

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Fish and Wildlife Habitat</b>	
<b>Goal A:</b> Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to maintain viable populations of greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species, <u>consistent with local plans.</u>	
<b>Goal B:</b> Identify and initiate restoration and rehabilitation of sagebrush habitat, while maintaining a mosaic of canopy cover and seral stages.	
<b>Goal C:</b> <del>Manage habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species endemic to key vegetation types by maintaining adequate habitat quantity, quality, and continuity.</del>	<b>Deleted:</b>
<b>Goal D:</b> <del>Coordinate with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and consult with other cooperating agencies.</del>	<b>Deleted:</b> operate
<b>Goal E:</b> <del>Manage disturbance to wildlife and by wildlife through use of science-based tools, balancing risks to wildlife populations with risks to economic feasibility of other uses.</del>	<b>Deleted:</b> Reduce manageable forms of wildlife disturbance.
<b>Goal F:</b> Provide an array of aquatic habitats that support biodiversity and viable populations of species.	<b>Deleted:</b>
<b>Goal A Objectives:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities in northwest Colorado.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats on a landscape scale.</i></li> </ol>	
<b>Goal B Objectives:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities in northwest Colorado.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Reduce encroachment of juniper and other woody species into sagebrush habitat.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Restore a diversity of seral stages within sagebrush communities.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Restore the quantity, species composition, and species diversity of sagebrush understories.</i></li> </ol>	
<b>Goal C Objectives:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Improve and/or maintain those areas that are key wildlife habitats and/or at their desired plant communities.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Maintain or restore connectivity between habitat use areas.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Maintain, restore, or enhance the habitat of migratory bird species (i.e., neotropicals, waterfowl, raptors, etc.).</i></li> <li>4. <i>Maintain and promote high quality habitat for big game populations in recognition to their economic value to the region.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Provide habitat to support sufficient raptor prey populations.</i></li> <li>6. <i>Provide sufficient nesting and fledging habitat to ensure sustainable raptor populations.</i></li> </ol>	
<b>Goal D Objectives:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Provide input to CDOW on establishing fish and wildlife populations that can be sustained by available habitat.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Seek input from CDOW on managing fish and wildlife habitat on public lands.</i></li> </ol>	
<b>Goal E Objectives:</b>	
1. <u>Manage</u> access to seasonal use areas during crucial timeframes.	<b>Deleted:</b> Restrict

2. Manage access in crucial habitats.

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**Goal F Objectives:**

1. Promote improvement and recovery of current, historic, and potential habitats of aquatic species.
2. Maintain or improve, to proper functioning condition, bank, channel and floodplain processes.
3. Encourage sport fisheries where they will not cause detriment to native fish populations.

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
A. Grouse (sage, mountain sharp-tailed, lesser and greater prairie chickens): 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.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A. <u>BLM: Consider using adaptive management in this alternative for sage grouse now that you have the statewide BO from USFWS.</u>	NSO within 1-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.
B. 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.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
C. Peregrine Falcon: NSO within ¼ mile radius of cliff nesting complex. No exceptions.	Same as Alternative A. 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 B.	NSO within 1/2 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

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			vegetation screening.
D. 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. <a href="#">BLM: Can we apply Appendix X here?</a>	Same as Alternative C.
E. 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.	Big game species (mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep) crucial winter habitat – January 1 to April 30. Exceptions: granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative B.	Big game species (mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep) winter habitat – December 1 to April 30. Exceptions: granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.
F. 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	Elk calving – April 16 to June 30 Pronghorn Antelope fawning – May 1 to July 15 Bighorn Sheep – no similar action Exceptions: granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>May 30</p> <p>G. 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.</p>			
<p>H. Greater Sandhill Crane nesting and staging habitat areas – March 1 to October 16. No exceptions.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>I. 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.</p> <p>J. Exceptions to raptor 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.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>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 3/4 mile buffer zone around the nest site.</p>
<p>K. Ferruginous Hawk nesting and fledgling habitat – February 1</p>	<p>Ferruginous Hawk nesting and fledgling habitat – February 1 to</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
to August 15. Applies to 1-mile buffer zone to avoid nest abandonment.	August 15. Applies to 1/2-mile buffer zone to avoid nest abandonment.	criteria established in Appendix X.	
L. <u>Osprey nesting and fledgling habitat – April 1 to August 31. Applies to a ½ mile buffer zone to avoid nest abandonment.</u>	<u>Same as Alternative A.</u>	<u>Same as Alternative A.</u>	<u>Same as Alternative A.</u>
M. Peregrine falcon cliff nesting complex – March 16 to July 31. Applies ½ 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.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative A.
N. Grouse:  1. Nesting habitat March 1- June 30 (2 mile radius from leks).  2. Crucial winter habitat – December 16 to March 15. No exceptions.	Same as Alternative A.	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would avoid all greater sage-grouse habitats (leks, nesting, early brood-rearing as defined in Chapter 3) within a 4-mile radius of the lek. The actual area to be avoided and appropriate time frames 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.	Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would avoid all greater sage-grouse habitats (leks, nesting, early brood-rearing, and winter range as defined in Chapter 3). The actual area to be avoided and appropriate time frames 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

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<p>Exceptions and waivers?????</p> <p>Field development – offsite mitigation (habitat improvements, reclamation of roads/pads)</p> <p>Disruptive activities would also avoid occupied greater sage-grouse leks during appropriate evening and early morning hours, usually from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily. The actual area to be avoided and appropriate time frame (typically March 1 to May 15) would be determined and applied on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Crucial winter habitat -</p>	<p>entities.</p> <p>Exceptions and waivers?????</p> <p>Disruptive activities would also avoid occupied greater sage-grouse leks during appropriate evening and early morning hours, usually from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily. The actual area to be avoided and appropriate time frame (typically March 1 to May 15) would be determined and applied on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Crucial winter habitat -</p>
<p>O. Recommend wildlife use adjustments to CDOW if monitoring data indicate that adjustments are necessary.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Meet with CDOW on at least an annual basis to discuss fish and wildlife information (e.g., monitoring), relative to BLM authorizations. (ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP?)</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

Note: Can you state that BLM will be an active participant in DOW planning efforts?

Can we add a goal or objective saying that when BLM cooperates with other agencies for any species reintroduction efforts it will do so in collaboration with community stakeholders?

Will white-tail prairie dogs and other sensitive species be added into this document now that you know you don't have direction from the state BO?

**Resource/Resource Use: Livestock Grazing Management**

**Goal A:** Manage resources, forage, and watersheds to maintain livestock grazing.

**Goal B:** Provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments.

**Goal C:** To the extent possible, maintain the stability and sustainability of the livestock industry.

**Goal A Objectives:**

1. *Maintain and improve forage species diversity and abundance by managing to meet plant reproductive and physiological needs.*
2. *Minimize conflicts between livestock and other grazing animals in areas of increased pressure on forage and riparian zones.*
3. *Manage plant utilization by all foraging species at a level that maintains plant health and protects watersheds.*

**Goal B Objectives:**

1. *Allow the opportunity to create common reserve allotments when lands or permits become available without requiring involuntary AUM retirements or transfers.*
2. *Identify lands not available for livestock grazing. [Note: somewhere list the criteria that will be used to make this determination. Look at specific areas in the alternatives.]*

*[Note to BLM and BAH: Add language here that says that you will work with permittees. Also somehow/somewhere add language from original Goal A about managing grazing to maintain resources, stable watersheds, etc.]*

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
A. Allow livestock grazing utilizing federal preference (166,895 AUMs) until monitoring studies are completed.	Manage livestock grazing adaptively utilizing Standards and Guides process while working closely with permittees to develop sustainable ranching operations.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
B. Monitor rangelands on M and I category allotments to yield information needed to make decisions on livestock stocking rates, proceeding as funding and staff allow from worst to better forage conditions as established by 1981-1983 surveys and including 13 conflict allotments (numbers 4203, 4206, 4207, 4209, 4210, 4219, 4225, 4302, 4431, 4332, 4520, 4521, 4522).	Work closely with CDOW to reduce livestock/big game conflicts that would improve vegetative and forage conditions.	Same as Alternative B.	No similar action.

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>C. Implement vegetation land treatments on 68 allotments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use such treatments as interseeding, burning and reseeding, spraying, and plowing and reseeding</li> <li>2. Adhere to established procedures and design specifications to protect all resource uses and values</li> <li>3. Complete a benefit/cost analysis and environmental analysis before any treatments are implemented.</li> </ol>	See Vegetation section.		
<p>D. Construct range improvement projects on 69 allotments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use improvements that will control livestock use, improve distribution, and improve riparian/wetland habitat</li> <li>2. Complete a benefit/cost analysis and environmental analysis before any projects are implemented.</li> </ol>	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.
E. No similar action	<p>Established common reserve allotments and allow use within those allotments when the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for replacement forage due to wildfire or vegetation treatment</li> <li>• Etc.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B



Osprey nesting and fledgling habitat – April 1 to August 31. Applies to a ½ mile buffer zone to avoid nest abandonment.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
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