
Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES**Significance Criteria**

- Alteration of the physical characteristic of streams, wetlands or riparian areas beyond the designated use of the receiving stream or the water fails to meet Federal or State quality standards.
- Degradation of water quality beyond the designated use of the receiving stream or the water fails to meet Federal or State quality standards.

Assumptions

- Substantial surface disturbance to soil, including compaction of soil or loss of vegetative cover, would increase water runoff and downstream sediment loads, and lower soil productivity, thereby degrading water quality, altering channel structure, and affecting overall watershed health.
- The degree of impact attributed to any one disturbance or series of disturbances would be influenced by several factors, including location within the watershed, time and degree of disturbance, existing vegetation, and precipitation.
- An increase of pollutants in surface waters would affect other beneficial uses (e.g., stock-watering, irrigation, and/or drinking water supplies).
- Access roads would be properly designed.

Methods of analysis

Impact analyses and conclusions are based on interdisciplinary team knowledge of resources and the project area, which includes BLM specialists from the Little Snake field office and cooperating agencies, as well as a review of existing literature. Effects are quantified where possible using field investigations, aerial photography and geographic information systems. In the absence of quantitative data, best professional judgment was used. Impacts are sometimes described using ranges of potential impacts or in qualitative terms if appropriate.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
SOIL RESOURCES			
Fragile Soils			
<p>A. Allow surface-disturbing activities on isolated sites that meet fragile soil criteria only where performance standards and objectives can be met. Fragile soil criteria areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are rated as highly or severely erodible by wind or water, as described by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Area Soil Survey Report or as described by on-site inspection. 2. Have slopes greater than or equal to 35%, if they also have one of the following soil characteristics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Surface texture that is sand, loamy sand, very fine sandy loam, silty clay or clay. b) A depth to bedrock less than 20 inches. c) Erosion condition rated as 'poor'. 	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
d) K factor greater than 0.32.			
Allowing surface disturbance on fragile soils could decrease vegetation cover and increase sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity to nearby streams.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
B. Permit surface occupancy on federal surface only where adherence to performance objectives for surface-disturbing activities within fragile-soil areas is assured. Performance objectives for fragile soils are the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain the soil productivity by reducing soil loss from erosion and through proper handling of the soil material. 2. Reduce impact to off-site areas by controlling erosion and/or overland flow from these areas. 3. Protect water quality and quantity of adjacent surface and groundwater sources. 4. Reduce accelerated erosion caused by surface-disturbing 	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
activities. 5. Select best possible site for development to reduce the impacts to the soil and water resources.			
Allowing surface disturbance on fragile soils could decrease vegetation cover and increase sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity to nearby streams.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Surface Use			
C. For new oil and gas leases and all surface-disturbing activities permitted under the 1989 RMP ¹ , ensure that applicants demonstrate compliance with performance objectives through a plan of development, using alternative measures, or use of the following mitigative measures: 1. Retain all sediments generated from the surface-disturbing activity on site. 2. Do not allow	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

¹ These requirements do not supersede valid existing rights on approved applications for permits to drill, developing leases or entry under the general mining laws; rights-of-way construction will be allowed along Moffat County roads 4, 67 and 126 on a case-by-case basis. BLM will work with operators/permittees/county engineers to develop appropriate compliance measures.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>construction or other surface-disturbing activities when the soils are saturated to a depth of more than 3 inches.</p> <p>3. Limit vehicle use to existing roads and trails.</p> <p>4. Build all new permanent roads to meet BLM primary road standards in locations approved by the authorized officer (for oil and gas purposes, permanent roads are those used for production).</p> <p>5. Conduct all geophysical and geochemical exploration by helicopter, horseback, on foot or from existing roads.</p> <p>6. Design any sediment-control structures, reserve pits or disposal pits to contain a 100 year, 6 hour storm event and provide storage volumes within these structures that have a</p>			

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>design life of 25 years.</p> <p>7. Before reserve, production or emergency pits are reclaimed remove all residue and truck it off site to an approved disposal site.</p> <p>8. Initiate reclamation of disturbed surfaces before November 1 each year.</p> <p>Approve all reclamation plans by the authorized officer in advance and require a bond if necessary, if one has not been previously posted.</p>			
Implementation of mitigation measures would reduce the likelihood of sedimentation loading, salinity, and turbidity to nearby streams.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
WATER RESOURCES			
A. See also decisions for Soil Resources.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
B. Establish no-surface occupancy stipulations from within 500 feet to ¼ mile of perennial water sources, depending on type and use of source, soil type and slope steepness.	No similar action.	Establish no-surface occupancy stipulations up to ¼ mile of perennial water sources, if necessary depending on type and use of source, soil type and slope steepness. Exceptions granted according to Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
No surface occupancy within 500 feet to ¼ mile of perennial water sources would reduce surface disturbance, which would reduce the potential for increased sediment loading and salinity.		No surface occupancy up to ¼ mile of perennial water sources would reduce surface disturbance, which would reduce the potential for increased sediment loading and salinity.	Same as Alternative C.
VEGETATION			
Desired Plant Communities			
A. No similar action	Upland and riparian vegetation would be managed to achieve desired plant community (DPC) objectives established for a localized area to meet the Standards for Rangeland Health and objectives for the planning area. DPC objectives will be determined through use various reference information, including NRCS Range Site Guides and updated ecological site inventory data, in conjunction with the specific objectives for the area.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B
	Managing for desired plant community objectives would indirectly benefit water resources and water quality. DPC vegetation would minimize erosion and surface runoff.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Vegetation Treatments			
B. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	When consistent with healthy rangeland ecosystems, emphasize vegetation	1. Use vegetation treatments on an average of 3,030 acres per year over the life of the plan to	Use vegetation treatments on an average of 7,570 acres per year over the life of the plan to restore

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	<p>treatments to increase forage production.</p>	<p>restore diversity of seral stages and species, as appropriate.</p> <p>2. Work with the Northwest Colorado Sage-Grouse Working Group to identify, maintain, and restore an average of 530 acres of sagebrush per year. Emphasize creation of functional blocks of sagebrush as sage grouse habitat.</p> <p>3. Use vegetation treatments on an average of 1,600 acres per year to reduce encroachment of juniper and woody species to mimic natural conditions.</p> <p>4. Restore a total of 80 acres during the planning period of bitterbrush and other important winter forage species in the Sand Hills and Spring Creek LHAs.</p> <p>5. Restore an average of 100 acres per year of Mountain shrub.</p>	<p>diversity of seral stages and species, as appropriate.</p> <p>Work with the Northwest Colorado Sage-Grouse Working Group to identify, maintain, and restore an average of 2,000 acres of sagebrush per year. Emphasize creation of functional blocks of sagebrush.</p> <p>Use vegetation treatments on an average of 3,500 acres per year to reduce encroachment of juniper and woody species to mimic natural conditions.</p> <p>Restore an average of 50 acres per year of bitterbrush and other important winter forage species in all LHAs, starting with the Sand Hills and Spring Creek LHAs.</p> <p>Restore an average of 1,000 acres of per year Mountain shrub.</p>
	<p>Treatments that improve vegetation health would indirectly improve water resources and water quality.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	Treatments would initially increase localized erosion and sedimentation, but would decrease these impacts in the long term.		
C. No Similar Action.	Same as Alternative A.	Use vegetation treatments where Land Health Standards are not being met for reasons other than livestock (such as areas where reclamation efforts have not been successful or heavy-use OHV areas), improve conditions on 50 percent of sites during the life of the plan.	Same as Alternative C.
		Treatments that improve vegetation health would indirectly improve water resources and water quality. Treatments would initially increase localized erosion and sedimentation, but would decrease these impacts in the long term.	Same as Alternative C.
Forests and Woodlands			
D. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	Same as Alternative A.	Restore an average of 200 acres per year of Ponderosa type, primarily in the Douglas Mountain area.	Restore an average of 400 acres per year of Ponderosa Pine, primarily in the Douglas Mountain area.
E. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	Same as Alternative A.	Treat an average of 50 acres per year of Lodgepole type, primarily in the Cold Springs LHA.	Treat an average of 100 acres per year of Lodgepole type, primarily in the Cold Springs LHA.
F. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	Same as Alternative A.	Improve/maintain aspen community health on an average of 50 acres per year of the stands, especially in Cold Springs LHA and in Routt	Improve/maintain aspen community health on an average of 200 acres per year of the stands, especially in Cold Springs LHA and in Routt

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		County.	County.
G. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	Same as Alternative A.	Restore an average of 500 acres per year of Pinyon/Juniper woodland.	Same as Alternative C.
		Actions that improve forest and woodland health would indirectly improve water resources and water quality. Improvements would stabilize soils and decrease surface runoff, erosion, and sediment loading.	Same as Alternative C.
Noxious Weeds			
H. Identify and eliminate noxious weeds on a case-by-case basis consistent with current policy.	Same as Alternative A.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Eliminate invasive species focusing on areas of new infestations, and where possible, extirpate existing populations, especially in Axial, Powder Wash, Douglas Mountain, Sand Hills, and Williams Fork LHAs, and in selected and Routt and Moffat County parcels. 2. Partner with resource users and other stakeholders to reduce the occurrence of noxious weeds. Maximize utilization of cooperative agreements for control of invasive species. 	Same as Alternative C.
		Preventing the spread of noxious weeds and eliminating invasive species would improve vegetation health. Improving vegetation health	Same as Alternative C.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		would indirectly improve water resources and water quality.	
FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT			
A. Raptors (golden eagle, osprey, all accipiters, falcons, except kestrel, butteos, and owls): NSO within 1/8 mile radius of nest site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the nest site or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the nest site.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.	Raptors (golden eagle, osprey, all accipiters, falcons, except kestrel, butteos, and owls): NSO within 1/4 mile radius of nest site. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.
Areas of NSO within 1/8 mile of nest sites would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.		Same as Alternative A.	Areas of NSO within 1/4 mile of nest sites would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.
B. Raptor nesting and fledgling habitat (golden eagle and all accipiters, falcons, except the kestrel, all butteos, and owls) - February 1 to August 15. Applies to ¼ mile buffer zone around the nest site.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.
C. Exceptions to raptor			

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
habitat. During years when a nest site is unoccupied or unoccupied by or after May 15, the seasonal limitation may be suspended. It may also be suspended once young have fledged and dispersed from the nest.			
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from February 1 to August 15.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
D. Peregrine Falcon: NSO within ¼ mile radius of cliff nesting complex. No exceptions.	No similar action.	NSO within ¼ mile radius of cliff nesting complex. In addition, NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the nesting complex or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening.	Same as Alternative C.
Areas of NSO within ¼ mile of cliff nesting complexes would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
E. Peregrine falcon cliff nesting complex – March 16 to July 31. Applies ½	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to	Same as Alternative C.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
mile buffer area around the nesting complex to prevent abandonment and desertion of established territories. Exceptions: during years when a nest is unoccupied or unoccupied by or after May 15, the seasonal stipulation may be suspended. May also be suspended once the young have fledged and dispersed from the nest.		criteria established in Appendix X.	
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from March 16 to July 31.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
F. Waterfowl and Shorebird: NSO on significant production areas (Waterfowl Habitat Management Areas and rookeries). No exceptions.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the production areas or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening. Exceptions: granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.
Areas of NSO on significant production areas would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.			
G. Big game species (mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep) crucial winter habitat – December 1 to April 30. Exceptions: under mild winter conditions, the last 60 days of the seasonal limitation period may be suspended. Severity of winter determined on basis of snow depth, snow crusting, daily mean temperatures, and concentration of animals on winter range during winter months.	No similar action.	Big game species (mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep) crucial winter habitat – December 1 to April 30, with the intent of this stipulation remaining consistent with big game hunting season. In the case that hunting season would extend later, exceptions would be applied according to Appendix X. Exceptions: granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative A.
H. Big game birthing areas: 1. Elk calving – April 16 to June 30 2. Pronghorn Antelope fawning – May 1 to July 15 3. Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep lambing – May 1 to July 15 4. Desert Bighorn Sheep lambing – March 16 to May 30	No similar action.	Elk calving – April 16 to June 30 Pronghorn Antelope fawning – May 1 to July 15 Bighorn Sheep – May 1 – July 15 Exceptions: granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
I. Exceptions: When it is determined through a site-specific environmental analysis that specific actions would not interfere with critical habitat function or compromise animal conditions within the project vicinity, the restriction may be altered or removed.			
J. Greater Sandhill Crane nesting and staging habitat areas – March 1 to October 16. No exceptions.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.
K. Osprey nesting and fledgling habitat – April 1 to August 31. Applies to a ½ mile buffer zone to avoid nest abandonment.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES			
A. Colorado BLM sensitive species (plant and wildlife): Surveys would be conducted of potential	Same as Alternative A.	In addition to Alternative A, BLM would survey for rare plant communities and if any such communities are found, all disruptive	In addition to Alternative C, review Colorado Natural Heritage Database for sensitive plant species not listed on BLM sensitive species list and

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habitat for Colorado BLM sensitive species before any surface disturbance. Should any such species be found, all disruptive activities would be halted until species-specific protective measures were developed and implemented.		activities would be delayed until specific protective measures were developed and implemented, if appropriate.	determine appropriate management for species on case-by-case basis.
B. White Pelican nesting and feeding habitat areas – March 16 to September 30. No exceptions.	No similar action – protected under standard terms and conditions.	No similar action – protected under standard terms and conditions.	No similar action – protected under standard terms and conditions.
C. Ferruginous Hawk nesting and fledgling habitat – February 1 to August 15. Applies to 1-mile buffer zone to avoid nest abandonment.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
D. Colombian sharp-tailed grouse: NSO within ¼ mile radius of a lek site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
and vegetation screening to the lek site.			
Areas of NSO would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Greater Sage-Grouse			
E. Greater Sage-Grouse: NSO within ¼ mile radius of a lek site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the lek site.	No similar action.	For the purpose of reducing potential impacts to greater sage-grouse lek integrity, NSO within ¼ mile radius of a lek site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the lek site. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	For the purpose of further reducing potential impacts to greater sage-grouse lek integrity, NSO within a 0.6 mile radius of a lek site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the lek site. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.
Areas of NSO within ¼ mile radius of a lek site would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
F. Nesting habitat March 1-June 30.	No similar action	For the purpose of preventing disturbing up to 75% of nesting	For the purpose of preventing disturbing greater than 75% of

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		<p>birds, from March 1- June 30, greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat (as defined in Chapter 3) would be controlled surface use for oil and gas exploration and development and avoidance areas for other surface disturbing activities within a 4-mile radius of the perimeter of a lek. All surface disturbing activities would avoid only nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within the 4-mile radius of the lek during this time period.</p> <p>Exceptions, modification, or waivers granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.</p> <p>The actual area to be avoided would be determined on a case-by-case basis dependent on applicable scientific research and site-specific analysis and in coordination with commodity users and other appropriate entities.</p> <p>The use of the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be encouraged for all surface disturbing activities. The BLM may require implementation of some of the following BMPs. Use of these BMPs become even more important</p>	<p>nesting birds, from March 1- June 30, greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat (as defined in Chapter 3) would be controlled surface use for oil and gas exploration and development and avoidance areas for other surface disturbing and disruptive activities.</p> <p>Exceptions, modification, or waivers granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.</p> <p>The actual area to be avoided would be determined on a case-by-case basis dependent on applicable scientific research and site-specific analysis and in coordination with commodity users and other appropriate entities.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C</p>

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		<p>once disturbance reaches 10 percent of nesting habitat within 4 mile radius of an active lek. As new BMPs are developed, they may be added to the following list or replace some of the following BMPs.</p> <p><u>Habitat Reclamation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use early and effective reclamation techniques, including interim reclamation, to allow sage grouse habitat to be re-established as soon as possible. (may require multiple reclamation efforts) • Utilize reclamation seed mixes consisting of native bunchgrasses, forbs and subspecies of big sagebrush that are appropriate for the disturbed site and its potential. • Practice reclamation techniques that speed recovery of pre-existing vegetation. • Avoid aggressive, non-native grasses (e.g. intermediate wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass, smooth brome, etc) in reclamation seed mixes. • Cooperate with county weed programs to control noxious weed infestations associated with oil 	

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		<p>and gas development disturbances.</p> <p><u>Footprint Reduction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce long-term footprint of facilities to the smallest practical space. • Design and construct roads to minimize duplication. • Cluster development of roads, pipelines, electric lines and other facilities and use existing, combined corridors where possible. • Use directional drilling where biologically significant habitats are involved, to minimize impact to grouse habitat, if such techniques are technically feasible. • Minimize pad size and other facilities to the extent possible, consistent with safety. (Where directional drilling is utilized, larger pads are needed for multiple wells.) • Minimize width of field surface roads. Avoid engineered and graveled roads when possible to reduce the footprint. <p><u>Reduce Disturbance to Birds</u></p>	

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit non surface disturbing activities during the breeding season (March 1 – May 1) near active sage grouse leks to portions of the day after 9:00 a.m. and before 4:00 p.m. • Reduce noise impacts from compressor stations by locating stations and at least 2500 feet away from leks or by decibel reduction equipment. • Field development plans will be required if exploration or wildcat wells indicate that substantial drilling may occur. • Reduce daily visits to well pads and road travel to the extent possible in sage grouse habitat. • Utilize remote telemetry to monitor wells when practical to reduce daily visits to wells. • Gate field service roads or otherwise limit regular public access on field service roads. (consistent with landowner wishes and direction for split estate wells or ROW access across private lands.) 	
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could		Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water	Same as Alternative A.

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protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from March 1 to June 30.		quality by reducing surface disturbance from March 1 to June 30. This alternative would indirectly provide more protection to water quality and water resources.	
G. Crucial winter habitat closed– December 16 to March 15. No exceptions.	No similar action	Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions would be granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	For the purpose of reducing disturbance to the animals, greater sage grouse winter habitat (Map X) would be closed to surface disturbing and disruptive activities from December 16 to March 15. In addition, for the purpose of protecting greater sage-grouse winter habitat, these areas would be controlled surface use for oil and gas exploration and development and avoidance areas for other surface disturbing and disruptive activities. Exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from December 16 to March 15.			Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from December 16 to March 15.
Black-footed Ferret			
H. No surface-disturbing activities will be allowed that may significantly alter	No Similar Action	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A. In addition, see White-Tailed Prairie Dog ACEC management under Special

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
the prairie dog complex making it unsuitable for reintroduction of the black-footed ferret.			Designations section.
I. Do not allow rangeland improvement projects (fences, water developments, etc.) within ¼ mile of black-footed ferret release cages or release sites to prevent disturbance or damage during the 3 to 4 month release period.	No Similar Action	Do not allow rangeland improvement projects (fences, water developments, etc.) within ¼ mile of black-footed ferret release sites to prevent disturbance or damage during the 3 to 4 month release period.	Same as Alternative C
J. Rights-of-way on public land that have the potential to disturb occupied black-footed ferret habitat will be rerouted to avoid those prairie dog towns.	No Similar Action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Management actions that restrict or reduce surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality to nearby streams.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Colorado River Fishes			
K. No similar action	No Surface Occupancy NSO) within critical or occupied habitat of Colorado pikeminnow (<i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>), razorback sucker (<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>), humpback chub (<i>Gila cypha</i>), and bonytail (<i>Gila</i>	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	<i>elegans</i>). Exceptions that may cause adverse affect to listed fish (such as bridge abutments) will require site specific consultation with FWS.		
	Areas of NSO would prohibit surface disturbance, which would reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
L. No similar action	All new pipelines and other controlled surface uses crossing any critical or occupied habitat of the Colorado River fishes will adhere to the following stipulations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pipelines shall not be constructed in known spawning sites or backwaters. 2. No work in the active river channel will take place between July 1 and September 30. This will avoid adverse affects from sedimentation during spawning, and when larval fishes are drifting 	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	<p>in the river channel.</p> <p>3. After construction, the stream bed will be returned to pre-construction contours.</p> <p>4. Pipelines transporting substances other than water will have automatic shut off valves.</p> <p>5. Pipelines transporting substances other than water will be double-walled where they cross the river.</p> <p>6. A spill/leak contingency plan will be developed.</p>		
	<p>These stipulations on new pipelines crossing any critical or occupied habitat of the Colorado River fishes would indirectly reduce sediment loading and salinity and protect existing water quality</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>M. No similar action</p>	<p>Avoid aerial application of chemical fire retardant or foam – except where human safety is involved – and exclude surface disturbing activities (e.g. fire lines) within 300 feet of any body of water that may intercept critical or occupied habitat of the</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

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ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	Colorado River fishes.		
N. No similar action	Minimize the impacts from herbicide applications by complying with label instructions when controlling tamarisk and/or Russian olive on critical and other occupied habitat of Colorado River fishes.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
O. No similar action	Minimize the impacts from erosion and habitat restoration associated with tamarisk and/or Russian olive control on critical and other occupied habitat of Colorado River fishes.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
P. No similar action	BLM shall coordinate with Recovery Implementation Program to identify potential problem areas and conservation measures to reduce the risk of bank destabilization or increased sedimentation resulting from any land use activity or natural disturbance. For sites where habitat loss is a risk, remedial actions should be implemented to ensure that the suitability of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Q. No similar action	Exclude suction dredging for gold from critical habitat of Colorado River fishes during the spawning and nursery period for	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	each species – encompassing a time period of April through September.		
R. No similar action	Where possible, implement measures to reduce selenium concentrations in the upper Colorado River basin. For example, decrease erosion in areas with selenium-rich soils (e.g., shale-derived soils), maintain adequate vegetation cover on the site, control ephemeral streamflow with water spreading structures, or apply NSO stipulations on steep slopes with selenium-rich soils.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
S. No similar action	Do not authorize irrigation in areas with selenium-rich soils (e.g., shale-derived soils).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	These management actions could protect or maintain water quality.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Mexican Spotted Owl			
T. Mexican spotted owl nesting and fledgling habitat – February 1 to July 31. Applied to territories in which an owl(s) has been spotted, but no nests or roosts have been confirmed and in territory where there is confirmed nesting,	No Surface Occupancy shall be applied to all protected activity centers (PACs). Other surface disturbing activities within protected or restricted habitats – such as prescribed fires and fuels reduction – may occur in specific cases, but will require separate Section 7 consultation.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
feeding, and roosting activity. No exceptions.			
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from February 1 to July 31.	Areas of NSO would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
U. Mexican Spotted Owl: NSO within ¼ mile radius of confirmed roost site and nesting site. No exceptions.	Non-surface disturbing activities in PACs shall avoid the MSO breeding season (March 1 through August 31).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Areas of NSO would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.	Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from March 1 through August 31.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
V. No similar action	Prohibit permanent surface disturbing activities within ¼ mile of any suitable YBC habitat. Exceptions should be evaluated on a case by case basis to avoid adverse impact.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	Prohibiting permanent surface disturbing activities would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing		

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	water quality.		
W. No similar action	To avoid direct impacts or changes in riparian habitat, do not modify stream channel morphology or annual stream flow regimes in suitable habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	Maintaining stream channel morphology or annual stream flow regimes would maintain existing water quality.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Mountain Plover			
X. No similar action	No similar action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surface use is prohibited from April 1 to July 15 within ¼ mile of occupied nesting habitat for mountain plovers. This stipulation does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities. 2. <u>Exception:</u> An exception may be granted by the authorized officer if the operator submits a plan which demonstrates that the proposed action will not affect the mountain plover or its habitat. If the authorized officer determines that the action may or will have an adverse effect, the operator may submit a plan demonstrating that the impacts can be adequately mitigated. 3. <u>Modification:</u> The boundaries of 	Same as Alternative C

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		<p>the stipulated area may be modified if the authorized officer determines that portions of the area are not critical to the mountain plover.</p> <p>4. <u>Waiver</u>: The stipulation may be waived if the authorized officer determines that the portion of the lease under the restriction no longer provides potential to be occupied by the species for nesting habitat.</p>	
Y. No similar action	No similar action	<p>1. Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within 1/8 mile of occupied nesting habitat for mountain plovers.</p> <p>2. <u>Exception</u>: An exception may be granted by the authorized officer if the operator submits a plan which demonstrates that the proposed action will not affect the mountain plover nest site.</p> <p>3. <u>Modification</u>: The boundaries of the stipulated area may be modified if the authorized officer determines that surface occupancy will not harm the integrity of the nest or nest location.</p> <p>4. <u>Waiver</u>: The stipulation may be</p>	Same as Alternative C

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		waived if the authorized officer determines that the portion of the lease under the no surface occupancy restriction no longer provides potential to be used by the species for nesting.	
		Seasonal and no surface occupancy restrictions would reduce surface disturbing activities and could protect or maintain water quality to nearby streams.	Same as Alternative C
Colorado River Cutthroat Trout			
Z. No similar action	Monitor watershed conditions to detect changes every 2 years in watersheds containing core conservation populations (CCP's), every five years in watersheds containing conservation populations (CP's), and every 10 years in watersheds containing hybridized/ unknown populations (HUP's). Watershed monitoring will be conducted as part of BLM's Land Health Assessment process.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
AA. No similar action	Monitor lake and stream habitat to detect changes every 2 years in lakes or streams containing CCP's, every five years in lakes or streams containing CP's, and every 10 years in lakes or	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	streams containing HUP's. Lake and stream monitoring will be conducted as part of BLM's Land Health Assessment process.		
BB. No similar action	Improve or maintain watershed conditions and lake and stream habitat. Watershed conditions and stream and lake habitat will be maintained or improved for locations containing CCP's and CP's; and maintained for locations containing HUP's. Priority will be given to improving watershed conditions and stream or lake habitat for locations containing CCP's, where possible. Habitat improvement techniques will be used where appropriate to provide missing habitat components or improve existing ones. These techniques can include building instream structures to improve pool to riffle ratios, streambank stabilization, riparian management, instream cover, pool or spawning gravel enhancement, and provision of fish passageways.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
CC. No similar action	Where possible, BLM will acquire adequate instream flows and lake levels, and meet water	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	quality standards for CCP's and CP's. BLM will utilize all legal avenues for maintaining adequate flows, pools and water quality, including the purchase of private water rights and negotiations on timing, duration and volume of flows and drawdowns.		
	Management actions to monitor water quality would help maintain existing water quality and identify water quality issues if they arise.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B
DD.No similar action	No similar action	BLM will coordinate with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) to describe existing cutthroat trout populations and their instream/riparian habitats. Riparian PFC assessments will be conducted every 2 years for lakes or streams containing CCP's, every five years for lakes or streams containing CP's, and every 10 years for lakes or streams containing HUP's. Population distribution information will be collected by the CDOW, with assistance from BLM, on a schedule to be determined by the CDOW.	Same as Alternative C
		Management actions to conduct riparian PFC assessments would help maintain existing water quality and identify water quality issues if they arise.	Same as Alternative C.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
EE. No similar action	Land management decisions which are likely to affect CCP's or CP's should ensure that habitat elements for cutthroat trout are protected. Timber management, road construction, mineral development, and their associated impacts to CCP's or CP's should be analyzed and mitigated prior to project implementation.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	Mitigation of impacts could reduce the potential for degradation of water quality.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
FF. No similar action	Livestock grazing impacts should be evaluated every 2 years for lakes or streams containing CCP's, every 5 years for lakes or streams containing CP's, and every 10 years for lakes or streams containing HUP's. Impacts will be evaluated through the Land Health Assessment process with a specific focus on riparian areas.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	Management actions to evaluate livestock grazing impacts would help maintain existing water quality and identify water quality issues if they arise.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Boreal Toad			
GG. No similar action	Where possible, maintain	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	standing water at boreal toad breeding sites until metamorphosis is complete.		
HH. No similar action	BLM will not drain or fill wetlands at boreal toad breeding sites.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
II. No similar action	Minimize activities that may increase or cause sedimentation at boreal toad breeding sites.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	Minimizing activities that may increase or cause sedimentation would maintain or improve existing water quality by reducing sediment loading and turbidity.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
JJ. No similar action	Where BLM has discretionary authority, prevent the discharge of acid mine drainage into occupied boreal toad habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
KK. No similar action	Minimize the impact of acid mine drainage into suitable-unoccupied and potential toad habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	Preventing and minimizing the impact of acid mine drainage would maintain or improve existing water quality.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
LL. No similar action	In suitable-unoccupied habitat, campsites should be located at least 100ft. from riparian areas.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	Locating campsites 100 feet from riparian areas could decrease the likelihood for	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	localized surface disturbance, such as soil compaction and trampling that could lead to erosion and sediment loading.		
Bald Eagle			
MM. Bald Eagle: NSO within ¼ mile radius of roost or nest site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the roost or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening. No exceptions for nest sites.	Year round No Surface Occupancy within ¼ mile radius of both occupied and unoccupied nests. Definition of 'occupied nest' [from Northern States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan 1983, page D4].: a) young were observed, b) eggs were laid (eggs or eggshell fragments observed), c) one adult observed in incubating ("sitting low") posture on the nest during the incubation period, d) two adults observed at an empty nest or within the breeding area, and e) one adult and one eagle in immature plumage at or near a nest, especially if mating or reproductive behavior (display flights, copulation, nest repair, etc.) was observed.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
NSO within ¼ mile radius of roost or nest sites would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.	NSO within ¼ mile radius of both occupied and unoccupied nests would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
NN. Bald eagle nesting habitat – December 15 to June 15. Applies ½ mile buffer zone around the nest site to prevent disruption of nesting. Exceptions: During years when a nest site is unoccupied by or after May 15, timing limitation may be suspended. May also be suspended once young have fledged and dispersed from nest.	No human activity or other surface disturbance within ½ mile radius of occupied nests from November 15 through July 31.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from December 15 to June 15.	Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from November 15 through July 31.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
OO. No similar action	No Surface Occupancy within 100 meter radius of abandoned nests (unoccupied for 5 consecutive years, but with all or part of the nest remaining).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	Areas of NSO would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
PP. Bald eagle winter roost site – November 16 to April 15. Applies ½ mile	Human activities within ¼ mile of known winter hunting perches and ½ mile of critical night	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
buffer area around the roost site to avoid relocation to less suitable areas. Exceptions: If there is partial or complete visual screening of the area of activity, the primary zone around the roost site may be reduced to ¼ mile.	roosts on BLM land should be restricted from November 15 to March 15. Buffers can be reduced to ¼ mile for night roosts and 1/8 mile for hunting perches if the activity is visually screened by vegetation or topography. Development may be permitted at other periods. If periodic visits (such as oil well maintenance work) are required within the buffer zone after development, activity should be restricted to the hours of 1000 and 1400 hours from November 15 to March 15 (new guidelines developed by CDOW based on current data). Exceptions will require consultation with FWS for each individual action.		
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from November 16 to April 15.	Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from November 15 to March 15.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
QQ. No similar action	All surface disturbing activities (e.g., project construction) should be prohibited within ¼ mile of known roosts on BLM land, unless the activity will benefit wintering bald eagles or their habitat. Exceptions will require consultation for each	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	individual action.		
	Prohibiting surface disturbing activities could reduce sediment loading to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.		
FIRE			
A. Use maximum suppression on areas with high resource values, structures, commercial forest, oil and gas developments, cultural values, improvements, and to prevent fire from spreading to adjacent private property/structures, etc. and provide full protection to buffer areas near or adjacent to critical management areas for threatened, endangered and candidate species, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, and research natural areas (RNA's).	Use appropriate fire management response in areas where fire not desired at all or wildfire is not desired such as ecosystems where fire never played a significant positive role in it's function; areas where suppression is required to prevent direct threats to life or property; private lands and urban interfaces, important cultural resources, areas with unnatural fuel buildups, and areas where seed bank does not exist for natural reseeding.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
B. Use conditional fire suppression in areas with resources of low value or that do not warrant full suppression actions and/or high suppression costs, including fires in the Douglas Mountain area	Use conditional fire suppression in areas where fire is desired but where there may be social, political, or ecological constraints such as air quality considerations (proximity to Class I airsheds or non-attainment areas); threatened or	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
(the five WSA's adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument, Diamond Breaks WSA, West Cold Spring WSA, and Cross Mountain WSA).	endangered species or habitat considerations.		
C. No similar action	Use minimal to no fire suppression in areas where fire is desired.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
D. Use both planned and unplanned prescribed fire to improve resource habitat, condition, etc.	Use both prescribed fire and wildfire to improve resource habitat, condition, etc. where appropriate.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Maximum fire suppression would reduce initial associated impacts, such as localized erosion and sedimentation. However, maximum fire suppression could result in uncharacteristically large or intense wild fire.	Conditional fire suppression would improve water resources and water quality. Conditional fire suppression would initially increase localized erosion and sedimentation after fire events, but these impacts would decrease in the long term.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS			
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern			
The following sites, totaling 22,530 acres, are designated to protect enhance the values noted: Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA (1,350 acres; remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic	Designate no additional ACECs, and remove ACEC designation from all existing ACECs. (Manage 0 acres as ACEC).	Retain designation of the Irish Canyon ACEC (11,680 acres). The following areas would not be retained as ACECs. Management of these areas would be as described below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limestone Ridge (1,350 acres) 	Retain Irish Canyon ACEC, Limestone Ridge ACEC, Lookout Mountain ACEC, and Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC. In addition, designate the White-Tailed Prairie Dog ACEC (289,438 acres), Cold Desert Shrublands ACEC (5,755 acres), Gibben's

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>quality).</p> <p>Irish Canyon ACEC, including the Ink Springs area (11,680 acres; remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, geologic values, cultural resources, scenic quality).</p> <p>Lookout Mountain ACEC (6,500 acres; Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).</p> <p>Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC (3,000 acres; threatened and endangered species, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lookout Mountain (6,500 acres) Cross Mountain Canyon (3,000 acres) 	<p>Beardtongue ACEC (5,477 acres), Bull Canyon ACEC (3,416 acres), G Gap ACEC (5,661 acres), Little Juniper Canyon ACEC (14 acres), Bassett Spring ACEC (117 acres), No Name Spring ACEC (76 acres), Pot Creek ACEC (2,230 acres), Whiskey Springs ACEC (2,758 acres), Willow Spring ACEC (88 acres), and Deception Creek ACEC (XX acres).</p>
Limestone Ridge			
<p>Minerals and Energy: No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas exploration and development</p> <p>Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p>	<p>No similar action.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Open to all exploration and development; however, not available for coal leasing.</p>	<p>Drop ACEC designation.</p> <p>Objective: Protect sensitive plants, remnant plant communities, and scenic values.</p> <p>Management of the area would be the same as Alternative A, except closed to other minerals.</p>	<p>Objective: Protect sensitive plants, remnant plant communities, and scenic values.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas exploration and development Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
VRM: Not applicable Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.	OHV: Open VRM: Class III Lands and Realty: No restrictions		OHV: Closed VRM: Class II Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.
Areas open to oil and gas leasing with NSO stipulations would not likely have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. Closing the area to locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.	Areas open to OHV use and mineral exploration and development, except coal, would likely have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	Areas open to OHV use and mineral exploration and development, except coal, would likely have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	Closing the area to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.
Irish Canyon			
Minerals and Energy: Controlled Surface Use for oil and gas operations Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing OHV: Limited to Designated VRM: Not applicable Lands and Realty: Exclusion	No similar action. Minerals and Energy: Open to all exploration and development; however, not available for coal leasing. OHV: Open VRM: Class III Lands and Realty: No	Objective: Protect sensitive plant, remnant plant communities, scenic, cultural, and geologic values. Same as Alternative A, except closed to oil and gas exploration and development.	Objective: Protect sensitive plant, remnant plant communities, scenic, cultural, and geologic values. Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas exploration and development. Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing OHV: Limited to Designated

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
area unless associated with valid existing rights.	restrictions		VRM: Class II Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.
Areas open to locatable mineral entry and other minerals would likely have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity. Areas open to oil and gas leasing with CSU stipulations would likely have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity. However, CSU stipulations could minimize surface disturbance impacts, which could decrease the magnitude and intensity of the associated impacts.	Areas open to OHV use and mineral exploration and development, except coal, would likely have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	Closing the area to oil and gas leasing would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.	Closing the area to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and limiting OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.
Lookout Mountain			
Minerals and Energy: Controlled Surface Use for oil	No similar action.	Drop ACEC designation.	Objective: Protect sensitive plant, remnant plant communities, and

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>and gas operations Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Not applicable</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.</p>	<p>Minerals and Energy: Open to all exploration and development; however, not available for coal leasing.</p> <p>OHV: Open</p> <p>VRM: Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: No limitations</p>	<p>Objective: Protect sensitive plant, remnant plant communities, and scenic values.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to designated</p> <p>VRM: Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – Renewal of existing and authorization of future ROWs will be allowed upon approval of a site-specific development plan consistent with area resource objectives.</p>	<p>scenic values.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal –Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Communication Sites – Existing communication ROWs may be renewed at the end of their term in accordance with area objectives and current regulations. No new communication sites will be authorized.</p> <p>ROW – Exclusion area</p>
<p>Areas open to locatable mineral entry and other minerals would likely have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.</p>	<p>Areas open to mineral exploration and development, except coal, would likely have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.</p>	<p>Areas open to oil and gas leasing with NSO stipulations would not likely have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. Closing the area to locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and limiting OHV use would prevent associated surface</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.	
Cross Mountain Canyon (Area is currently within Cross Mountain WSA)			
Minerals and Energy: No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas operations Locatable - Open Other Minerals- Open Coal – Not available for leasing OHV: Closed VRM: Class I Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.	No ACEC designation but manage consistent with WSA requirements.	Same as Alternative B.	Objective: Protect sensitive plants, threatened and endangered species, and scenic values. Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals- Closed Coal – Not available for leasing OHV: Closed VRM: Class I Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.
Areas open to locatable mineral entry and other minerals would likely have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity. Areas open to oil and gas	See WSA impact analysis.	See WSA impact analysis.	Closing the area to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>leasing with NSO stipulations would not likely have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. Closing the area locatable mineral entry, other minerals, coal leasing, and limiting OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.</p>			
White-Tailed Prairie Dog			
<p>No ACEC designated. Active white-tailed prairie dog colonies are avoidance areas for surface disturbing activities only within black-footed ferret reintroduction area.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Objective: Protect white-tailed prairie dog habitat.</p> <p>The following management applies only to areas within the designated polygon (Map X) containing active/inactive white-tailed prairie dog colonies:</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals- Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: No classification related to prairie dog colonies.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
			Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion
			Areas open to oil and gas leasing with NSO stipulations would not likely have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. Closing the area locatable mineral entry, other minerals, coal leasing, and limiting OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.
Natural Systems ACECs			
No similar action	No similar action	No similar action.	<p>Designate the following ACECs</p> <p>Cold Desert Shrublands ACEC (5,755 acres), Gibben's Beardtongue ACEC (5,477 acres), Bull Canyon ACEC (3,416 acres), G Gap ACEC (5,661 acres), Little Juniper Canyon ACEC (14 acres), Bassett Spring ACEC (117 acres), No Name Spring ACEC (76 acres), Pot Creek ACEC (2,230 acres), Whiskey Springs ACEC (2,758 acres), Willow Spring ACEC (88 acres), Deception Creek ACEC (XX acres).</p> <p>The Objective of these ACECs is to protect sensitive plants and plant communities.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
			<p>The following management applies only to areas within the designated polygons (Map X):</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Controlled Surface Use for oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals- Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated Routes</p> <p>VRM: No classification related to ACECs.</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance</p>
			<p>Areas open to oil and gas leasing with CSU stipulations would likely have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity. However, CSU stipulations could minimize surface disturbance impacts, which could decrease the magnitude and intensity of the associated impacts. Closing the area locatable mineral</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
			entry, other minerals, coal leasing, and limiting OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.
Wilderness Study Areas			
<p>The Diamond Breaks WSA will be recommended as preliminarily suitable for wilderness designation (RMP/ROD page 22). If Congress does not designate Diamond Breaks as wilderness, the Colorado portion of the WSA (31,480 acres) would be managed as a recreation management unit; the Utah portion (3,900 acres) would be managed by the Vernal District according to existing management framework plans</p>	<p>Diamond Breaks WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Diamond Breaks from wilderness study, it would be managed as multiple use consistent with resource goals and objectives.</p>	<p>Diamond Breaks WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Diamond Breaks from wilderness study, it would be managed as follows:</p> <p>OHV – Limited to designated</p> <p>Minerals –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed to oil and gas exploration and development • Locatable – closed • Other minerals – closed • Coal – Not available for leasing <p>VRM – Class II</p>	<p>Diamond Breaks WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Diamond Breaks from wilderness study, it would be managed as follows:</p> <p>OHV – Closed</p> <p>Minerals –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed to oil and gas exploration and development • Locatable – closed • Other minerals – closed • Coal – Not available for leasing <p>VRM – Class II</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		Lands and Realty: ROW exclusion	Lands and Realty: ROW would be considered on a case-by-case basis.
<p>The Cross Mountain WSA (including the proposed Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC) will be recommended as preliminarily suitable for wilderness designation. BLM will recommend that the proposed Cross Mountain wilderness remain open to oil and gas leasing with no-surface-occupancy stipulations. If Congress does not designate Cross Mountain as wilderness, the area would be managed as a special recreation management area (13,000 acres), including the Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC (3,000 acres)</p>	<p>Cross Mountain WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Cross Mountain from wilderness study, it would be managed as multiple use consistent with resource goals and objectives.</p>	<p>Cross Mountain WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Diamond Breaks from wilderness study, it would be managed as an ACEC as follows:</p> <p>Objective: Protect sensitive plants, threatened and endangered species, and scenic values.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - closed Other Minerals- closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		unless associated with valid existing rights.	
<p>The West Cold Spring WSA will be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. If Congress does not designate the area as wilderness, the Colorado portion of West Cold Spring would be managed as the Cold Spring and Little Snake River management units (total of 14,482 acres). The Utah portion of the WSA would be managed under the Brown's Park Management Framework Plan</p>	<p>West Cold Spring WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases West Cold Springs from wilderness study, it would be managed as multiple use consistent with resource goals and objectives.</p>	<p>West Cold Spring WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases West Cold Springs from wilderness study, it would be managed the same as the adjacent wilderness character area:</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited (apply adaptive criteria)</p> <p>VRM: Class III</p>	<p>West Cold Spring WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases West Cold Springs from wilderness study, it would be managed the same as the adjacent SRMA:</p> <p>Designate as a backcountry SRMA.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Class I</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; accept wind energy applications on case-by-case basis.	
<p>Four WSAs evaluated under Section 202 of FLPMA – Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears – will be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation but would be recommended to the Secretary for forwarding to Congress for the final decision. If Congress does not designate these areas as wilderness, they would be managed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The northwest corner of Ant Hills would be managed as the Douglas Mountain Management Unit and the remainder as the Scattered Sands Management Unit. 2. Chew Winter Camp would be managed as the Scattered Sands Management Unit. 3. The north third of Peterson Draw would be managed as the Scattered Sands Management Unit and the remainder as the Douglas Mountain Management Unit. 	<p>Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears WSAs would be managed to preserve their wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates them wilderness or releases them for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears from wilderness study, it would be managed as multiple use consistent with resource goals and objectives.</p>	<p>Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears WSAs would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears from wilderness study, they would be managed the same as the adjacent wilderness character area:</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas exploration and development Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited (apply adaptive criteria)</p>	<p>Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears WSAs would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears from wilderness study, they would be managed the same as the adjacent SRMA: Designate as a backcountry SRMA.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas exploration and development Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Class I</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>4. Most of the Vale of Tears would be managed as the Little Snake River Management Unit and the other portions in the northwest corner would be managed as the Douglas Mountain and Scattered Sands Management Units (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p> <p>5. The Cross Mountain, Diamond Breaks, West Cold Spring, Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears Wilderness Study Areas will not be leased. This is 35,280 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate within the Little Snake RMPPA</p>		<p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; no wind energy</p>	<p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy</p>
<p>The Cross Mountain, Diamond Breaks, West Cold Spring, Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears Wilderness Study Areas will not be leased. This is 35,280 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate within the Little Snake RMPPA.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>
<p>WSAs would continue to be managed in compliance with BLM's Interim Management</p>	<p>If any or all the wilderness study areas are released by Congress, manage the released</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Policy until they were reviewed and acted upon by Congress.	lands in accordance with multiple use direction and land allocations established in the RMP including special designations such as special recreation management areas, suitable wild and scenic rivers and areas of critical environmental concern. Review resource allocations restricted due to WSA management policies--such as oil and gas leasing, coal unsuitability, lands and realty actions and wood cutting—to determine if changes in management are needed. If so, initiate a revision of the resource management plan.		
Public land designated as wilderness will be managed in compliance with BLM's Wilderness Management Policy and the Wilderness Act of 1964. Site-specific wilderness management plans will be developed for areas designated by Congress as wilderness	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
Closing these areas to oil and gas leasing would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Wild and Scenic Rivers			

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>Existing land use plans contain no decisions regarding wild and scenic rivers.</p> <p>As directed by BLM IM-2004-196, manage all of <i>eligible</i> river segments (XX miles) to protect their outstandingly remarkable values, free-flowing nature, and tentative classification, as follows:</p> <p>In keeping with BLM Manual 8351, .32C and .33 C, suitability determinations would not be made for any of the eligible river segments. They would remain eligible and would be managed to protect their outstandingly remarkable values, free-flowing nature, and tentative classification to the degree that BLM has authority (i.e., BLM lands within the corridor) and within the parameters of decisions made in the previous planning documents until such time as suitability determinations are made.</p>	<p>No recommendations as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.</p>	<p>Determine and Manage Yampa Segments 1, 2 and 3 as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.</p>	<p>Determine and manage all eligible segments and tentative classifications (listed below) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System:</p> <p>Beaver Creek Segment 1 (wild)</p> <p>Vermillion Creek Segment 1 (Lower Vermillion Creek, scenic)</p> <p>Yampa Segment 1 (River Mile 126 to Milk Creek, recreational)</p> <p>Yampa Segment 2 (Milk Creek to Duffy Tunnel, scenic)</p> <p>Yampa Segment 3 (Cross Mountain Canyon, wild)</p>
<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
			<p>Manage Beaver Creek Segment 1 as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>wild</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to OHV • Close to oil and gas leasing. • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.
No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Vermillion Creek Segment 1 as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>scenic</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including cultural and geology. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to OHV

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to oil and gas leasing. • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.
No similar action.	No similar action.	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 1 of the Yampa River (2.8 miles from River Mile #126 to Milk Creek area) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>recreational</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including recreation and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to OHV • Close to oil and gas leasing. • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry. <p>For sites within the segment where habitat loss is a risk, remedial actions would be implemented to ensure that the suitability of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced.</p>	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 1 of the Yampa River (2.8 miles from River Mile #126 to Milk Creek area) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>recreational</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including recreation and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to OHV • Close to oil and gas leasing. • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry. • For sites within the segment where habitat loss is a risk, remedial actions would be implemented to ensure that the suitability of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
No similar action.	No similar action.	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 2 of the Yampa River (13.9 miles from Milk Creek to Duffy Tunnel) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>scenic</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including recreation and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to OHV • Close to oil and gas leasing. • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry. • For sites within the segment where habitat loss is a risk, remedial actions would be implemented to ensure that the suitability of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced. 	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 2 of the Yampa River (13.9 miles from Milk Creek to Duffy Tunnel) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>scenic</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including recreation and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to OHV • Close to oil and gas leasing. • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry. • For sites within the segment where habitat loss is a risk, remedial actions would be implemented to ensure that the suitability of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced. • Close to livestock grazing during the months of June and July.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
No similar action.	No similar action.	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 3 of the Yampa River (3.3 miles through Cross Mountain Canyon) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>wild</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including scenic, recreation, geologic, and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to OHV • Close to oil and gas leasing. • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry. 	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 3 of the Yampa River (3.3 miles through Cross Mountain Canyon) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>wild</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including scenic, recreation, geologic, and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to OHV • Close to oil and gas leasing. • Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.
		<p>Wild and Scenic River management actions would limit surface disturbing activities, which could protect river corridors from erosion, sediment loading.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>
Lands With Wilderness Character Outside Existing WSAs			
<i>Vermillion Basin</i>			
Minerals and Energy: Open to new oil and gas leasing	Objectives: Allow for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development by	Zone 1 (Northern Zone of High and Medium potential):	Objective: provide quality primitive recreational experiences in largely natural settings

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Open, some Limited to Existing</p> <p>VRM: Not applicable</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>utilizing state of the art technology, while protecting natural values.</p> <p>Manage for minimal surface disturbance by focusing development near existing trails, ROWs, canyons and washes and clustering wells where feasible.</p> <p>Manage to minimize visual intrusions, Lookout Mountain as observation point</p> <p>Control infrastructure by requiring pre-planning, including transportation planning.</p> <p>Lease in larger leases (4 section blocks) in order to facilitate seismic exploration and allow operators to drill fewer wells</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Open to new oil and gas leasing with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Stipulation language would reference Objectives above.</p> <p>Locatable – Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated Routes</p>	<p>Objectives: Allow for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development by utilizing state of the art technology, while protecting natural values.</p> <p>Manage for minimal surface disturbance by focusing development near existing trails, ROWs, canyons and washes and clustering wells where feasible.</p> <p>Manage to minimize visual intrusions, Lookout Mountain as observation point</p> <p>Control infrastructure by requiring pre-planning, including transportation planning.</p> <p>Lease in larger leases (4 section blocks) in order to facilitate seismic exploration and allow operators to drill fewer wells</p> <p>Long term goal for Vermillion Basin is to manage the area so that any disturbance caused by permitted actions will eventually be returned to the state prior to development.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Open to new oil and gas leasing with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Stipulation language would reference Objectives above.</p> <p>Locatable – Closed Other Minerals - Closed</p>	<p>Designate as a backcountry SRMA.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to new oil and gas leasing Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	<p>VRM: Class III, Class II for Vermillion Bluffs area</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Case-by-case basis, avoidance for Vermillion Bluffs and fragile soil areas</p>	<p>Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated Routes</p> <p>VRM: Class III, Class II for Vermillion Bluffs area</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Case-by-case basis, avoidance for Vermillion Bluffs and fragile soil areas?</p> <p>Zone 2: (Southwest area of Low and No Known potential) Objectives: Manage to protect naturalness, opportunities for semi-primitive recreation, and solitude.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to new oil and gas leasing Locatable – Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Closed</p> <p>OHV: The portion of Vermillion Basin south and east of Ted’s Draw will be Limited to Designated Routes The remaining portion of Zone 2 will be Closed to OHVs.</p>	

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		VRM: II Lands and Realty: ROW Avoidance - the portion of Vermillion Basin south and east of Ted's Draw ROW Exclusion – remaining portion of Zone 2	
Areas open to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would be more likely to have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	Areas open to oil and gas leasing would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity. Managing this area to minimize surface disturbance impacts would decrease the magnitude and intensity of the associated impacts. Closing the area locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.	Zone 1 would likely have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity. Managing this area to minimize surface disturbance impacts would decrease the magnitude and intensity of the associated impacts. Closing Zone 2 to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.	Closing the area to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.
<i>Dinosaur North</i>			
Multiple use outside existing	Same as Alternative A.	WHEN CALCULATING AREA, MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE WILD	WHEN CALCULATING AREA, MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE WILD

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>WSAs</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Open Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Open</p> <p>VRM: Not applicable</p> <p>Lands and Realty: No restrictions, case-by-case basis</p>		<p>MOUNTAIN.</p> <p>Objective: Manage to protect naturalness, opportunities for semi-primitive recreation, and solitude.</p> <p>No designation with the following prescriptions:</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated Routes</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; no wind energy</p>	<p>MOUNTAIN.</p> <p>Objective: Provide quality primitive recreational experiences in largely natural settings.</p> <p>Designate as a backcountry SRMA.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy</p>
<p>Areas open to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would be more likely to have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment loading, salinity, and</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Closing the area to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and limiting OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.</p>	<p>Closing the area to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
turbidity.			
<i>Cold Springs Mountain</i>			
<p>Multiple use outside existing WSAs</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Open Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Majority Limited to Existing, remainder is Open</p> <p>VRM: Not applicable</p> <p>Lands and Realty: No restrictions, case-by-case basis</p>	Same as Alternative A.	<p>Objective: Manage to protect naturalness, opportunities for semi-primitive recreation, and solitude.</p> <p>No designation with the following prescriptions:</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Limited to designated routes</p> <p>VRM: Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; accept wind energy applications on case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Objective: Provide quality primitive recreational experiences in largely natural settings</p> <p>Designate as a backcountry SRMA.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy</p>
<p>Areas open to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and partially limiting OHV use would be more likely to have surface disturbance. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing erosion, sediment</p>	Same as Alternative A.	<p>Closing the area to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and limiting OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.</p>	<p>Closing the area to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
loading, salinity, and turbidity.			
<i>Lands with Backcountry Characteristics outside existing WSAs</i>			
No Similar Action	No similar action	No similar action	<p>Cross Mountain Area XX acres adjacent to Cross Mountain WSA. See Map X.</p> <p>Objective: Provide backcountry recreation experience in predominantly natural settings</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Not available for leasing</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion.</p>
No similar action	No similar action	No similar action	<p>Diamond Breaks Area XX acres adjacent to Diamond Breaks WSA. See Map X.</p> <p>Objective: Provide backcountry recreation experience in predominantly natural settings</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
			Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Not available for leasing OHV: Closed VRM: Class II Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion.
No similar action	No similar action	No similar action	Pinyon Ridge Area XX acres. See Map X. Objective: Provide backcountry recreation experience in predominantly natural settings Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Not available for leasing OHV: Closed VRM: Class II Lands and Realty: ROW –

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
			exclusion.
			Closing these areas to oil and gas leasing, locatable mineral entry, other minerals, and OHV use would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.
ENERGY AND MINERALS			
Closed to Oil and Gas Leasing			
A. WSAs	WSAs	WSAs; Limestone Ridge, Dinosaur North, Cold Springs Area (outside WSA), Vermillion Basin (Zone 2), Irish Canyon ACEC; WSR Segments 1, 2, and 3.	WSAs, Vermillion Basin, Limestone Ridge ACEC, Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Irish Canyon ACEC, all suitable WSR segments; Cross Mountain backcountry area; Diamond Breaks backcountry area; Pinyon Ridge backcountry area; Little Yampa Canyon SRMA, Juniper Mountain SRMA; Cedar Mountain SRMA; Dinosaur North SRMA, Cold Springs Area SRMA,
Closing these areas to oil and gas leasing would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.	Same as Alternative A.	Closing these areas to oil and gas leasing would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.	Closing these areas to oil and gas leasing would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality. This alternative would provide the most protection to water resources and water quality.
No Surface Occupancy Stipulations			
B. Special status plant species: NSO on habitat areas containing special status species (federally	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
listed, proposed, and candidate). NSO may be altered after important factors are considered in the impact analysis such as the type and amount of surface disturbance, plant frequency and density, and the relocation of disturbances.			
C. NSO areas: Limestone Ridge ACEC; Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC; Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA; Cedar Mountain SRMA; Steamboat Lake State Park; Pearl Lake State Park. No exceptions.	No similar action	Lookout Mountain, Little Yampa Canyon SRMA, Juniper Mountain SRMA, Cedar Mountain SRMA	Lookout Mountain ACEC, White-tailed prairie dog ACEC
Areas of NSO would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Controlled Surface Use Stipulations			
D. No similar action.	Special status plant species: CSU on habitat areas containing special status species (federally listed, proposed, and candidate). Exception criteria detailed in Appendix X apply.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
E. Fragile Soil Areas – performance objectives	No similar action	Fragile Soil Areas (see Soils section for performance objectives and	Same as Alternative C

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
must be met prior to surface disturbance.		fragile soil criteria)	
F. Prior to surface disturbance on slopes of, or greater than, 40 percent, an engineering/ reclamation plan must be approved by the Authorized Officer. Stipulations may be excepted subject to an on-site impact analysis. Stipulation not applied where the Authorized Officer determines that relocation up to 200 meters can be applied to protect the riparian system during well siting.	No similar action	Prior to surface disturbance on slopes of, or greater than, 35 percent, an engineering/ reclamation plan must be approved by the Authorized Officer. Stipulations may be excepted subject to an on-site impact analysis. Stipulation not applied where the Authorized Officer determines that relocation up to 200 meters can be applied to protect the riparian system during well siting.	Same as Alternative C
G. No similar action	Vermillion Basin; Dinosaur North; Cold Springs Area (outside WSA)	Vermillion Basin (Zone 1)	Natural Systems ACECs
Controlled surface use restrictions would minimize impacts associated with surface disturbing activities, which could indirectly protect or maintain water quality.	Controlled surface use restrictions would minimize impacts associated with surface disturbing activities, which could indirectly protect or maintain water quality.	Controlled surface use restrictions would minimize impacts associated with surface disturbing activities, which could indirectly protect or maintain water quality.	Controlled surface use restrictions would minimize impacts associated with surface disturbing activities, which could indirectly protect or maintain water quality.
Timing Limitations Stipulations			
H. No drilling or development operations permitted within 1-mile radius from March 1 to December 1 from Wild Horse Spring,	No similar action.	Consider seasonal closures around wild horse water sources on an as needed basis for all activities based on consistency with other resource	Same as Alternative A.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Shepherd Spring, Coffee Pot Spring, Two Bar Spring, and Dugout Draw Spring. Exceptions would include provision, by the operator, of an alternate dependable water source at a suitable location outside the mile radius of the spring prior to authorized activity.		restrictions and resource conflicts.	
Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance from March 1 to December 1.		Management actions that seasonally restrict surface disturbing activities could protect or maintain water quality by reducing surface disturbance.	Same as Alternative A.
Open			
I. All remaining areas subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.	All remaining areas subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.	All remaining areas subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.	All remaining areas subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.
Areas open to oil and gas leasing would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing	Areas open to oil and gas leasing would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing	Areas open to oil and gas leasing would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	Areas open to oil and gas leasing would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.		
Best Management Practices for Development			
No Similar Action	Encourage the use of a variety of BMPs, as defined by "Best Management Practices For Oil and Gas Development on Public Lands," http://www.blm.gov/bmp/ . (These BMPs may be changed over time).	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B
	Implementation of BMPs would minimize impacts associated with oil and gas development and would decrease the likelihood of water quality degradation.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Exception, Waiver, and/or Modification			
J. Conditions of Approval will be applied to operational approvals as determined necessary by the Authorized Officer to protect other resources and values within the terms, conditions, and stipulations of the lease contract.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
Applying Conditions of Approval could further protect water resources and water quality from surface disturbance impacts	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
associated with oil and gas activities.			
Vermillion Basin			
K. Open to leasing subject to standard terms and conditions and specific stipulations.	<p>Open to new oil and gas leasing with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Stipulation language would reference Objectives below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development by utilizing Best Management Practices, while protecting natural values. • Manage for the least amount of surface disturbance consistent with lease rights by focusing development near existing trails, ROWs, canyons and washes and clustering wells where feasible. • Manage to minimize visual intrusions, Lookout Mountain as observation point <p>Control infrastructure by requiring pre-planning, including transportation planning.</p> <p>Lease in larger leases (4 section blocks) in order to facilitate seismic exploration and allow</p>	<p>Zone 1 (Northern Zone of High and Medium potential):</p> <p>Open to new oil and gas leasing with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Stipulation language would reference Objectives below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development by utilizing Best Management Practices, while protecting natural values. • Manage for the least amount of surface disturbance consistent with lease rights by focusing development near existing trails, ROWs, canyons and washes and clustering wells where feasible. • Manage to minimize visual intrusions, Lookout Mountain as observation point • Control infrastructure by requiring pre-planning, including transportation planning. • Lease in larger leases (4 section blocks) in order to facilitate seismic exploration and allow operators to drill fewer wells • Long term goal for Vermillion Basin is to manage the area so that any disturbance caused by 	Closed to leasing.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	operators to drill fewer wells.	permitted actions will eventually be returned to the state prior to development. Zone 2: (Southwest area of Low and No Known potential) Closed to new oil and gas leasing	
Areas open to oil and gas leasing would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	This management action would minimize surface disturbance impacts associated with oil and gas activities, which could decrease the likelihood of water quality degradation.	This management action would minimize surface disturbance impacts associated with oil and gas activities, which could decrease the likelihood of water quality degradation. This would provide the most protection to water resources and water quality.	Closing Vermillion Basin to oil and gas leasing would prevent associated surface disturbance and indirectly help to maintain current water quality.
Locatable Minerals, Mineral Materials, and Non-Energy Leasable Minerals, Others			
A. All public land is open to mineral entry and development under the General Mining Law of 1872 unless administratively withdrawn or proposed for withdrawal (proposed wilderness designation). Locatable mineral exploration and development on public land would be regulated under 43 CFR 3800.	Same as Alternative A, except Limestone Ridge ACEC open to mineral location. Vermillion Basin would be withdrawn from mineral location.	WSAs, Lookout Mountain ACEC, Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, WSR suitable segments 1, 2, and 3, Vermillion Basin, Dinosaur North, Cold Springs Mountain; Cedar Mountain SRMA; South Sand Wash SRMA; Serviceberry SRMA; Flycreek SRMA; would be withdrawn from mineral location.	WSAs, all ACECs, all suitable WSR segments, Vermillion Basin, Dinosaur North, Cross Mountain backcountry area, Diamond Breaks backcountry area, Pinyon Ridge backcountry area; Little Yampa Canyon SRMA, Juniper Mountain SRMA; Cedar Mountain SRMA; South Sand Wash SRMA; Serviceberry SRMA; Flycreek SRMA; Cold Springs Mountain SRMA would be withdrawn from mineral location.
B. No Action – all areas open			

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
except WSAs, Limestone Ridge ACEC			
<p>Areas open to locatable mineral entry and development could be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with locatable mineral activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.</p> <p>Withdrawing areas from locatable mineral entry would reduce surface disturbing activities associated with locatable mineral activity. This would indirectly maintain existing water quality.</p>	<p>Areas open to locatable mineral entry and development could be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with locatable mineral activities. These surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.</p> <p>Withdrawing areas from locatable mineral entry would reduce surface disturbing activities associated with locatable mineral activity. This would indirectly maintain existing water quality.</p>	<p>Withdrawing areas from locatable mineral entry would reduce surface disturbing activities associated with locatable mineral activity. This would indirectly maintain existing water quality.</p>	<p>Withdrawing areas from locatable mineral entry would reduce surface disturbing activities associated with locatable mineral activity. This would indirectly maintain existing water quality.</p>
<p>C. Applications for removing common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, will continue to be processed as they are received. Interdisciplinary review of each proposal will determine stipulations to protect important surface values. Mineral material sales will not be allowed in WSAs, Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Limestone Ridge</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>WSAs, Limestone Ridge ACEC, Lookout Mountain ACEC, Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, WSR suitable segments 1, 2, and 3, Vermillion Basin, Cedar Mountain SRMA</p> <p>would be closed to mineral material sales.</p>	<p>WSAs, all ACECs, all suitable WSR segments, Vermillion Basin, Dinosaur North, Cross Mountain backcountry area, Diamond Breaks backcountry area, Pinyon Ridge backcountry area; Little Yampa Canyon SRMA, Juniper Mountain SRMA; Cedar Mountain SRMA; Serviceberry SRMA; Cold Springs Mountain SRMA would be closed to mineral material sales.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
ACEC/RNA, Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA, and the Cedar Mountain Recreation management unit.			
<p>Areas open for removal of common variety mineral materials could be more likely to have surface disturbance associated. Surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.</p> <p>Closing areas to mineral material sales would reduce the likelihood of surface disturbing activities associated with mineral material sales. This would indirectly maintain existing water quality.</p>	Same as Alternative A.	Closing areas to mineral material sales would reduce the likelihood of surface disturbing activities associated with mineral material sales. This would indirectly maintain existing water quality.	Closing areas to mineral material sales would reduce the likelihood of surface disturbing activities associated with mineral material sales. This would indirectly maintain existing water quality. This alternative would provide the greatest protection to water resources and water quality.
D. New leases and mineral material sales within fragile soil and water areas such as the Vermillion Management Unit will be subject to the performance objectives described under Soil Resources.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
This management action would provide additional protection to water resources and water quality. Surface disturbance impacts associated with new leases and mineral material	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
sales would be reduced. Impact such as erosion and sediment loading would be minimized.			
Coal and Oil Shale			
Coal			
<p>A. Approximately 638,800 acres (containing an estimated 5.8 billion tons of coal) are acceptable for further consideration for federal coal leasing. Of this total, approximately 457,089 acres (an estimated 4.2 billion tons of coal) are acceptable for further consideration for leasing for surface or underground development.</p>	<p>Lands found acceptable in this resource management plan (RMP) will be available for further consideration for leasing and/or exchange. However, all lands determined to be suitable, unsuitable, or unacceptable for further consideration for leasing and/or exchange may be reviewed and suitability determinations modified based on new data during activity planning efforts. Unsuitability criteria apply only to surface coal mining, not underground mining.</p> <p>The lands with coal resource development potential in the Little Snake coal planning area are located in the Yampa and Dansforth Hills Coal Fields. The coal planning includes federal coal within the following townships:</p> <p>Sixth Principal Meridian</p>	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B, but only XX acres are suitable for surface mining after no lease decision for Little Yampa Canyon SRMA).

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	<p>T. 3 N., R. 85 W. T. 3 N., R. 86 W. T. 3 N., R. 90 W. - R. 95 W. T. 4 N., R. 86 W. - R. 95 W. T. 5 N., R. 85 W. - R. 93 W. T. 6 N., R. 86 W. - R. 93 W. T. 7 N., R. 87 W. - R. 94 W. T. 8 N., R. 86 W. - R. 94 W. T. 9 N., R. 86 W.</p> <p>The coal planning area contains approximately 671,168 acres federal coal lands. This entire area is available for underground coal mining.</p> <p>Unsuitability criteria were applied to these lands to determine areas unsuitable for surface mining. Results are shown in Appendix "Coal."</p> <p>After applying unsuitability criteria and exceptions, approximately 621,978 acres are acceptable for further consideration for leasing for surface or underground development.</p>		
<p>Areas acceptable for further leasing consideration could be leased for coal development.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Surface disturbance associated with coal development actions could increase sediment loading, salinity, and erosion.			
B. Approximately 181,669 acres (an estimated 1.3 billion tons of coal) are acceptable for further consideration for leasing for underground development only (RMP/ROD pages 7-8). Approximately 266 million tons of coal throughout the region are not available for surface mining.	No Similar Action (see above)	No Similar Action (see above)	No Similar Action (see above)
Areas acceptable for further leasing consideration could be leased for underground coal development. Surface disturbance associated with underground coal development actions would be minor. A minimal number of facilities would be constructed to conduct underground coal mining operations.			
C. No Surface Occupancy stipulations will be used to protect Cross Mountain Canyon and Limestone Ridge Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Little	Same as Alternative A. In addition, Stagecoach State Park would also be designated NSO.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Yampa/Juniper Canyon, Cedar Mountain Special Recreation Management Areas; Steamboat Lake and Pearl Lake State Parks; coal mines where development would be incompatible with the planned coal extraction; grouse, raptor, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owl, waterfowl and shorebird nests; and special status plant species.			
Areas of NSO would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.	Areas of NSO would prohibit surface disturbance, which could reduce sediment loading and salinity to nearby streams and protect existing water quality.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
D. Controlled Surface Use stipulations will be used to protect coal mines from oil and gas development where the mining method or location is such that location of subsequent wells can avoid significant conflicts, fragile soil areas, steep slopes, riparian/wetland vegetation, and Irish Canyon, and Lookout Mountain ACECs.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Controlled Surface Use stipulations would reduce surface disturbing activities and protect or maintain water quality to nearby streams.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Oil Shale			
G. BLM will consider leasing other leasable minerals as each application is received. (ROD p. 10)	BLM will consider leasing Oil Shale as each application is received. Lands available for leasing are consistent with lands available for oil and gas leasing or coal leasing, depending on the extraction method (i.e. in-situ or mined),	Same as Alternative B, recognizing different areas will be open to leasing because of consistency with oil and gas and coal decisions in this alternative.	Same as Alternative B, recognizing different areas will be open to leasing because of consistency with oil and gas and coal decisions in this alternative.
Areas open to leasing other leasable minerals would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. Surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	Areas open to leasing oil shale would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. Surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	Areas open to leasing oil shale would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with oil and gas activities. Surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	Same as Alternative C.
LIVESTOCK GRAZING			
A. Appropriate actions for improving allotments not meeting Standards and Guides could include, but would not be limited to, adjustment of permitted animal unit months (AUMs), modified turnout	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>dates, livestock water developments, range improvements, modified grazing periods, growing season rest, modified grazing systems, closing areas, riparian pastures, exclosures, implementation of forage utilization levels, and livestock conversions.</p>			
<p>Excluding livestock from riparian pastures would prevent soil compaction and vegetation loss that could increase surface runoff and sediment loading.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>B. Implement vegetation land treatments on 68 allotments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use such treatments as interseeding, burning and reseeding, spraying, and plowing and reseeding 2. Adhere to established procedures and design specifications to protect all resource uses and values 3. Complete a benefit/cost analysis and environmental analysis before any treatments are 	<p>When consistent with healthy rangeland ecosystems, emphasize vegetation treatments to increase forage production.</p>	<p>When consistent with healthy rangeland ecosystems, emphasize vegetation treatments to maintain a variety of habitats and sustainable livestock grazing.</p> <p>See Vegetation section for treatment targets.</p>	<p>When consistent with healthy rangeland ecosystems, emphasize vegetation treatments to maintain or increase a variety of habitats for wildlife species.</p> <p>See Vegetation section for treatment targets.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
implemented.			
Treatments that improve vegetation health would indirectly improve water resources and water quality. Treatments would initially increase localized erosion and sedimentation, but would decrease these impacts in the long term.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
C. No similar action.	Desired plant community objectives would emphasize commodity uses while complying with existing regulations pertaining to sensitive resources.	Desired plant community objectives would emphasize wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, watershed, and biodiversity values while maintaining or enhancing habitat for special status species.	Desired plant community objectives would emphasize wildlife habitat, watershed, and biodiversity values. Particular emphasis would be placed on maintaining or enhancing habitat for special status species.
		Emphasizing watershed values would improve watershed health and reduce erosion, surface runoff, and sediment loading.	Same as Alternative C.
D. Construct range improvement projects on 69 allotments: 1. Use improvements that will control livestock use, improve distribution, and improve riparian/wetland habitat	Consider range improvement developments for the purpose of increasing livestock forage where they are economically feasible and consistent with other resources.	Consider range improvement developments for the purpose of improving rangeland diversity, condition, and sustainability, by such actions as control of pinyon-juniper encroachment and decadent sagebrush, etc.	Range improvements would be allowed only to maintain sustainable natural diversity of plant communities, and only when identified through the Rangeland Health assessment process.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
2. Complete a benefit/cost analysis and environmental analysis before any projects are implemented.			
Treatments that improve vegetation health would indirectly improve water resources and water quality. Treatments would initially increase localized erosion and sedimentation, but would decrease these impacts in the long term.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
RECREATION			
Special Recreation Management Areas			
Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon			
A. The Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon area (19,840 acres) will be administered as a special recreation management area to provide unrestricted flatwater river floatboating in the region.	Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon area will be managed as an ERMA. See the ERMA objectives below.	The existing Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA will be expanded by 10,092 acres (Map X) and administered as the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA to provide quality camping experiences related to river boating in the region and big game hunting.	The existing Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA will be expanded by XXX acres (Map X) and administered as the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA to provide quality camping experiences related to river boating in the region and big game hunting.
<u>Zone:</u> Zone 1: Yampa River Corridor <u>Market:</u> Community <u>Objective:</u> Activities: Non-motorized boating, motorized boating,	No similar action.	<u>Zone:</u> Zone 1: Yampa River Corridor <u>Market:</u> Community <u>Objective:</u> Activities: Non-motorized boating, motorized boating, camping	<u>Zone:</u> Zone 1: Yampa River Corridor <u>Market:</u> Community <u>Objective:</u> Activities: Non-motorized boating, limited motorized boating, camping

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>camping</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring canyon and river aesthetics; testing your endurance; enjoying risk-taking adventure</p> <p>Benefits: Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment with others; heightened sense of satisfaction with our community; greater sense of adventure</p> <p><u>Prescribed setting character</u></p> <p>Physical: Middle Country east of Milk Creek, Back Country west of Milk Creek.</p> <p>Social: Middle Country east of Milk Creek, Back Country west of Milk Creek.</p> <p>Administrative: Back country</p> <p><u>Activity Planning Framework</u></p> <p>Management: Access will be negotiated for parking areas at put-in and take-out points. Other facilities will be constructed as needed for public sanitation and safety.</p> <p>Marketing: A map/brochure will be developed to promote visitor health and safety, provide resource protection, and inform the public of available opportunities.</p> <p>Involve Colorado State Parks</p>		<p>Experiences: Enjoying canyon and river aesthetics; testing your endurance; enjoying risk-taking adventure</p> <p>Benefits: Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment with others; heightened sense of satisfaction with our community; greater sense of adventure</p> <p><u>Prescribed setting character</u></p> <p>Physical: Middle Country east of Milk Creek, Back Country west of Milk Creek.</p> <p>Social: Middle Country east of Milk Creek, Back Country west of Milk Creek.</p> <p>Administrative: Back country</p> <p><u>Activity Planning Framework</u></p> <p>Management: Modify roads and trails as needed to mitigate impacts</p> <p>Marketing: Involve Colorado State Parks in developing interpretation, education, and public outreach.</p> <p>Monitoring: In conjunction with State Parks, monitor motorized river boating to gauge if management actions and resulting use is producing targeted recreation opportunities and facilitating their attainment as outcomes. Monitor camp site conditions and use.</p> <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minerals and Energy: 	<p>Experiences: Enjoying canyon and river aesthetics; feeling good about solitude and being isolated from other people and services; testing your endurance; enjoying risk-taking adventure</p> <p>Benefits: Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment with others; heightened sense of satisfaction with our community; greater sense of adventure; closer relationship with the natural world; conservation of entire ecosystems in natural state.</p> <p><u>Prescribed setting character</u></p> <p>Physical: Middle Country east of Milk Creek, Back Country west of Milk Creek.</p> <p>Social: Back country</p> <p>Administrative: Primitive</p> <p><u>Activity Planning Framework</u></p> <p>Management: Close and restore roads that have no administrative benefit. Restrict motorized access to the river.</p> <p>Marketing: Involve Colorado State Parks in developing interpretation, education, and public outreach.</p> <p>Monitoring: Monitor motorized river boating to gauge if management actions and resulting use is producing targeted recreation opportunities and facilitating their attainment as outcomes. Monitor</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>in developing interpretation, education, and public outreach.</p> <p>Monitoring: Monitor motorized river boating to gauge if management actions and resulting use is producing targeted recreation opportunities and facilitating their attainment as outcomes. Monitor camp site conditions and use.</p> <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas exploration and development Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal - Open • OHV: Limited to Designated Routes <p>B. VRM: Not determined</p>		<p>No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas exploration and development</p> <p>Locatable - Open</p> <p>Other Minerals - Open</p> <p>Coal - Open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHV: Limited to Designated Routes • VRM: Class II from river bottom to ridgeline; Class III in all other areas • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives. 	<p>camp site conditions and use.</p> <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed to oil and gas exploration and development Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Closed • OHV: XX acres Closed; XX acres Limited to Designated Routes. (To be calculated when GIS is completed) • VRM: Class II from river bottom to ridgeline; Class III in all other areas. • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives.
<p>Zone 2: No similar action. This area was not included in the SRMA.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p><u>Zone:</u> Zone 2: North of CR 17</p> <p><u>Market:</u> Destination</p> <p><u>Objective:</u></p> <p>Activities: Predominantly motorized big game hunting and some non-motorized hunting, camping, wildlife watching</p>	<p><u>Zone:</u> Zone 2: North of CR 17</p> <p><u>Market:</u> Destination</p> <p><u>Objective:</u></p> <p>Activities: Predominantly non-motorized big game hunting and some motorized hunting, camping, wildlife watching</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		<p>Experiences: Developing your skills and abilities; gaining a greater sense of achievement;</p> <p>Benefits: Greater self-reliance gained from hunting; improved outdoor knowledge and self-confidence; positive contributions to local and regional economic stability</p> <p><u>Prescribed setting character</u></p> <p>Physical: Middle country Social: Middle country Administrative: Middle country</p> <p><u>Activity Planning Framework</u></p> <p>Management: Provide camping facilities and improved roads to these facilities in high impact areas related to hunting season uses.</p> <p>Marketing: In partnership with Division of Wildlife and local Chambers of Commerce, increase education and interpretation during hunting season to reduce resource impacts and conflicts.</p> <p>Monitoring: Monitor user experience and satisfaction, camp site conditions and use.</p> <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas exploration and development 	<p>Experiences: Developing your skills and abilities; gaining a greater sense of achievement; enjoying getting some physical exercise; feeling good about solitude and being isolated from other people and services</p> <p>Benefits: Greater self-reliance gained from hunting; improved outdoor knowledge and self-confidence; positive contributions to local and regional economic stability; closer relationship with the natural world; conservation of entire ecosystems in natural state.</p> <p><u>Prescribed setting character</u></p> <p>Physical: Back country Social: Back country Administrative: Back country</p> <p><u>Activity Planning Framework</u></p> <p>Management: Provide camping facilities in high impact areas related to hunting season uses.</p> <p>Marketing: In partnership with Division of Wildlife and local Chambers of Commerce, increase education and interpretation during hunting season to reduce resource impacts and conflicts.</p> <p>Monitoring: Monitor user experience and satisfaction, camp site conditions and use. Monitor to ensure compliance of the motor</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal - Open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHV: Limited to Designated Routes • VRM: Class II from river bottom to ridgeline; Class III in all other areas • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives. 	vehicle closures. Administration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed to oil and gas exploration and development Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Closed • OHV: Limited to Designated Routes. • VRM: Class II from river bottom to ridgeline; Class III in all other areas. • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives.
Heavy recreation use could compact soil and remove vegetation cover that would lead to increased erosion and sediment loading to nearby streams.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
South Sand Wash			
C. Currently the South Sand Wash area is managed as an OHV open area for cross-country use within	Same as Alternative A	The South Sand Wash area (35,571 acres) will be administered as a special recreation management area to provide quality OHV	The South Sand Wash area (35,571 acres) will be administered as a special recreation management area to provide quality OHV

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
the ERMA.		experiences.	experiences.
D. No similar action	No similar action	<p><u>Zone:</u> Zone 1: Road corridors <u>Market:</u> Community <u>Objective:</u> Activities: Motorized recreation experiences and associated developed and undeveloped camping Experiences: Enjoying risk-taking adventure; enjoying the closeness of family; escaping from everyday stress and responsibilities. Benefits: Increased local tax and tourism revenue; greater family bonding; reduced negative impacts such as litter and disturbance to wildlife and wild horses; enhanced awareness and understanding of nature and recreation opportunities. <u>Prescribed setting character</u> Physical: Rural Social: Rural Administrative: Rural <u>Activity Planning Framework</u> Management: Coordinate with Moffat County and stakeholder groups to improve County Road access in South Sand Wash and to gravel the surface of these county roads. Provide trailhead, parking and developed camping facilities. Marketing: Coordinate with local OHV groups, commercial motorized</p>	<p><u>Zone:</u> Zone 1: Road corridors <u>Market:</u> Community <u>Objective:</u> Activities: Motorized recreation experiences and associated developed and undeveloped camping Experiences: Enjoying risk-taking adventure; enjoying the closeness of family; escaping from everyday stress and responsibilities. Benefits: Increased local tax and tourism revenue; greater family bonding; reduced negative impacts such as litter and disturbance to wildlife and wild horses; enhanced awareness and understanding of nature and recreation opportunities. <u>Prescribed setting character</u> Physical: Rural Social: Rural Administrative: Rural <u>Activity Planning Framework</u> Management: Coordinate with Moffat County and stakeholder groups to improve County Road access in South Sand Wash and to gravel the surface of these county roads. Provide trailhead, parking and developed camping facilities. Marketing: Coordinate with local OHV groups, commercial motorized</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		<p>vehicle suppliers, Chambers of Commerce and Moffat County to provide facilities, road improvements, and interpretation.</p> <p>Monitoring: In coordination with local stewardship and motorized recreation groups, monitor to determine the number of developed campsites and trailhead parking needed and their development levels, and additional service needs to meet user experiences and expectations. Monitor user experience and satisfaction.</p> <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil and gas leasing- Open Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing • OHV: Open • Developed Recreation sites- closed to all mineral actions • VRM: Class IV • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives. 	<p>vehicle suppliers, Chambers of Commerce and Moffat County to provide facilities, road improvements, and interpretation.</p> <p>Monitoring: In coordination with local stewardship and motorized recreation groups, monitor to determine the number of developed campsites and trailhead parking needed and their development levels, and additional service needs to meet user experiences and expectations. Monitor user experience and satisfaction.</p> <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil and gas leasing- Open Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing • OHV: Open • Developed Recreation sites- closed to all mineral actions • VRM: Class IV • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives.
E. No similar action	No similar action	<u>Zone</u> : Zone 2: Open play area	<u>Zone</u> : Zone 2: Open play area

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		<p><u>Market:</u> Community</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Activities: Off-road motorized recreation experiences Experiences: Enjoying risk-taking adventure; enjoying the closeness of family; developing riding skills and abilities Benefits: Enhanced sense of personal freedom; restored mind from unwanted stress; greater sense of adventure; improved maintenance of physical facilities; positive contribution to local economy</p> <p><u>Prescribed setting character</u> Physical: Rural Social: Rural Administrative: Rural</p> <p><u>Activity Planning Framework</u> Management: Identify and sign main access routes through the area. Marketing: Coordinate with local OHV groups, commercial motorized vehicle suppliers, Chambers of Commerce and Moffat County to provide maps, brochures, and interpretation. Monitoring: Monitoring will occur to determine if/when this use approaches or exceeds resource capacity. Administration:</p>	<p><u>Market:</u> Community</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Activities: Off-road motorized recreation experiences Experiences: Enjoying risk-taking adventure; enjoying the closeness of family; developing riding skills and abilities Benefits: Enhanced sense of personal freedom; restored mind from unwanted stress; greater sense of adventure; improved maintenance of physical facilities; positive contribution to local economy</p> <p><u>Prescribed setting character</u> Physical: Rural Social: Rural Administrative: Front country</p> <p><u>Activity Planning Framework</u> Management: Identify and sign main access routes through the area. Marketing: Coordinate with local OHV groups, commercial motorized vehicle suppliers, Chambers of Commerce and Moffat County to provide maps, brochures, and interpretation. Monitoring: Monitoring will occur to determine if/when this use approaches or exceeds resource capacity. Administration:</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: Oil and gas leasing- Open Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing • OHV: Open • VRM: Class IV • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by- case basis consistent with SRMA objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: Oil and gas leasing- Open Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing • OHV: Open area smaller than Alternative C, with Clay Buttes area Limited to Designated Routes • VRM: Class IV • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by- case basis consistent with SRMA objectives.
F. No similar action	No similar action	<p><u>Zone:</u> Zone 3: Designated routes area</p> <p><u>Market:</u> Community</p> <p><u>Objective:</u></p> <p>Activities: Single-track and double-track OHV riding, novice to expert levels.</p> <p>Experiences: Enjoying risk-taking adventure and new challenges; escaping everyday responsibilities for a while;</p> <p>Benefits: Greater retention of desired recreation experience; reduced negative impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling, and unplanned trails; positive contribution to local economy;</p>	<p><u>Zone:</u> Zone 3: Designated routes area</p> <p><u>Market:</u> Community</p> <p><u>Objective:</u></p> <p>Activities: Single-track and double-track OHV riding, novice to expert levels.</p> <p>Experiences: Enjoying risk-taking adventure and new challenges; escaping everyday responsibilities for a while;</p> <p>Benefits: Greater retention of desired recreation experience; reduced negative impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling, and unplanned trails; positive contribution to local economy;</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		<p>enhanced sense of personal freedom.</p> <p><u>Prescribed setting character</u></p> <p>Physical: Front country Social: Front country Administrative: Front country</p> <p><u>Activity Planning Framework</u></p> <p>Management: Together with user groups and local government, identify and sign a system of trails to accommodate a wide range of vehicle types and difficulty of riding levels. Crucial winter range and other seasonally limited wildlife habitat areas would be closed to surface disturbing activities.</p> <p>Marketing: Coordinate with local OHV groups, commercial motorized vehicle suppliers, Chambers of Commerce and Moffat County to provide maps, brochures, interpretation and route planning and development.</p> <p>Monitoring: Monitoring will occur to ensure user experiences and expectations are being met and to ensure that resources are protected.</p> <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil and gas leasing- Open Locatable - Closed 	<p>enhanced sense of personal freedom.</p> <p><u>Prescribed setting character</u></p> <p>Physical: Front country Social: Front country Administrative: Front country</p> <p><u>Activity Planning Framework</u></p> <p>Management: Together with user groups and local government, identify and sign a system of trails to accommodate a wide range of vehicle types and difficulty of riding levels. Crucial winter range and other seasonally limited wildlife habitat areas would be closed to surface disturbing activities.</p> <p>Marketing: Coordinate with local OHV groups, commercial motorized vehicle suppliers, Chambers of Commerce and Moffat County to provide maps, brochures, interpretation and route planning and development.</p> <p>Monitoring: Monitoring will occur to ensure user experiences and expectations are being met and to ensure that resources are protected.</p> <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil and gas leasing- Open Locatable - Closed

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHV: Limited to Designated Routes • VRM: Class III • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives. 	Other Minerals - Open Coal – Not available for leasing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHV: Limited to Designated Routes • VRM: Class III • Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives.
		Heavy recreation use could compact soil and remove vegetation cover that would lead to increased erosion and sediment loading to nearby streams.	Same as Alternative C.
Extensive Recreation Management Areas			
G. The remainder of the RMPPA will receive limited management as an Extensive Recreation Management Area where recreation use is dispersed and requires only minimal management. BLM will provide basic information on public safety and recreation opportunities within the RMPPA, and provide access and minimal facilities as demand warrants.	All BLM-managed lands within the planning area that are not delineated as Special Recreation Management Areas in an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Objectives for the ERMA are as follows: <u>Visitor health and safety:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide direction and destination signing for public safety and service. • Achieve greater understanding of safety hazards and risks 	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	<p>associated with recreation activities.</p> <p><u>User conflicts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus public land boundary signing in fragmented lands to reduce trespass onto private lands. • Monitor user conflicts and apply criteria in Appendix XX to determine if transportation planning or other activity planning is triggered. <p><u>Resource protection:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor resource conditions and apply criteria in Appendix XX to determine if transportation planning or other activity planning is triggered. • Utilize education as a means to further resource protection. 		
Heavy recreation use could compact soil and remove vegetation cover that would lead to increased erosion and	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
sediment loading to nearby streams.			
Developed Recreation Sites			
H. No similar action	No similar action.	Increase number of interpretive sites and viewing pullouts as need and opportunities arise.	Same as Alternative C.
I. Boat Ramp (Yampa) J. Campground at Irish Canyon and Rocky Reservoir K. Picnic Sites at Irish Canyon and Cedar Mountain	No additional recreation sites would be developed and current sites would remain at the same service and use levels.	1. Provide developed recreation sites in association with SRMAs (campgrounds, boat launch, picnic sites). 2. Current sites would remain at the same service and use levels.	Same as Alternative C.
Heavy recreation use could compact soil and remove vegetation cover that would lead to increased erosion and sediment loading to nearby streams.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Management of the Yampa River Corridor			
L. No similar action	No similar action	Within the Yampa River Corridor monitor the quality of the following indicators of recreation experience and regulate the use of sites and access points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site disturbance • User conflict • Public health and safety • Other resource impacts 	Same as Alternative C

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		Heavy recreation use could compact soil and remove vegetation cover that would lead to increased erosion and sediment loading to nearby streams.	Same as Alternative C.
TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS & TRAVEL MANAGEMENT			
Travel Management			
A. Areas have been designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicle use (RMP/ROD page 28). The Little Snake RMP map shows the areas listed in the table. A vehicle use implementation plan will be completed within one year of the RMP approval.	Areas have been designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicle use as detailed below (Map X).	Areas have been designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicle use as detailed below (Map X).	Areas have been designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicle use as detailed below (Map X).
(See impact analysis below).	(See impact analysis below).	(See impact analysis below).	(See impact analysis below).
Closed			
B. The following area would be managed as closed to OHV use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond Breaks WSA • Limestone ACEC • Cross Mountain WSA • Serviceberry area • Fly Creek area • Maybell Uranium pit 	The following area would be managed as closed to OHV use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond Breaks WSA • Cross Mountain WSA • Maybell Uranium pit 	The following area would be managed as closed to OHV use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond Breaks WSA • Limestone Ridge • Cross Mountain WSA (Including Wild and Scenic River segment) • Critical Wild Horse water source on the high water mark consistent with wild horse actions. 	The following area would be managed as closed to OHV use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All WSAs • Limestone Ridge ACEC • Serviceberry SRMA • Fly Creek SRMA • Dinosaur North SRMA • Maybell Uranium pit • Critical Wild Horse water source on the high water mark consistent with wild

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water impoundments (year-round) and within the high water mark when dry, except where a designated road crosses impoundment. 	<p>horse actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water impoundments (year-round) and within the high water mark when dry, except where a designated road crosses impoundment.
Areas closed to OHV use would limit surface disturbance associated with such activities. This would indirectly maintain existing water quality.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Limited to Designated Roads and Trails			
<p>C. The following areas would be managed as limited to designated roads and trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lookout Mountain ACEC Irish Canyon ACEC Sections of Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA Cottonwood Creek area Cedar Mountain Browns Park cellular site Wild Mountain area Hoy Mountain area 	No areas would be managed as limited to designated roads and trails.	<p>Designate routes determined through adaptive management and travel management planning.</p> <p>The following areas would be managed as limited to designated routes for OHV use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little Yampa Canyon SRMA Cedar Mountain SRMA Cottonwood Creek area Irish Canyon ACEC Lookout Mountain ACEC Browns Park cellular site Wild Mountain area Hoy Mountain area Zones within South Sand Wash SRMA 	<p>All areas not managed as open or closed would be managed as limited to designated roads and trails.</p> <p>Criteria in Appendix XX would be used to prioritize areas for transportation planning.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Limiting OHV use to designated roads and trails would concentrate impacts and avoid dispersion of impacts across these areas.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Limited to Existing Roads and Trails			
<p>D. The following areas would be managed as limited to existing roads and trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that meet fragile soil criteria • WSAs: All except Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain • Lands adjacent to Cross Mountain WSA • Sections of Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA • Pole Gulch area • Big Hole Gulch area • Cold Springs Mountain • Sections of Axial Basin • Willow Creek area • South Nipple area 	<p>The following areas would be managed as limited to existing roads and trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSAs: All except Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain • Areas that meet fragile soil criteria • Fragile soil criteria areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are rated as highly or severely erodible by wind or water, as described by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Area Soil Survey Report or as described by on-site inspection. 2. Have slopes greater than or equal to 35%, if they also have one of the following soil characteristics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Surface texture that is sand, loamy sand, very fine sandy 	<p>All areas not managed as open or closed would be managed as limited to existing roads and trails.</p> <p>See adaptive OHV designation process explained below.</p>	<p>No areas would be managed as limited to existing roads and trails.</p>

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	loam, silty clay or clay. b) A depth to bedrock less than 20 inches. c) Erosion condition rated as 'poor'. d) K factor greater than 0.32.		
Limiting OHV use to existing roads and trails would concentrate impacts and avoid dispersion of impacts across these areas.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Open			
E. Approximately 71% of the Field Office would be managed as open to OHV use.	All areas of the Field Office that would not be managed as limited or closed to OHV use.	The following areas would be managed as open to OHV use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Sand Wash SRMA (play area south edge and Clay Buttes area) • Hiawatha open, except from April 15 to July 15 it would be limited to existing routes. 	The following areas would be managed as open to OHV use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Sand Wash SRMA (play area south edge, smaller area than Alternative C).
Areas open to OHV use would be more likely to have surface disturbance associated with such activities. Surface disturbing activities could affect water quality by increasing sediment loading, salinity, and turbidity.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Adaptive OHV Designations			
F. No similar action	No similar action	Transportation planning would be initiated on a case-by-case basis	No similar action

Table X. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		consistent with the process identified in Appendix XX.	
G. All area within the Field Office, except for Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain WSAs, would be open to over-the-snow vehicles.	Same as Alternative A	Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain WSAs and crucial winter range and other seasonally limited wildlife habitat areas would be closed to over-the-snow vehicles unless exception through adaptive management criteria outlined in Appendix X.	All WSAs; and crucial winter range and other seasonally limited wildlife habitat areas would be closed to over-the-snow vehicles.
H. No similar action	No similar action	Consider seasonal OHV closures based on site specific transportation planning results (see above).	Big game crucial winter range and production areas would be closed to OHV use during December 1 to April 30
I. Wild horse foaling areas would be closed to motor vehicle use during March 2 to June 30	No similar action	Consider seasonal OHV closures based on site specific transportation planning results (see above).	Wild horse foaling areas would be closed to OHV use during March 2 to June 30
J. No similar action	Consider temporarily opening closed areas to enhance big game harvest.	Consider temporarily opening closed areas to enhance big game harvest in coordination with CDOW.	No similar action
		Seasonally limiting OHV use would reduce impacts from associated surface disturbance during specific time periods.	Same as Alternative A.