishery and other aquatic species habitat. Restore habitats important to Colorado River cutthroat trout and other native fish, consistent with the objectives of special management designations. Aquatic habitat condition should be determined more by natural processes.</p>
<p>SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS AND SIGNIFICANT PLANT COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Manage listed, proposed, or candidate threatened or endangered species to comply with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Manage special status plants and BLM recognized significant plant communities consistent with the Colorado Standards for Public Land Health and with BLM policy on Special Status Species Management (BLM Manual 6840) which directs BLM to prevent the need for listing of proposed, candidate and sensitive species under the ESA and improve the condition of special status species and their habitats to a point where their special status recognition is no longer warranted.</p> <p>Designate four ACECs and provide special management attention to preserve, restore, and enhance known/potential special status plant and significant plant community habitat and ecological processes.</p> <p>Avoid ground-disturbing activities in occupied and high-risk habitat for special status plants, significant plant communities, and high-risk plant</p>

	<p>habitat. Some disturbances may be allowed to potential habitat and ecological processes but relocation or mitigation must be required to minimize impacts.</p> <p>Protect and maintain the immediately adjacent hydrologic and ecological processes that support rare plants and significant plant communities. Allow only activities that would not disturb, alter, or interrupt the hydrologic or ecological processes within habitat identified as moderate risk plant habitat. Mitigation or relocation of activities beyond 200 meters may be required.</p> <p>Within the high value watershed, special mitigation or relocation of activities beyond 200 meters may be required. Future conditions would be determined largely by natural processes. Revegetate any allowed surface disturbance using locally adapted native species.</p> <p>Maintain the significant riparian plant communities in mid- to late-seral stage to maintain current ecological values.</p> <p>Prohibit collection of rare plants or plant parts, except for scientific research.</p>
<p>SPECIAL STATUS FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIES</p>	<p>Manage the Big River Fishes (Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, bonytail chub, humpback chub), and bald eagle in accordance with existing recovery plans and consultations completed with the USFWS. Manage special status fish and wildlife consistent with the Colorado Standards for Public Land Health.</p> <p>Implement the strategy outlined in the “Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout” in the States of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.</p> <p>Designate four ACECs and provide special management attention to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance special status fish and wildlife species and their habitats. ACEC management prescriptions are presented in Table 2-2.</p> <p>Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from direct and indirect impacts.</p> <p>Allow no loss or degradation of high or moderate risk habitat and no long-term ground disturbing activities in the remainder of watersheds supporting Colorado River cutthroat trout.</p> <p>Manage livestock grazing so that streambank damage along occupied cutthroat trout streams does not exceed 10% of the stream length.</p> <p>Protect and maintain habitat for sensitive bat species at the Anvil Points cave. Disturbance to habitat would be mitigated or relocated more than 200 meters.</p> <p>Allow natural processes to have significant influence on future conditions of special status species and their habitats. Manage habitat conditions specific to the requirements of individual species and focus on needed</p>

	mitigation.
VISUAL RESOURCES	<p>Restrictions based on visual resource management (VRM) would not apply to the existing utility corridors.</p> <p>Allow only limited changes and retain the visual values in areas with high visual sensitivity, high scenic quality, or relevant and important resource values to maintain a natural appearing landscape.</p> <p>Emphasize protection and/or mitigation for those lands that receive the greatest amount of public viewing within the I-70 and SH-13 viewsheds. Design all developments, land alterations, and vegetative manipulations within the I-70 and SH-13 viewsheds to limit visual impacts.</p> <p>Visual resources and sensitive viewsheds within the I-70, SH 13, and County Rd. 215 corridors, and within East Fork Parachute Creek Canyon, should be protected. All developments, land alterations, and vegetative manipulations should be designed to avoid or minimize visual impacts.</p> <p>An NGD/NSO stipulation should be applied to surface disturbances on slopes steeper than 30% with high visual sensitivity in the I-70 and SH 13 viewsheds.</p> <p>Special measures should be required to retain the overall landscape character in VRM Class II areas by SSR/CSUs stipulations.</p> <p>Lands managed as VRM Class III will partially retain the existing characteristic landscape through the use of special mitigation measures. The level of change in the landscape due to management activities may be moderate to evident.</p> <p>Lands managed as VRM Class IV will allow for high levels of modification in the landscape.</p> <p>Class V areas will be managed under the VRM Class objectives adjacent to the disturbance.</p> <p>VRM Classes by acre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I: 925 • Class II: 48,752 • Class III: 15,563 • Class IV: 8,350 • Class V: 0 <p>Urban 12 acres</p> <p>Class I: <i>Preservation of existing character of the landscape. (Typically results in NGD/NSO with very limited exceptions.)</i> 925 acres (associated with waterfall and canyon)</p> <p>Class II: <i>Retention of existing character of the landscape. Level of allowable change is low. (Typically results in NGD/NSO or SSR/CSU,</i></p>

	<p>reclamation and mitigation required.) 48,752 acres</p> <p>Class III: Level of change to the characteristic landscape can be moderate. (Reclamation and mitigation required.) 15,563 acres</p> <p>Class IV: Level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. (Reclamation and mitigation required.) 8,350 acres</p> <p>Class V: Remaining disturbed areas, after reclassification after required reclamation and mitigation. 0 acres</p>
TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT	
AREA RESTRICTIONS	<p>Provide for non-motorized, mechanized, and motorized travel as opportunities allow. Limit off-road vehicle use to preserve and protect wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Provide for responsible use by limiting travel to designated routes or areas throughout the Planning Area, except within the Hubbard Mesa SRMA where travel management decisions will be made by a future subcommittee and except for over-snow travel by snowmobile.</p> <p>Establish a special Hubbard Mesa Subcommittee to define/refine use characteristics within the Hubbard Mesa SRMA.</p> <p>Open to cross-country travel: 0 acres (over-snow travel open on 66,934 acres) except for a potential 2,460-acre are within the Hubbard Mesa SRMA. Appropriateness of cross country travel within the Hubbard Mesa SRMA to be determined through a management plan to be developed by a Hubbard Mesa Subcommittee.</p> <p>Limited to designated routes: 64,474 acres (excludes Hubbard Mesa – which will be managed according to a management plan developed specifically for the SRMA).</p> <p>As oil and gas or other development occurs, travel in areas (other than the SRMA) that are affected by oil and gas development may be limited, restricted, or closed to resolve conflicts, provide for public safety, and provide for orderly oil and gas operations – unless such restrictions or closures would interfere with traditional and historical uses of the Planning Area at which time any potentially limiting actions would need to be closely analyzed against other management objectives. New routes associated with oil and gas or other uses would be designated administrative access only, unless specific objectives for other resources (e.g. recreational travel routes or access to recreational sites) are present that warrant other designations.</p>
ROUTES	Closed routes will be rehabilitated and may be designated/managed for foot and horse travel.

	<p>The “JQS Road” (Garfield CR 242) is not suitable as a main access for oil and gas lessees, including all subcontractors and employees, due to grades and switchbacks. Access to the top of the plateau except for recreational and agricultural uses must be by other routes, which may include access across private lands from the west or via public access on “Cow Creek Road” (Rio Blanco CR 5 and Garfield CR 249) from the north. In Rio Blanco County, Cow Creek Road provides public access either across BLM land or through easements across private lands and is not a BLM road.</p> <p>As stated above: As oil and gas or other development occurs, travel in areas (other than the Hubbard Mesa SRMA) that are affected by oil and gas development may be limited, restricted, or closed to resolve conflicts, provide for public safety, and provide for orderly oil and gas operations – unless such restrictions or closures would interfere with traditional and historical uses of the Planning Area at which time any potentially limiting actions would need to be closely analyzed against other management objectives. New routes associated with oil and gas or other uses will be designated administrative access only, unless specific objectives for other resources (e.g. recreational travel routes or access to recreational sites) exist, in which case other designations may be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>
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LANDS AND REALTY

Acquisitions of in-holdings and other areas with important resource values would be encouraged or allowed.

Major utility corridors are identified for the public lands along SH 13 and north of I-70. This is an existing corridor and will continue to be made available for new pipelines and utilities rights-of-way.

Lands would be available for communication and other facilities (such as wind power generation) subject to the closures and conditions associated with areas managed to protect and maintain wilderness characteristics, protective stipulations, and other management constraints identified by alternative.

RECREATION

RECREATION ACTIVITIES	Provide dispersed recreation activity opportunities.
SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS (SMRAs)	<p>Designate Hubbard Mesa SRMA for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) to enhance/manage intensive mechanized/motorized use in the area (2,460 acres).</p> <p>Travel designations and management objectives for the Hubbard Mesa SRMA will be developed by a Hubbard Mesa subcommittee.</p> <p>Remaining lands should be managed under the Glenwood Springs Extensive Management Area.</p>

GRAZING AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Continue the authorization of livestock grazing in a manner consistent with Public Land Health Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado.

Use a combination of administrative solutions (such as season of use revisions, livestock exclusion, and stocking level adjustments) and rangeland projects (fences, ponds, etc. to direct livestock use) to meet resource objectives while making significant progress towards meeting Land Health Standards.

Abandon and rehabilitate projects that do not function to maintain resource values and meet management objectives.

Conduct high-intensity monitoring on allotments covered by allotment management plans and on allotments with management actions to make progress toward meeting Land Health Standards. Conduct low-intensity monitoring on remaining allotments to ensure compliance with authorization and maintain current conditions.

Develop allotment management plans for units that do not meet standards or have identified conflicts with wildlife, watershed, wetland/riparian, botanical, or wilderness values.

OIL AND GAS LEASING AND DEVELOPMENT

<p>PROTECTION OF THREATENED, ENDANGERED OR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES</p>	<p>In addition to standard stipulations, all lands made available for lease will have a special stipulation as follows: The lease area may now or subsequently contain threatened, endangered, or other special status species of plants or animals or their habitats. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such species or their habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the ESA, including any required procedure for conference or consultation.</p>
<p>ACCESS FOR EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>The “JQS Road” (Garfield CR 242) is not suitable as a main access for oil and gas lessees (including all subcontractors and employees), oil and gas drilling equipment, and other long or heavy equipment due to grades and switchbacks. Access to the top of the plateau by lessees and their subcontractors and employees must be by other routes, which may include access across private lands from the west or via public access on “Cow Creek Road” (Rio Blanco CR 5 and Garfield CR 249) from the north. In Rio Blanco County, Cow Creek Road provides public access either across BLM land or through easements across private lands and is not a BLM road.</p>
<p>LEASING AND PERMITTING</p>	<p>BLM will issue oil and gas leases and provide for environmentally sound development such as upgrading existing roads and constructing well sites, new roads, and associated facilities for development of new or existing oil and gas leases.</p> <p>Surface spacing density will be limited to one well pad per 160 acres. This</p>

	<p>will be achieved through, but is not necessarily limited to, clustering of wells and collocation of facilities based on site-specific considerations in response to ecological, visual, recreational, and other resource sensitivities, relocation of drilling locations, inventories, special studies, onsite and offsite mitigation, and timing restrictions.</p> <p>Prior to exploration and/or lease development, the operator must submit a Geographic Area Proposal identifying projected activity (including well locations, pipelines, and facilities) during the lifespan of the development and appropriate mitigation.</p>
NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY (NSO):	<p>May overlap with less restrictive stipulations.</p> <p>No modifications, waivers, or exceptions should be provided to the NSO areas described below unless the disturbance will be less than one (1) acre in size and will be reclaimed within one (1) year.</p> <p>NSO for slopes greater than 50%, special status species, (threatened, endangered and federal proposed or candidate species, sensitive species) populations, high risk plants habitat, significant or remnant plant community, raptors, bald eagles, I-70 viewshed, Hwy 13/County Rd 215 viewshed, Class I VRM/high visual sensitivity, fish moderate risk habitat, fisheries high value watershed processes, wildlife seclusion, peregrine falcon, Anvil Points cave area, riparian and wetland zones, WSR eligibility, and major river corridors.</p>
CONTROLLED SURFACE USE (CSU):	<p>CSU for sensitive species populations, some significant plant communities, moderate risk plant habitat/ecological process, erosive soils and slopes, VRM Class II areas, Sharrard Park paleontological resources, and riparian and wetland habitat below the rim.</p>
TIMING LIMITATION (TL):	<p>Lands available for lease with TLs on periods when construction and drilling activities are prohibited to protect important wildlife habitats. These limitations do not apply to the operation and maintenance of producing wells unless those operations require large equipment and significant traffic, in which case the activity would be restricted under the TL. Winter range TL is applied as a lease stipulation. Raptor TL also includes bald eagle winter roosts.</p> <p>Timing limitations apply to big game winter range, raptor nesting, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, waterfowl, and shorebird nesting.</p>
AREAS WITH PROTECTIVE DESIGNATIONS OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:	<p>Lands where exploration and development activities are subject to special mitigation measures. These will be in the form of conditions of approval, and will be developed through the permitting process.</p> <p>69,867 acres (94.9%)</p> <p>Special mitigation measures to protect wildlife, vegetation, geological, watershed, fisheries, visual, and Hubbard Mesa SRMA values.</p>
STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS WITH OR WITHOUT	<p>Lands where exploration and development activities are subject to standard lease terms and conditions plus a stipulation for the protection of species under the Endangered Species Act. Mitigation measures, which</p>

<p>TLs:</p>	<p>may be in the form of conditions of approval, will be developed through the impact analysis process.</p> <p>13,080 acres (17.8%)</p>
<p>AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC) & WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMA)</p>	
<p>Designate four ACECs where special management is applied to protect and prevent irreparable damage to relevant and important scenic, fisheries, wildlife, and botanical/ecological values.</p> <p>Risk of impacts to these significant values would be minimized through management prescriptions on 36,184 acres.</p> <p>Magpie Gulch: 5,885 acres (visual, wildlife, botanical/ecological)</p> <p>Anvil Points: 10,226 acres (visual, geological, wildlife, botanical/ecological)</p> <p>East Fork Parachute Creek: 9,777 acres (visual, fish/wildlife, botanical/ecological)</p> <p>Trapper/Northwater Creek: 10,296 acres (fish/wildlife, botanical/ecological)</p> <p>See Table 2-2 for detailed ACEC management prescriptions.</p> <p>Values outside the ACECs would be protected or mitigated through the use of stipulations or conditions on development.</p>	
<p>AREAS HAVING WILDERNESS CHARACTER</p>	
<p>Manage a total of 21,382 acres in three areas (as provided by section 202 of FLPMA) to protect and maintain wilderness characteristics (naturalness, roadlessness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined types of recreation) within 3 units:</p> <p>Northeast Cliffs: 5,801 acres</p> <p>Southeast Cliffs: 5,192 acres</p> <p>East Fork Parachute Creek: 10,389 acres</p>	
<p>STREAMS ELIGIBLE FOR SUITABILITY STUDY UNDER WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT</p>	
<p>Protect rivers and corridors totaling 7,883 acres within the Resource Area that are found to be eligible under the WSRA, by not allowing any surface disturbing activities that might impair values, until a suitability analysis has been completed.</p>	
<p>FOREST PRODUCTS</p>	
<p>No special management actions identified. Manage to maintain and promote forest health consistent with other resource objectives.</p>	
<p>FIRE</p>	
<p>Provide appropriate management response based on Fire Management Plan and fire management zone (FMZ) classification considering firefighter and public safety and social, economic, and environmental values.</p>	

TABLE 2-2

ANVIL POINTS ACEC	
VISUAL	<p>Objective: Preserve the existing character of the landscape to meet Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II objectives.</p> <p>Management Action: Maintain the existing character and scenic quality in the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.</p> <p>Examples of mitigating measures to VRM Class II objectives could include, but not be limited to: relocating proposed activities, burying facilities, using existing topographical or vegetative screening, creating new screening through dirt work or transplanting vegetation, enhancing reclamation measures, using fabricated camouflaged facilities, keeping disturbances off ridgelines, painting developments to blend with surrounding landscape, moving facilities off site, and customizing structural designs that are low profile. (Apply CSU/SSR to entire ACEC)</p>
GEOLOGICAL	<p>Objective: Protect and preserve the scientific and historic values of the cave and karst system. Allow for no physical disturbance to the cave or karst system surrounding the cave. Restrict activities that could cause direct or indirect impact to the cave or karst system such as collapse or dewatering.</p> <p>Management Action: Allow for no physical disturbance to the cave or surrounding karst system. Restrict management activities that could cause direct or indirect impact to the cave and karst system such as collapse or dewatering. (NGD/NSO 19)</p>
WILDLIFE	<p>Objective: Protect identified raptor nest sites.</p> <p>Management Actions: For the protection of raptors, NGD/NSO within 0.125-mile radius of a nest site. Raptors include owls, osprey, golden eagle, buteos, accipiters, and falcons except American kestrel. (NGD/NSO 7)</p> <p>For the protection of peregrine falcon, NGD/NSO within 0.25-mile radius of cliff nesting complex. (NGD/NSO 9)</p> <p>NGD/NSO within the Roan Cliffs wildlife seclusion areas, which provide high wildlife value, including large mammals and raptors. (NGD/NSO 11)</p> <p>Objective: Maintain habitat connectivity and avoid displacement of wildlife.</p> <p>Management Action: Allow no new long-term (longer than two growing seasons) human use related ground disturbing activities within the unroaded wildlife habitat located below the rim. (NGD/NSO W-2)</p> <p>Objective: Protect and preserve bat habitat values of the Anvil Points caves/karst system.</p> <p>Management Action: Special design, construction, implementation, and/or</p>

	<p>mitigation measures including relocation by more than 200 meters may be required for species listed as sensitive by BLM and for significant natural plant communities. (SSR/CSU W-3)</p> <p>Objective: Protect and minimize disturbance to wintering big game, and allow for use of limited winter range habitats during the critical winter months.</p> <p>Management Action: Avoid drilling or other high-disturbance activities from December 1 through April 30 within winter habitat which includes big game severe winter range and other high value winter habitat as mapped by the CDOW. (TL-1)</p> <p>Objective: Prevent raptor nest abandonment and reductions in nesting productivity.</p> <p>Management Actions: Avoid drilling or other high-disturbance activities within a 0.25-mile buffer zone around the nest site from February 1 through August 15. (TL-6)</p> <p>Peregrine falcon: A 0.5-mile buffer area around the cliffnesting complex from March 16 through July 31 to prevent abandonment and desertion of established territories. (TL-12)</p>
<p>BOTANICAL/ ECOLOGICAL</p>	<p>Objective: Minimize disturbance to occupied habitat and the immediately adjacent ecosystem processes that support special status plants or significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Minimize and control activities within occupied habitat or within the immediately adjacent ecosystem processes that support rare plants or significant plant communities. (CSU/SSR for Ecological Process Plant Anvil Pts)</p> <p>Objective: Allow for the long-term viability and recovery of special status species, and minimize disturbance to potential habitat and the ecosystem processes that support them.</p> <p>Management Actions: Minimize and control ground disturbing activities within potential habitat/ecosystem processes for rare plants and significant communities. (CSU/SSR for Ecological Process Plant Anvil Pts)</p> <p>Objective: Maintain the current ecological integrity and function of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Revegetate using locally adapted native species. (SM P-9)</p> <p>Objective: Allow natural ecosystem processes such as rockslides to continue. Control wildfire only when human safety or property is at risk. (SM P-10)</p>

	<p>Management Action: Manage significant grassland and shrubland communities to retain mid- to late-seral stage condition. (SM P-11)</p> <p>Objective: Minimize fragmentation of habitat and the risk of invasion by noxious weeds and other aggressive non-native species, which may compromise ecosystem function and the long-term viability of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Where practicable, restore to a naturally functioning state any existing human-caused disturbance that is impairing natural ecosystem processes affecting habitat for rare plant species or significant plant communities. (SM P-12)</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Actions: Prohibit collection of plants, plant materials, and seeds, except for scientific or research purposes. Such collection must have no detrimental impact on long-term survival and reproduction of rare species or significant communities. (SM P-13)</p> <p>Control noxious weeds using integrated techniques. Limit control in areas with significant plant communities or rare species to avoid damage to non-target species. (SM P-14)</p> <p>Objective: Maintain populations of rare plants and significant plant communities that are healthy, productive, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes. Provide adequate opportunities for recovery, regrowth, and seed dissemination and establishment.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within occupied or potential habitat for rare plants or significant plant communities to promote plant health, maintain sufficient residual vegetation, and sustain overall watershed functions, as defined in the Colorado Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines (BLM 1997a). (SM P-15)</p>
STEEP SLOPES	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: NGD/NSO on slopes greater than 50% to minimize impacts on site productivity, control surface runoff, reduce erosion, and enhance reclamation. (NGD/NSO 15)</p>
SOILS	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and minimize potential for erosion.</p> <p>Management Action: On slopes greater than 30%, special design, construction, operation, and reclamation measures will be required. (SSR/CSU 4)</p>
RIPARIAN AREAS	<p>Objective: Maintain proper hydrologic function and protect adjacent areas that provide habitat for special status fish and wildlife species, important riparian values, water quality, waterfowl shorebird production, amphibian habitat, and high scenic and recreation values. Allow continued access to and</p>

	<p>use of these habitats.</p> <p>Management Actions: New roads, transmission lines, storage facilities and similar human-induced surface disturbances are restricted to an area beyond the outer edge of the riparian vegetation. (NGD/NSO 2)</p> <p>For Colorado River corridor, NGD/NSO within 0.5 mile of either side of the high water mark (bankfull stage) to protect habitat for special-status fish and wildlife species, important riparian values, water quality/filtering values, waterfowl and shorebird production areas, valuable habitat for amphibians, and high scenic and recreation values. (NGD/NSO 3)</p> <p>SSR/CSU within 500 feet of the outer edge of riparian or wetland vegetation. (SSR/CSU 2)</p>
PALEONTOLOGIC RESOURCES	<p>Objective: Protect and preserve or recover scientific paleontological values within Sharrard Park.</p> <p>Management Actions: Within the Sharrard Park area, special survey, design, construction and reclamation measures may be required, including relocation of operation beyond 200 meters. (SSR/CSU 6)</p>

MAGPIE GULCH ACEC	
VISUAL	<p>Objective: Preserve the existing character of the landscape to meet Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II objectives.</p> <p>Management Action: Maintain the existing character and scenic quality in the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.</p> <p>Examples of mitigating measures to VRM Class II objectives could include, but not be limited to: relocating proposed activities, burying facilities, using existing topographical or vegetative screening, creating new screening through dirt work or transplanting vegetation, enhancing reclamation measures, using fabricated camouflaged facilities, keeping disturbances off ridgelines, painting developments to blend with surrounding landscape, moving facilities off site, and customizing structural designs that are low profile. (Apply CSU/SSR to entire ACEC)</p>
WILDLIFE	<p>Objective: Protect identified raptor nest sites.</p> <p>Management Actions: For the protection of raptors, NGD/NSO within 0.125-mile radius of a nest site. Raptors include owls, osprey, golden eagle, buteos, accipiters, and falcons except American kestrel. (NGD/NSO 7)</p> <p>Objective: Maintain habitat connectivity and avoid displacement of wildlife.</p> <p>Management Action: Allow no new long-term (longer than two growing seasons) human use related ground disturbing activities within the unroaded wildlife habitat located below the rim. (NGD/NSO W-2)</p>

	<p>Objective: Protect and minimize disturbance to wintering big game, and allow for use of limited winter range habitats during the critical winter months.</p> <p>Management Action: Avoid drilling or other high-disturbance activities from December 1 through April 30 within winter habitat which includes big game severe winter range and other high value winter habitat as mapped by the CDOW. (TL-1)</p> <p>Objective: Prevent raptor nest abandonment and reductions in nesting productivity.</p> <p>Management Actions: Avoid drilling or other high-disturbance activities within a 0.25-mile buffer zone around the nest site from February 1 through August 15. (TL-6)</p>
BOTANICAL/ ECOLOGICAL	<p>Objective: Protect the current extent, ecological integrity, and function of the old-growth Douglas-fir community.</p> <p>Management Action: NGD/NSO within old-growth Douglas-fir remnant community, including removal of any size-class trees. (NGD/NSO P-3)</p> <p>Objective: Maintain the current ecological integrity and function of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Allow natural ecosystem processes such as rock slides to continue. Control wildfire only when human safety or property is at risk. (SM-P-10)</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Actions: Prohibit collection of plants, plant materials, and seeds except for scientific or research purposes. Collection must have no detrimental impact on long-term survival and reproduction of rare plant species or significant plant communities. (SM-P-13)</p> <p>Control noxious weeds using integrated techniques. Limit control in rare plant populations or significant plant communities to avoid damage to non-target species. (SM-P-14)</p>
RIPARIAN AREAS	<p>Objective: Maintain proper hydrologic function and protect adjacent areas that provide habitat for special status fish and wildlife species, important riparian values, water quality, waterfowl shorebird production, amphibian habitat, and high scenic and recreation values. Allow continued access to and use of these habitats.</p> <p>Management Actions: New roads, transmission lines, storage facilities and similar human-induced surface disturbances are restricted to an area beyond the outer edge of the riparian vegetation. (NGD/NSO 2)</p> <p>SSR/CSU within 500 feet of the outer edge of riparian or wetland vegetation.</p>

	(SSR/CSU 2)
STEEP SLOPES	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: NGD/NSO on slopes greater than 50% to minimize impacts on site productivity, control surface runoff, reduce erosion, and enhance reclamation. (NGD/NSO 15)</p>
SOILS	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and minimize potential for erosion.</p> <p>Management Action: On slopes greater than 30%, special design, construction, operation, and reclamation measures will be required. (SSR/CSU 4)</p>

EAST FORK PARACHUTE CREEK ACEC	
VISUAL	<p>Objective: Preserve the existing character of the landscape to meet VRM Class I objectives in areas designated as very high or high visual sensitivity.</p> <p>Management Action: Maintain the natural character and scenic quality of the landscape to provide for ecological changes and restrict landscape modifications in East Fork Falls and Box Canyon areas. Limited activities may be allowed if basic landscape elements (line, form, color, and texture) are repeated and changes are not evident and appear natural. (NGD/NSO V-2)</p> <p>Objective: In other parts of the ACEC, retain existing character of the landscape to meet VRM Class II objectives.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage all other portions of the ACEC to retain the existing character of the landscape and allow only limited changes. Special design, construction, implementation, and/or mitigation measures including relocation of operations more than 200 meters may be required. (SSR/CSU V-2)</p>
FISH AND WILDLIFE	<p>Objective: Protect identified raptor nest sites.</p> <p>Management Action: NSO within 0.125-mile radius of a nest site for raptors, including owls, osprey, golden eagle, hawks, accipiters, and falcons except American kestrel. (NGD/NSO 7)</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from direct impacts.</p> <p>Management Action: Allow no loss or degradation of highrisk habitat. (NGD/NSO W-4)</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from indirect impacts.</p> <p>Management Action: Allow no loss or degradation of fish habitat that supports Colorado River cutthroat trout moderate risk habitat. (NGD/NSO W-5)</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from both direct and indirect impacts within areas delineated as high value watersheds.</p>

	<p>Management Action: Allow no new long-term (greater than two growing seasons) ground-disturbing activities within the area mapped as high value watershed processes. (NGD/NSO W-6)</p> <p>Objective: Prevent raptor nest abandonment and reductions in nesting productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: No surface use within 0.25-mile radius of a nest site from February 1 to August 15, excepting operation and maintenance of production facilities. (TL-6)</p> <p>Objective: Minimize direct impacts to streambanks resulting from livestock grazing.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within the ACEC so that streambank damage does not exceed 10% of the stream length. (SM-W-9)</p>
<p>BOTANICAL/ ECOLOGICAL</p>	<p>Objective: Protect populations of rare plants and significant plant communities from most direct and some indirect impacts. (Within habitat identified as high risk plant habitat)</p> <p>Management Action: Allow no ground-disturbing activities in areas designated as high risk for rare plants or significant plant communities. (NGD/NSO P-4)</p> <p>Objective: Allow only activities within the watershed that would not disturb, alter, or interrupt the hydrologic or ecological processes that support rare plant species or significant plant communities (designated as moderate risk hydrologic value).</p> <p>Management Action: Allow only activities that would not disturb, alter, or interrupt the hydrologic or ecological processes that support rare plant species or significant plant communities (designated as moderate risk hydrologic value).</p> <p>Special design, construction, implementation, and/or mitigation measures may be required to minimize impacts of disturbances, including relocation of operations more than 200 meters may be required. (SSR/CSU P-7)</p> <p>Objective: Maintain the current ecological integrity and function of the rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Actions: Revegetate any allowed surface disturbance using locally adapted native species. (SM-P-9)</p> <p>Allow natural ecosystem processes such as rockslides to continue. Control wildfire only when human safety or property is at risk. (SM-P-10)</p> <p>Maintain significant riparian plant communities in mid-to-late seral stage to retain current ecological values. (SM-P-16)</p>

	<p>Objective: Minimize habitat fragmentation and risk of invasion by noxious weeds and other aggressive non-native species, which may compromise ecosystem function and long-term viability of rare species and communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Where practicable, restore to a naturally functioning state any existing human-caused disturbance that is impairing natural ecosystem processes affecting habitat for rare plant species or significant plant communities. (SM-P-12)</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Prohibit collection of plants, plant materials, and seeds, except for scientific or research purposes. Such collection must have no detrimental impact on long-term survival and reproduction of rare plant species or significant plant communities. (SM-P-13)</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Control noxious weeds using integrated techniques. Limit control in rare plant populations or significant plant communities to avoid damage to non-target species. (SM-P-14)</p> <p>Objective: Maintain healthy populations of rare plants and significant plant communities, maintain sufficient residual vegetation to sustain overall watershed functions, and provide forage for wildlife species.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within occupied or potential habitat for rare plants or significant plant communities to promote plant health, maintain sufficient residual vegetation, and sustain watershed functions, as defined in the Colorado Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines (BLM 1997a). (SM-P-15)</p>
RIPARIAN AREAS	<p>Objective: Maintain proper hydrologic function and protect adjacent areas that provide habitat for special status fish and wildlife species, important riparian values, water quality, waterfowl shorebird production, amphibian habitat and high scenic and recreation values. To allow continued access and use of these habitats.</p> <p>Management Actions: New roads, transmission lines, storage facilities, and similar human-induced surface disturbances, are restricted to an area beyond the outer edge of the riparian vegetation. (NGD/NSO 2)</p> <p>SSR/CSU within 500 feet of the outer edge of the riparian or wetland vegetation. (SSR/CSU 2)</p>
STEEP SLOPES	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and site productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: NGD/NSO on slopes greater than 50% to minimize impacts on site productivity, control surface runoff, reduce erosion, and enhance reclamation. (NGD/NSO 15)</p>

SOILS	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and minimize erosion.</p> <p>Management Action: On slopes greater than 30%, special design, construction, operation, and reclamation measures will be required. (SSR/CSU 4)</p>
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TRAPPER/NORTHWATER CREEK	
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VISUAL	<p>Objective: Retain the existing character of the landscape to meet Visual Resource Management Class II objectives.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage the ACEC to retain the existing character of the landscape and allow only limited changes. Special design, construction, implementation, and/or mitigation measures including relocation of operations more than 200 meters may be required. (SSR/CSU 5)</p>
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FISH AND WILDLIFE	<p>Objective: Protect identified raptor nest sites.</p> <p>Management Action: NGD/NSO within 0.125-mile radius of a nest site for raptors, including owls, osprey, golden eagle, buteos, accipiters, and falcons except American kestrel. (NGD/NSO 7)</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from direct impacts.</p> <p>Management Action: Allow no loss or degradation of fish habitat that supports Colorado River cutthroat trout high risk habitat. (NGD/NSO W-4)</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from indirect impacts.</p> <p>Management Action: Allow no loss or degradation of fish habitat that supports Colorado River cutthroat trout moderate risk habitat. (NGD/NSO W-5)</p> <p>Objective: Protect Colorado River cutthroat trout from both direct and indirect impacts within areas delineated as high value watersheds.</p> <p>Management Action: Allow no new long-term (greater than two growing seasons) ground-disturbing activities within the area mapped as high value watershed processes. (NGD/NSO W-6)</p> <p>Objective: Prevent raptor nest abandonment and reductions in nesting productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: Avoid drilling or similar activity within a 0.25-mile buffer zone around the nest site from February 1 to August 15. This does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities. (TL-6)</p> <p>Objective: Minimize direct impacts to streambanks resulting from livestock grazing.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within the ACEC so that streambank damage does not exceed 10% of the stream length. (SM-W-9)</p>
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<p>BOTANICAL/ ECOLOGICAL</p>	<p>Objective: Protect populations of rare plants and significant plant communities from most direct and some indirect impacts (in habitat identified as high risk plant habitat).</p> <p>Management Action: Allow no ground-disturbing activities in areas designated as high risk for rare plants or significant plant communities. (NSO P-4)</p> <p>Objective: Allow only activities within the watershed that would not disturb, alter, or interrupt the hydrologic or ecological processes that support rare plant species or significant plant communities (designated as moderate risk hydrologic value).</p> <p>Management Action: Allow only activities within the watershed that would not disturb, alter, or interrupt the hydrologic or ecological processes that support rare plant species or significant plant communities (designated as moderate risk hydrologic value). (SSR/CSU P-7)</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Prohibit collection of plants, plant materials, and seeds, except for scientific or research purposes. Such collection must have no detrimental impact on long-term survival and reproduction of rare plant species or significant plant communities. (SM-P-5)</p> <p>Objective: Ensure the long-term survival and reproductive capability of rare plants and significant plant communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Control noxious weeds using integrated techniques. Limited control in rare plant populations or significant plant communities to avoid damage to non-target species. (SM-P-6)</p> <p>Objective: Maintain healthy populations of rare plants and significant plant communities, maintain sufficient residual vegetation to sustain overall watershed functions, and provide forage for wildlife species.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage livestock grazing within occupied or potential habitat for rare plants or significant plant communities to promote plant health, maintain sufficient residual vegetation, and sustain overall watershed functions, as defined in the Colorado Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines (BLM 1997a)</p>
<p>RIPARIAN AREAS</p>	<p>Objective: Maintain proper hydrologic function and protect adjacent areas that provide habitat for special status fish and wildlife species, important riparian values, water quality, waterfowl shorebird production, amphibian habitat and high scenic and recreation values. To allow continued access and use of these habitats.</p> <p>Management Actions: Roads, transmission lines, storage facilities, and</p>

	<p>similar human-induced surface disturbances are restricted to an area beyond the outer edge of the riparian vegetation. (NGD/NSO 2)</p> <p>SSR/CSU within 500 feet of the outer edge of the riparian or wetland vegetation. (SSR/CSU 2)</p>
STEEP SLOPES	<p>Objective: Maintain site stability and productivity.</p> <p>Management Action: NGD/NSO on slopes greater than 50% to minimize impacts on site productivity, control surface runoff, reduce accelerated erosion, and increase likelihood of successful reclamation. (NGD/NSO 15)</p>

MAP 1 - CITY OF RIFLE'S PREFERRED ACEC CONFIGURATION

- ACEC
- Anvil Points
 - East Fork
 - Magpie Gulch
 - Trapper Creek

