This section of the Plan includes specific management direction for a number of special areas possessing unique characteristics. Some special areas have specific Congressional or administrative designations, including:

- Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs);
- Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs);
- Proposed Wilderness;
- Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs);
- Scenic, Historic, and Backcounty Byways;
- National Recreation and Scenic Trails, and National Historic Trails;
- Research Natural Areas (RNAs);
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs);
- Archeological Areas;
- Wild Horse Herd Management Areas;
- Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (HMAs); and
- Special Botanical Areas.

Other areas with unique characteristics that do not require special designation by Congress, or administrately by the USFS or BLM, are included in MA 2 as "Unique Landscapes." These include:

Dolores River Canyon;

Rico;

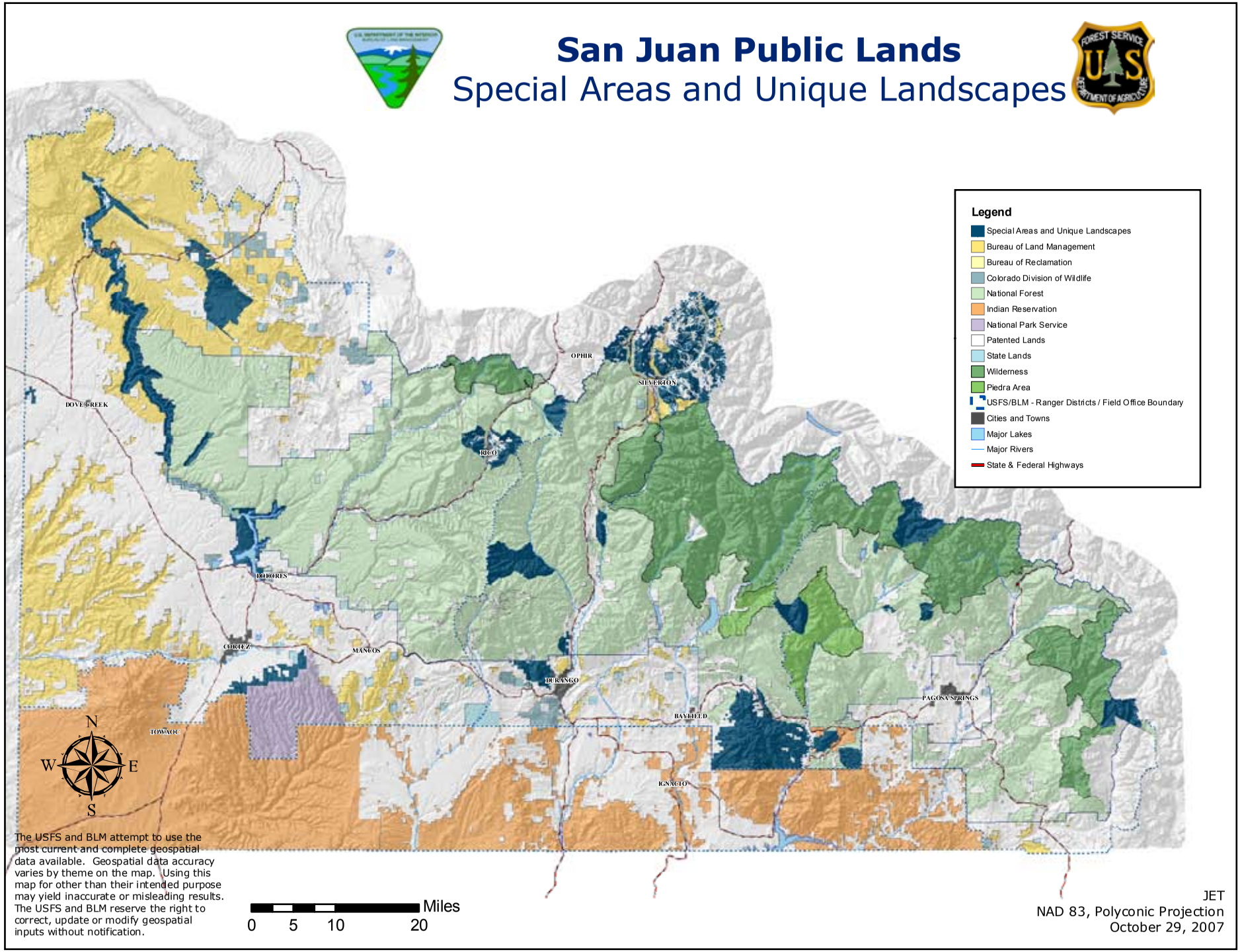
McPhee;

Mesa Verde Escarpment;

HD Mountains; and

Silverton.

Figure 20 - Special Areas and Unique Landscapes



WILDERNESS AREAS AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSAS)

Introduction

Wilderness is a unique and vital resource. In addition to offering primitive recreation opportunities, it is valuable for its scientific and educational uses, as a benchmark for ecological studies, and for the preservation of historical and natural features.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines Wilderness as:

> A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this chapter an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Program Emphasis

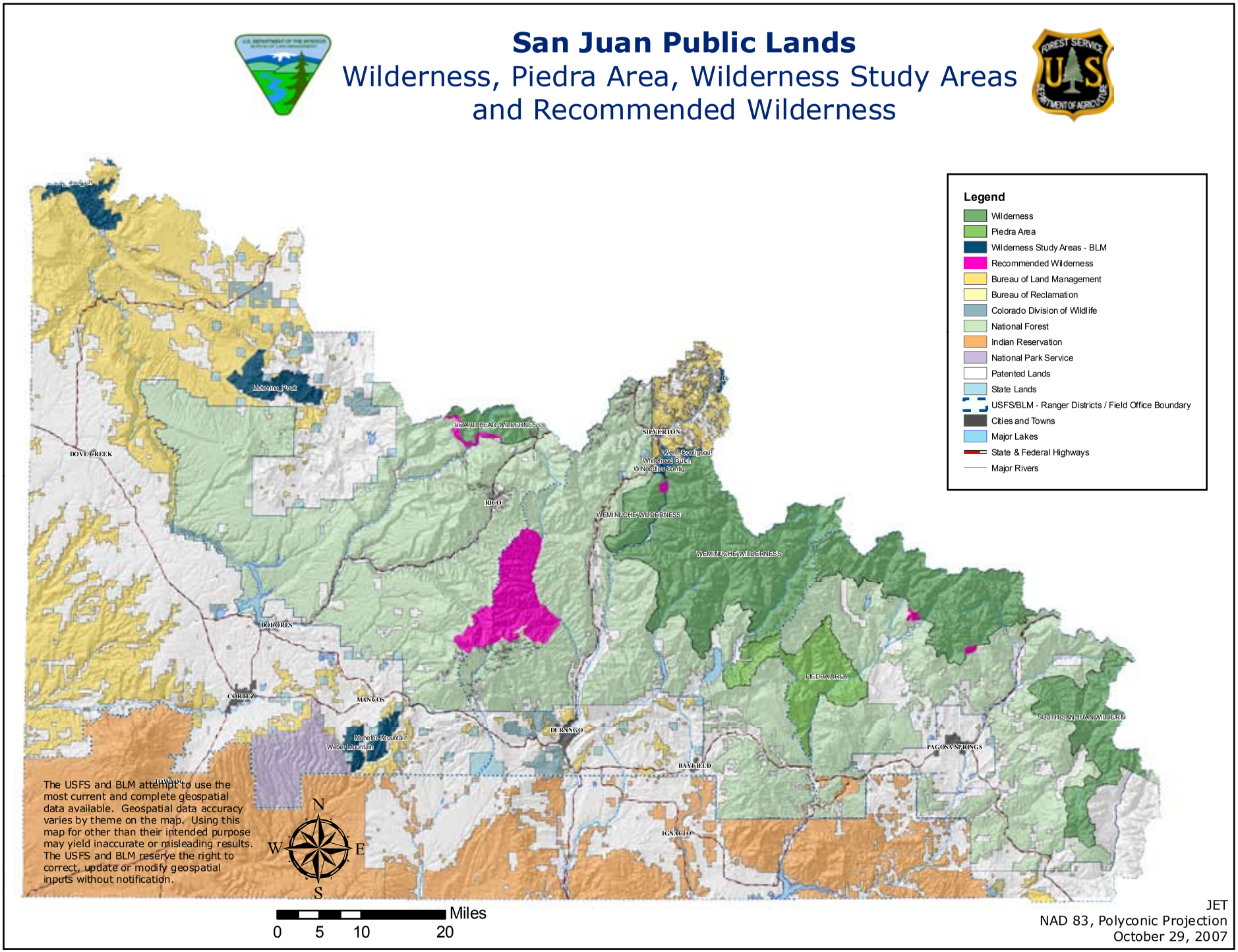
Federal agencies manage Wilderness resources in a manner that ensures that their character and values are dominant and enduring. Wilderness management must be consistent over time, and between areas, in order to ensure their present and future availability and enjoyment as wilderness. Wilderness is managed in order to ensure that human influence does not impede the free play of natural forces or interfere with natural succession in the ecosystems, and to ensure that Wilderness Areas offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Wilderness is also managed as one resource rather than a series of separate resources (FSM 2320.6).

Within the planning area, there are three Wilderness Areas on USFS-administered lands and seven WSAs on BLM-administered lands, as well as the Piedra Area (USFS) (which is a congressionally designated area managed to preserve its Wilderness characteristics). Wilderness Areas and WSAs are managed by USFS policy FSM 2320 and by BLM Handbook H-8560-1, respectively. Specifically, the Wilderness Areas and the Piedra Area are managed under a 1998 Forest Plan amendment that is incorporated by reference as part of this DLMP. BLM WSAs were designated in the 1980s, and a final recommendation was forwarded to the President in 1991. BLM WSAs are managed under BLM Handbook 8550-1 (and will continue to be until Congress designates them as Wilderness Areas or releases them for multiple-use values). If the WSAs are released, they would be managed in accordance with the direction for MA 1s (where natural processes dominate. See Table 21 for a listing of the existing Wilderness Areas, the Piedra Area, and the WSAs.

Table 21 - Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas

AREA NAME AND TYPE	ACRES
SJPL Wilderness Areas:	
Weminuche	328,270
South San Juan	71,593
Lizard Head	20,658
TOTAL	***420,522***
Piedra Area: ***TOTAL***	***60,341***
SJPL Wilderness Study Areas:	
Weber Mountain	6,153
Dolores River Canyon	15,889
Handies Peak	1,061
Menefee Mountain	7,153
McKenna Peak	20,830
West Needles Contiguous	958
Whitehead Gulch	1,764
Weminuche Contiguous	1,619
TOTAL	***55,428***

Figure 21 - Wilderness Areas, Piedra Area, WSAs, and Recommended Wilderness Areas



INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS (IRAs)

Introduction

Using criteria from USFS directives, the San Juan National Forest has conducted a new roadless inventory as part of the process for revising the Land Management Plan. This inventory identified 19 areas (totaling approximately 555,815 acres) as having "roadless character." These areas were analysed for their potential inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The boundaries of Inventoried Roadless Areas described in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule will also be updated to reflect the new inventory. It should also be used to guide future rulemaking related to roadless area management. Table 22 shows the 19 areas included in the revision inventory.

Table 22 - Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs)

Area Number	Inventoried Roadless Area	Acres	Geographic Area
SJ240	San Miguel	60,311	Columbine and Dolores
SJ284	South San Juan Adjacent	35,127	Pagosa
SJ285	Treasure Mountain	22,512	Pagosa
SJ286	Turkey Creek	25,326	Pagosa
SJ291	Graham Park	17,325	Columbine
SJ292	Piedra Area Adjacent	39,389	Columbine and Pagosa
SJ293	Runlett Park	5,600	Columbine
SJ294	Florida River	5,726	Columbine
SJ295	HD Mountains	25,140	Columbine
SJ302	East Animas	16,864	Columbine
SJ303	West Needles	4,497	Columbine
SJ304	Blackhawk Mountain	17,545	Dolores
SJ305	Storm Peak	57,623	Dolores
SJ306	Hermosa	148,139	Columbine and Dolores
SJ315	Ryman	8,665	Dolores
SJ310	Fish Creek	13,537	Dolores
SJ320	Weminuche Adjacent	38,410	Columbine and Pagosa
SJ235	Lizard Head Adjacent	5,558	Dolores
SJ309	Baldy	20,032	Dolores
	TOTAL	555,815	

Source: GIS Inventory

Areas included in the Plan as Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) meet the following criteria from the Wilderness Act and FSH 1909.12:

- they contain 5,000 acres or more; or
- they contain less than 5,000 acres, but are contiguous to existing Wilderness Areas or are recommended for Wilderness under other Federal ownerships.

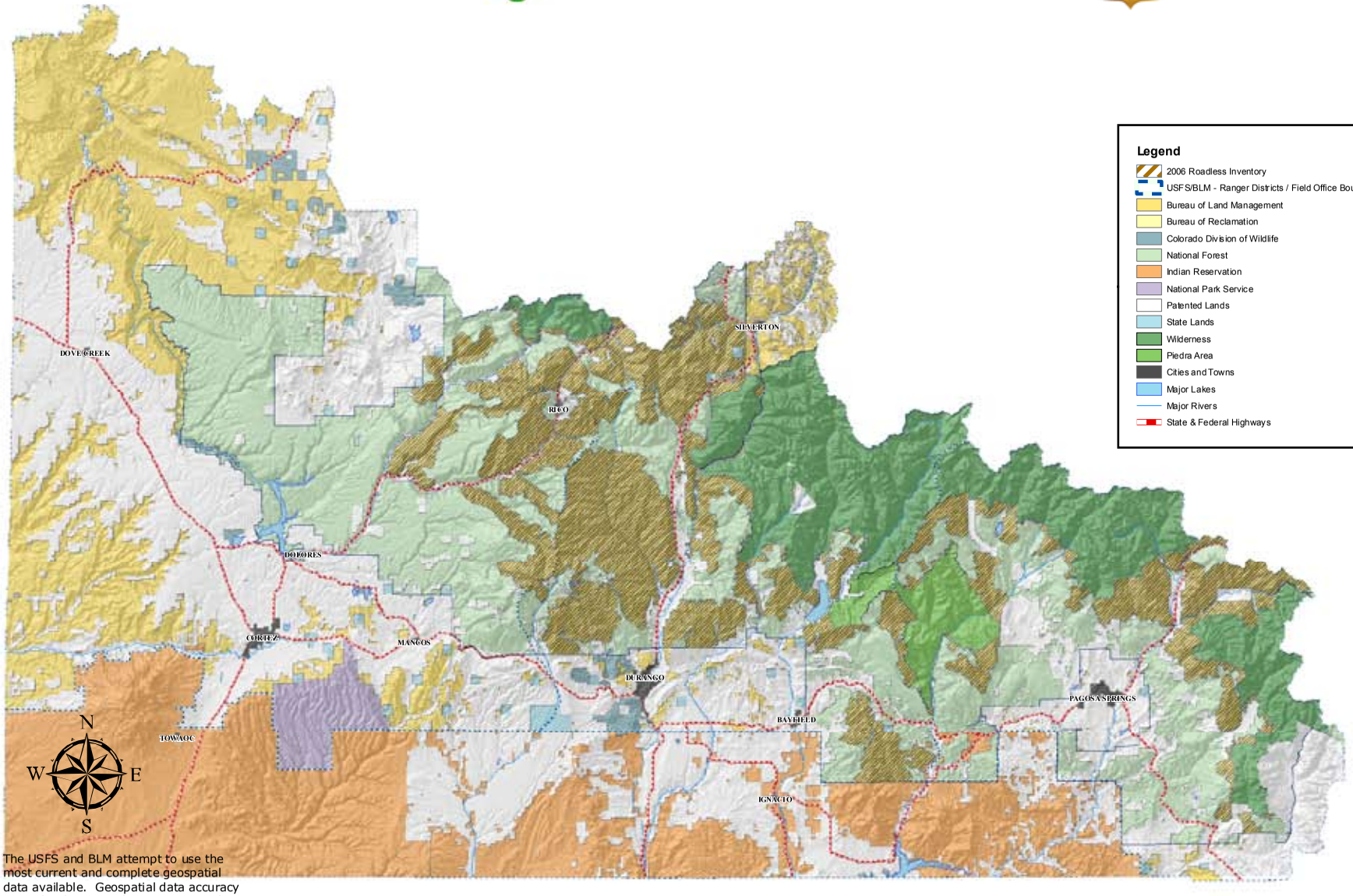
IRAs do not contain classified roads. Classified roads are roads that are wholly or partially within, or adjacent to, USFS-administered lands that are determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access (including State roads, county roads, privately owned roads, USFS roads, and/or other roads authorized by the Forest Service [36 CFR 212.1]).

IRAs may contain improvements, including motorized trails, unauthorized, user-created roads, fences, Outfitter/Guide camps, and/or evidence of historical logging activities.

Recent timber harvesting areas, utility corridors, ski areas, and large reservoirs were excluded from the roadless inventory.

Figure 22 - 2006 Roadless Inventory

2006 Roadless Inventory



The USFS and BLM attempt to use the most current and complete geospatial data available. Geospatial data accuracy varies by theme on the map. Using this map for other than their intended purpose may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USFS and BLM reserve the right to correct, update or modify geospatial inputs without notification.

0 5 10 20 Miles

JET
NAD 83, Polyconic Projection
October 29, 2007

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREAS

This plan recommends areas for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (see Figure 22):

- portions of the Hermosa IRA (50,895 acres);
- portions of the Lizard Head IRA (2,632 acres);
- portions of the Weminuche Adjacent IRA (specifically, Elk Park and Monk Rock, totaling 1,428 acres); and
- portions of the Turkey Creek IRA (578 acres).

These areas will be managed to maintain their wilderness characteristics until Congress designates them as Wilderness or releases them for other multiple-use management (in which case, they would be managed under MA 1).

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS (WSRs)

Introduction

Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 in order to preserve the free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) of select rivers. The WSR Act directs that each river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System be administered in a manner that protects and enhances its outstanding natural and cultural values. The Act allows existing uses of a river to continue, and future uses to be considered (as long as the use does not conflict with the protection of river values).

The WSR Act Section 5(d)(1) directs Federal agencies to consider the potential of all rivers and streams for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System during their planning processes. All streams and rivers within the planning area were assessed as to their WSR eligibility and suitability. Volume 1 of this DLMP/ DEIS describes the process used for the planning area (also see Appendix D, Volume 3 for additional details). In order to be found suitable for WSR status, rivers must meet the following criteria:

- they must be free-flowing (not in a reservoir and having mostly natural banks);
- they must have at least one ORV (ORVs can be in relation to fish, wildlife, recreation, scenery, ecology, cultural, historic, and/or other resource);
- their free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs should be protected, even if there are other competing uses; and
- their WSR status would be the best method for protecting their ORVs.

Program Emphasis

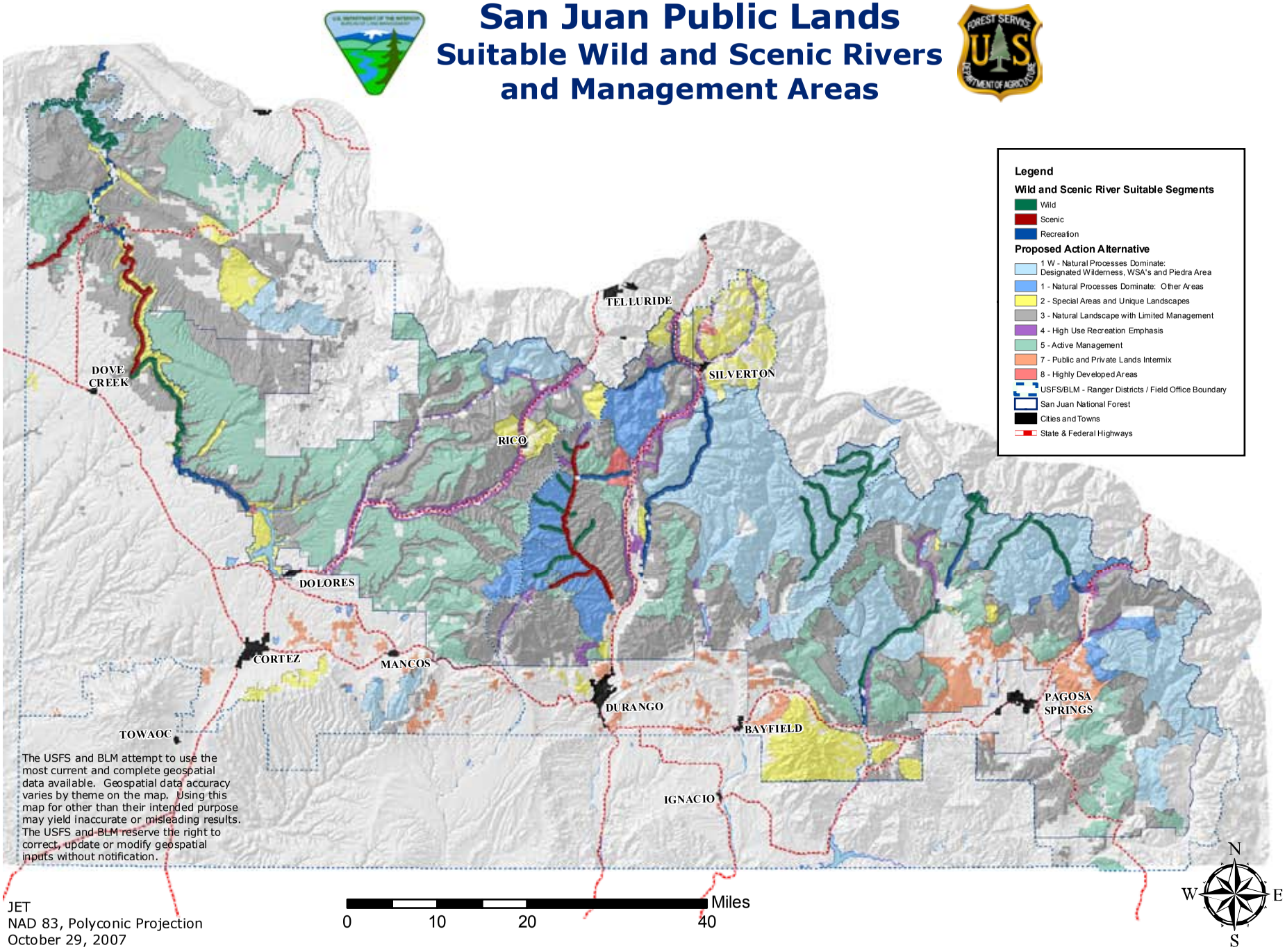
During the planning process, the SJPLC determined the appropriate development level of rivers within the planning-area. This was based on water resources development, shoreline development, and accessibility. These constitute the river's classification as "wild" or "scenic" or "recreation.") Table 23 lists the rivers that have been found to be suitable for WSR status.

Table 23 - River Segments Suitable for Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Status by Class

MAP NAME	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATION	TOTAL
Dolores River - McPhee To Bedrock	48.84	23.15	37.04	109.02
Summit Canyon	0	12.15	0	12.15
Coyote Wash	7.60	0	0	7.60
Dolores TOTALS	**56.44**	**37.30**	**37.04**	**128.77**
Animas River - Bakers Bridge to Sultan Creek	0	0	27.19	27.19
Mineral Creek	0	0	8.65	8.65
South Fork Mineral Creek	0	0	7.41	7.41
Animas River TOTALS	0	0	**43.25**	**43.25**
Big Bend Creek	4.43	0	0	4.43
Big Lick Creek	0.76	0	0	0.76
Clear Creek	0	5.36	0	5.36
Corral Creek	1.65	0	0	1.65
Deer Creek	2.72	0	0	2.72
East Fork Hermosa Creek	0	0	6.70	6.70
Elk Creek	4.25	0	0	4.25
Hermosa Creek	0	28.08	0	28.08
South Fork Hermosa Creek	5.89	0	0	5.89
West Cross Creek	2.44	0	0	2.44
Hermosa Creek TOTALS	**22.14**	**33.44**	**6.70**	**62.28**
Los Pinos, above Vallecito Reservoir	21.89	0	0	21.89
Lake Creek	8.05	0	0	8.05
Flint Creek	7.03	0	0	7.03
Sierra Vandera Creek	3.67	0	0	3.67
Snowslide Gulch	3.51	0	0	3.51
Rincon la Osa	5.69	0	0	5.69
Rincon la Vaca	4.33	0	0	4.33
Los Pinos TOTALS	**54.17**	**0**	**0**	**54.17**
Piedra River N of Hwy 160	14.09	0	7.89	21.98
East Fork Piedra River in Wilderness	9.37	0	0	9.37
Middle Fork Piedra River	11.75	0	7.03	18.77
Piedra River TOTALS	**35.21**	**0**	**14.92**	**50.12**
West Fork San Juan River	8.60	0	8.70	17.30
San Juan River TOTALS	**8.60**	0	**8.70**	**17.30**

These rivers may eventually be designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System by the Secretary of the Interior, or as the result of an act of Congress (Secretarial designation requires that the State governor make application to the Secretary of the Interior). The identification of rivers as suitable through this land management planning process does not trigger any water rights or other protections under the WSRA. In order to manage the rivers for their potential inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System, existing authorities will be used to protect the identified river's free-flowing character, water quality, ORVs, and recommended classification. (Details of the interim protective management are listed in FSM 1990.12_80.) Previous land management plans had similar direction, and have provided protection for the ORVs of the Los Pinos River, the Piedra River, and the Dolores and West Dolores Rivers over the past several decades.

Figure 23 – Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers in Relation to Management Areas



SCENIC, HISTORIC, AND BACKCOUNTRY BYWAYS

Introduction

Currently, driving for pleasure is one of the most popular forms of recreation within the planning area – with scenic byways and backcountry byways serving as some of the most popular routes. As the population increases, and as "Baby Boomers" grow older and become less able to engage in more physically active forms of recreation, larger numbers of visitors are anticipated to take up driving for pleasure. Heritage tourism, which is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry, is often combined with a scenic drive.

Program Emphasis

Consistent with the primary goals of the National Scenic Byway Program, SJPL managers will guide the appropriate physical development of these travel corridors and their associated facilities, direct the conservation of unique and valued attributes surrounding the planning area, and provide leadership for byway management that supports efforts to benefit these routes.

The planning area is home to the 232-mile long San Juan Skyway, which was designated by the USFS as a National Scenic Byway in 1988 (also designated a State Scenic and Historic Byway, and as an All-American Road in 1997). The San Juan Skyway traverses some of the most spectacular, rugged, and pristine landscapes in America. The area is rich in culture -- from prehistoric habitations through to the colorful mining era that marked the San Juan Mountains in the 1800s (including the development of the narrow-gauge railways through the area).

The 65-mile long Alpine Loop National Backcountry Byway passes through the southern San Juan Mountains (often along routes that follow ancient paths of Native Americans as they returned to their traditional summer hunting camps). This rugged route connects the towns of Lake City, Silverton, and Ouray, Colorado. Spectacular high-elevation scenery and numerous historical markers explain the mining history of the area as the route travels through the towering San Juan Mountains.

The Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway highlights the long and intriguing inhabitation of the Four Corners region by Native Americans. It takes visitors to remote archeologically, culturally, and historically significant sites in Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. The section of the byway within the planning area travels mainly within the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (BLM), Hovenweep National Monument (NPS), Ute Mountain Ute tribal lands, and communities (including Cortez and Dolores). One hundred and fourteen miles of this scenic byway are within Colorado.

The byway program provides essential safety, information, and sanitary services; protect, conserve, and interpret valued resources; and promote a quality image of the SJPL. Planning and infrastructure for these popular driving routes is not keeping up with the increasing demand for recreation. Inventorying scenic conditions along the three byways, as well as developing corridor management plans and interpretive strategies will help identify management priorities and actions designed to enhance the visitor experience. Travel management planning will integrate effectively with the management of these byways.

Over the past decade, great strides have been made to identify and conserve key natural and cultural viewsheds associated with the byways. However, some spectacular and culturally significant viewsheds remain in jeopardy from potential land trades, as well as from incompatible development. These areas include the foreground viewshed areas along Highway 550 north of Durango, along the Alpine Loop National Backcountry Byway, and near Cortez. These viewsheds in "gateway" landscapes help visitors transition between the development associated with a community and the undeveloped natural appearance of the surrounding public lands, including ecologically important riparian areas and wetland ecosystems (such as along the Dolores River) and key winter wildlife habitat (such as north of Durango). SJPL Managers aim to take a leadership role in working with willing partners (including local, State, and other Federal agencies; the Trust for Public Land (TPL); local land trusts; the State Heritage Fund; non-profit organizations; CDOT; Fort Lewis College; and the Colorado State Tourism Office) in order to identify and protect these landscapes. Efforts will involve active communication and collaboration with the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) in order to ensure consistency of management along the byways.

SJPL managers will participate in partnerships with local communities, as well as with all other interested groups and individuals, in order to determine the appropriate marketing of the byways and to implement marketing actions to achieve byway goals. The first steps will include expanding the SJPL's partnership with the Durango Mountain Resort, the Silverton Chamber of Commerce, and the Durango-Silverton Narrow-Gauge Railroad so that basic public services and information would continue to be available to byway travelers along U.S. Highway 550 (the "Million Dollar Highway"). Initial efforts will focus on three key sites: the town of Silverton, the Purgatory Flats Trailhead, and the Molas Pass Rest Stop.

Desired Conditions - Scenic, Historic, and Backcountry Byways

31.1 The byways are the main access routes, or gateways, to a wide array of recreation opportunities within the planning area; they have appropriate public information and services.

31.2 Cultural heritage sites along these three byways (including early historic mining, ranching, and Native American sites) are interpreted.

31.3 Scenic byways and adjacent landscapes provide high-quality scenery. Viewsheds along scenic byways are protected, and scenic integrity is maintained in order to meet the public's desire for attractive natural landscapes. The byways contribute to recreation tourism and the regional economy. The byways are managed in order to protect the intrinsic qualities for which they were designated, consistent with current corridor management plans.

31.4 Byway goals and objectives are effectively integrated with the SJPLC's recreation facility master plan and travel management plan.

31.5 Significant historic structures along these three byways are preserved and stabilized.

Other Referenced Direction

Refer to Corridor Management Plans and Byway Interpretive Strategies for more information.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND SCENIC TRAILS, AND NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

Introduction

National recreation and scenic trails, and national historic trails, are federally recognized trails that connect people to local resources and improve their quality of life. More than 900 trails have been designated throughout the nation. Within the planning area, there are four designated national recreation and scenic trails: the Calico Trail, the Highline Trail, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and the Colorado Trail. In addition, the Old Spanish Trail crosses the planning area, and is designated as a National Historic Trail. These trails are recognized through establishment reports and management plans for their scenic, historic, interpretive, and recreation values.

Desired Conditions - National Recreation and Scenic Trails, and National Historic Trails

32.1 Consistent with their designation, the significant scenic, historic, and natural resources for each trail are identified, interpreted, and protected. The values for which these trails were established are retained.

32.2 The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Colorado Trail provide opportunities for remote backcountry recreation, challenge, and solitude, except where they come near area communities (where more people and development may be encountered).

32.3 The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Colorado Trail are non-motorized trails and have high scenic integrity.

32.4 Interpretive venues are used to inform and educate visitors about the national recreation and scenic trails, and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, as well as about resource stewardship.

32.5 Trail segments near area communities and/or major access points are planned and designed in order to be barrier-free.

Program Emphasis

Trail stewardship is emphasized through partnerships, marketing and interpretation, monitoring efforts, and maintaining and enhancing desired conditions.

The key to sustaining a successful network of national recreation and scenic trails, and national historic trails, is to continue to engage partners (including the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Alliance, the Colorado Trail Foundation, and the Old Spanish Trail Association) and effective trail stewardship (including reconstruction, relocation, monitoring, volunteer recruitment and training, signage, and production of educational materials). Regular reviews of the partnership agreements between the SJPLC and partners will help to ensure clear role definition for the management and operation of these trails. Coordination with adjoining USFS- and BLM-administered lands that also contain the Continental National Divide Scenic Trail, the Colorado Trail, and the Old Spanish Trail is also an important element of successful trail management and interpretation.

Restrictions not already in effect for the use of motorized vehicles on segments of the Colorado Trail are to be developed. When, and if, conflicts develop, trail segments will be routed off of primitive roads. Travel management planning efforts will include review of motorized travel for the Calico Trail, and would determine consistency with the values for which the trail was established.

Monitoring of trail and resource conditions provides the basis for identifying work that could be effectively accomplished by partners. Monitoring also measures changes in setting indicators related to recreation benefits, including crowding on the trail and at camp areas, and scenic and environmental quality.

Marketing emphasis includes ensuring that all trailheads and trails have essential safety, orientation, and regulatory signs that are consistent with the natural setting of the trail. Marketing efforts also include the dissemination of accurate information regarding these trails to the public in an effective manner through a variety of media and venues (including the SJPL website, guidebooks, brochures, and Visitor Centers).

Standards and Guidelines

- ***National Recreation and Scenic Trails***: Other resource activities should be designed in order to meet scenic quality objectives for these special designation trails (generally, a foreground and middleground of very high to high scenic integrity or visual resource management (VRM) Class II).

Additional Referenced Guidance

USFS Draft Old Spanish Trail Corridor Management Plan, 1981; Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan, 1980; USFS Decision Notice, Colorado Trail Management Direction and Route Selection EA, Region 2, 1998; USFS Master Plan for the Colorado Trail; and FSM 2300, Chapter 2353, National Scenic and Historic Trails.

Under the direction of the LMP, the on-going monitoring of trail and resource conditions would provide the basis for identifying work that could be effectively accomplished by partners. Monitoring would also measures changes in setting indicators related to recreation benefits (including crowding on the trail and at camp areas), as well as scenic and environmental quality.

RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (RNAs)

Introduction

Research Natural Areas (RNAs) are ecological reserves designated, in perpetuity, for non-manipulative research, education, and maintenance of biological diversity on public lands. RNAs represent relatively natural, unaltered ecosystems that serve as reference areas for land managers (so that they can assess the consequences of management actions on other similar lands). In RNAs, most management activities are prohibited unless they are needed in order to maintain desired conditions or to maintain the unique features for which the RNA was established.

Existing RNAs

The RNAs within the planning area that have previously been designated include the following:

- ***Narraguinnep***: The Narraguinnep RNA is situated in the tablelands of the San Juan National Forest, approximately 13 miles northwest of Dolores. It totals approximately 1,900 acres at elevations ranging from 6,690 to 8,000 feet. The area is characterized by canyon topography and sedimentary geology. Key features include old-growth ponderosa pine forests, pinyon-juniper woodlands, mountain shrublands, and steep canyon side slopes.
- ***Williams Creek***: The Williams Creek RNA is situated in the southern San Juan Mountains, approximately 15 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs. It totals approximately 550 acres at elevations ranging from 8,350 to 9,650 feet. The area is characterized by gentle mountain topography and volcanic geology. Key features include white fir-dominated cool-moist mixed-conifer forests and spruce-fir forests.

Proposed RNAs

Additional proposed RNAs include:

- ***Electra***: The proposed Electra RNA is situated east of Electra Lake in the southern San Juan Mountains. It would total approximately 2,200 acres at elevations ranging from 7,400 to 8,800 feet. The area is characterized by glacial mountain topography associated with metamorphic and igneous geology. Key features include glacial topography, kettle ponds, old-growth ponderosa pine forests, mixed-conifer forests, aspen forests, wetlands, and fens.
- ***Grizzly Peak***: The proposed Grizzly Peak RNA is situated in the Rico Mountains. It would total approximately 5,000 acres at elevations ranging from 10,000 to 13,700 feet. The area is characterized by rugged mountain topography. Three rock glaciers, and a number of well-defined cirque basins, occur within the RNA. Key features include periglacial topography, sedimentary geology, fens, old-growth spruce-fir forests, willow carrs, alpine tundra, Thurber fescue mountain grasslands, and wetlands.
- ***Hermosa***: The proposed Hermosa RNA is situated in the southern San Juan Mountains, approximately 13 miles north of the town of Durango. It would total approximately 8,000 acres at elevations ranging from 7,000 to 12,000 feet. The area is characterized by highly dissected mountain topography and sedimentary geology. Key features include old-growth forests, Colorado cutthroat trout, alpine tundra, spruce-fir forests, aspen forests, ponderosa pine forests, mixed-conifer forests, and mountain shrublands.

- ***Hidden Mesas***: The proposed Hidden Mesas RNA is situated in the southern San Juan Mountains, approximately 15 miles southwest of the town of Pagosa Springs. It would total approximately 4,400 acres at elevations ranging from 6,600 to 8,300 feet. The area is characterized by mesas, canyons, and sedimentary geology. Key features include old-growth ponderosa pine forests, mixed-conifer forests, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and mountain shrublands. The current road along Archuleta Creek is excluded from this RNA.
- ***Martinez Creek***: The proposed Martinez Creek RNA is situated in the southern San Juan Mountains, approximately 9 miles north of Pagosa Springs. It would total approximately 1,800 acres at elevations ranging from 9,400 to 11,400 feet. The area is characterized by gentle to rugged mountain topography and volcanic and sedimentary geology. Key features include old-growth spruce-fir forests.
- ***Navajo River***: The proposed Navajo River RNA is situated in the southern San Juan Mountains, approximately 19 miles east of Pagosa Springs. It would total approximately 7,000 acres at elevations ranging from 9,200 to 12,700 feet. It would be situated entirely within the South San Juan Wilderness Area. The area is characterized by rugged mountain topography and volcanic geology. Key features include Colorado cutthroat trout, alpine tundra, spruce-fir forests, Thurber fescue mountain grasslands, riparian areas and wetland ecosystems, and fens.
- ***Piedra***: The proposed Piedra RNA is situated in the southern San Juan Mountains, approximately 23 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs. It would total approximately 6,900 acres at elevations ranging from 7,500 to 10,500 feet. It would be situated entirely within the Piedra Area. The area is characterized by rugged mountain topography and volcanic geology. Key features include old-growth warm-dry mixed-conifer and cool-moist mixed-conifer forests, spruce-fir forests, aspen forests, Thurber fescue mountain grasslands, and riparian areas and wetland ecosystems.
- ***Porphyry Gulch***: The proposed Porphyry Gulch RNA is situated in the southern San Juan Mountains, approximately 21 miles north of Pagosa Springs. It would total approximately 12,000 acres at elevations ranging from 8,500 to 12,500 feet. It would be situated entirely within the Weminuche Wilderness Area. The area is characterized by rugged mountain topography and volcanic geology. Key features include alpine tundra, spruce-fir forests, Thurber fescue mountain grasslands, riparian areas and wetland ecosystems, and fens.

Desired Conditions - RNAs

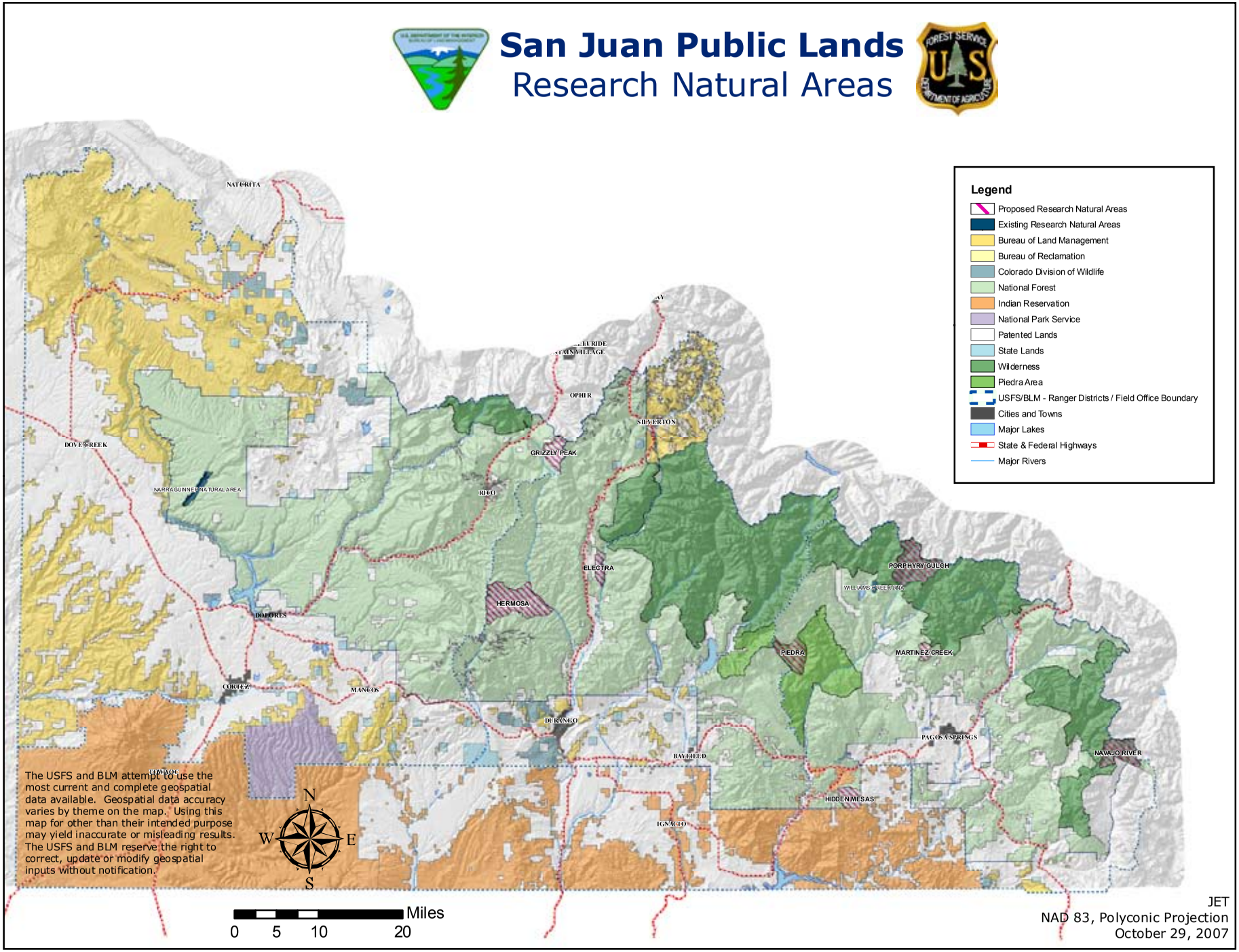
33.1 Ecological integrity is intact for all ecosystem types.

33.2 Natural ecological processes (including succession, fire, insects, diseases, and flooding) occur mostly unencumbered by humans, and shape the composition, structure, and landscape pattern of the vegetation.

33.3 Non-native species are absent or rare.

33.4 Human influence and structures are absent or rare.

Figure 24 - Research Natural Areas (RNAs)



Suitability – RNAs

Table 24 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the RNAs.

Table 24 - RNA Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - PROHIBITED - RESTRICTED
Wildland Fire Use	Restricted (May be used in order to meet desired conditions.)
Prescribed Burning	Restricted (May be used in order to meet desired conditions.)
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Prohibited
Timber Harvesting	Prohibited
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Grazing	Restricted (May be used in order to meet desired conditions.)
Recreation Facilities	Prohibited
Motorized (Summer)	Prohibited
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-Motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-Motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Prohibited
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Prohibited
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Prohibited
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Prohibited
Minerals - Locatable	A provision would be required for assessing the affected area for future mineral withdrawal.
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACECS) – BIG GYPSUM VALLEY

Introduction

The Big Gypsum Valley ACEC is located north of Disappointment Valley near the Dolores River. Portions of the ACEC are north of San Miguel County Road 20R (with the Dolores River Canyon on the west, and Colorado Highway 141 on the east). One portion of this ACEC is situated west of the Dolores River Bridge, along San Miguel County Road 20R. The Big Gypsum Valley is one of several parallel northwest-southeast trending valleys formed by the collapse of ancient salt domes. The DLMP/DEIS documents include an ACEC evaluation report that includes the relevance and importance evaluations for 22 areas that were nominated for consideration as ACECs within the planning area.

Desired Conditions - Big Gypsum ACEC

34.1 Gypsum soils have occurrences of endemic gypsiferous vascular and non-vascular plant species, and a high cover of biological crusts.

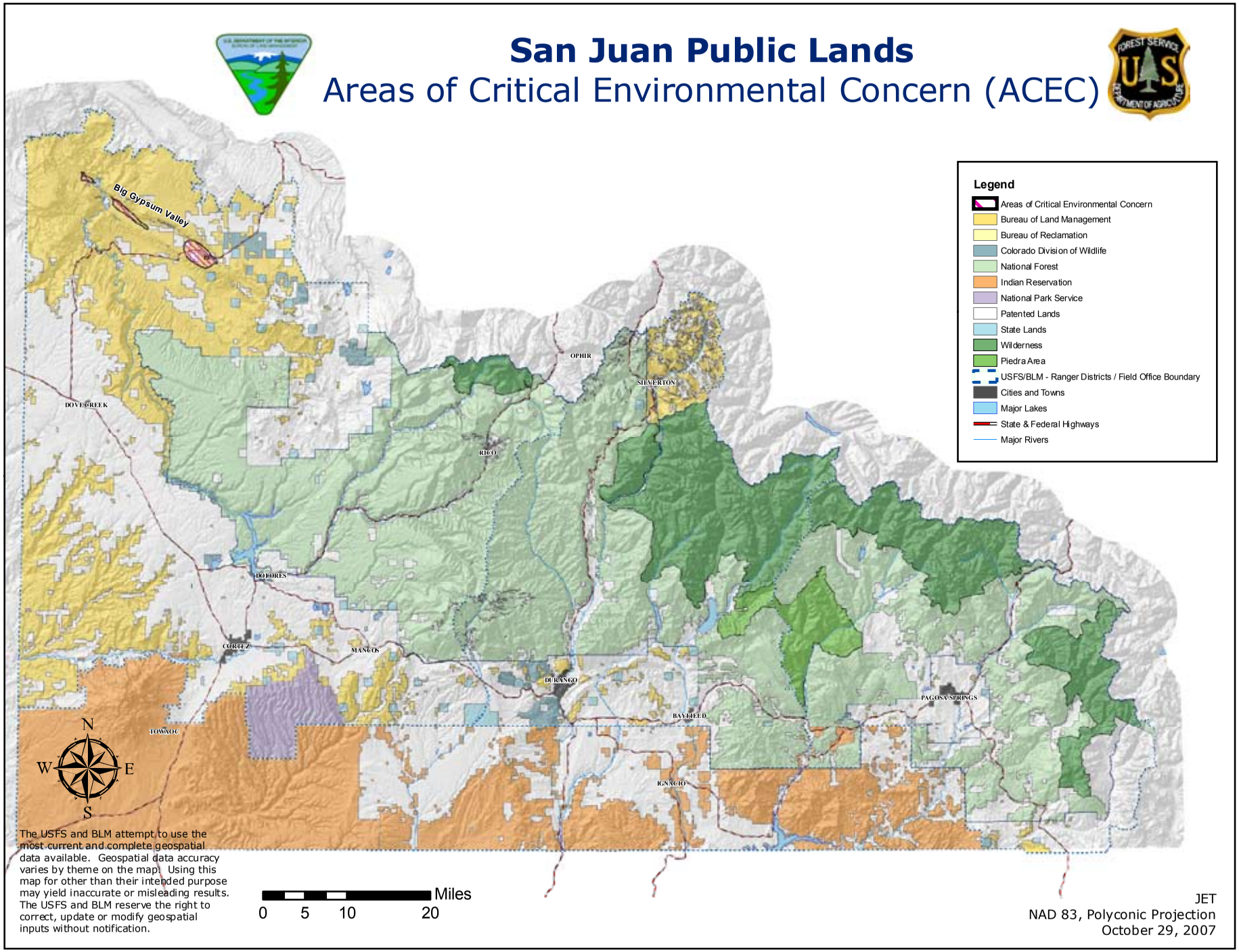
Program Emphasis

Relevant and important ACEC values will be maintained. NatureServe rankings for relevant and important values include the outstanding (B1) biodiversity significance rank, which is based on two excellent (A-ranked) and two good (B-ranked) occurrences of Gypsum Valley cat-eye *(Cryptantha gypsophila)*. This plant is critically imperiled State-wide and globally (G1, S1). Other rare plants in this ACEC include three lichens: gypsum rim lichen *(Lecanora gypsicola),* which is critically imperiled State-wide and globally (G1, S1); nodule cracked lichen (Acarospora nodulosa var. nodulosa), which is imperiled globally and critically imperiled State-wide (G2, S1); and largeleaf gypsoplaca (*Gypsoplaca macrophylla),* which is globally vulnerable and critically imperiled State-wide (G3, G4, S1). A grass species rare to the State is also present: Gyp dropseed *(Sporobolus nealley)*, which is secure globally and critically imperiled State-wide (G5, S1). Plans of Operation are prepared for all mining activities proposed in Big Gypsum Valley ACEC.

Objectives - Big Gypsum ACEC

- Designate approximately 7,605 acres in Big Gypsum Valley as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (see Figure 25), due to the need to apply the special management, in order to enhance condition of the relevant and important values.
- Close ACEC to motorized use, except for the existing county road and State highway.
- By 2010, reclaim ATV route that crosses gypsum site (in T 44N R 16W Sections 32, 33 and T 43N R 16W Section 5).

Figure 25 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)



Suitability

Table 25 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the proposed Big Gypsum ACEC.

Table 25 - Big Gypsum ACEC Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - PROHIBITED - RESTRICTED
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	N/A
Timber Harvesting	N/A
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	N/A
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	N/A
Livestock Grazing	Allowable
Facilities	Prohibited
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted to grazing within existing allotments with guidelines to protect fragile soil communities.
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Summer)	Restricted to existing county roads within the ACEC units.
Non-motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (temporary roads)	Allowable
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas)	Restricted to existing roads and trails that avoid gypsiferous habitat sites.
Minerals - Leasable (other)	Restricted to existing roads and temporary roads for approved projects that avoid gypsiferous habitat sites.
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted to CSU stipulation for avoidance of gypsiferous habitat sites.
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Restricted to CSU stipulation for avoidance of gypsiferous habitat sites.

Standards and Guidelines

- Locate all new ground-disturbing activities (including ROWs, seismic operations, and temporary rangeland management facilities) away from known gypsum soil locations.
- Locate all new ground-disturbing activities (including ROWs, seismic operations, and temporary rangeland management facilities) away from known gypsum soil locations.
- Issue oil and gas leases in the ACEC with CSU stipulations in order to locate facilities outside of a 200-meter buffer of known gypsum-soil locations.
- Manage livestock grazing in order to reduce adverse grazing impacts on relevant and important values of gypsum soils and sensitive plant communities.
- By 2010, reclaim ATV route that crosses gypsum site (in T 44N R 16W Sections 32, 33 and T 43N R 16W Section 5).
- Protect relevant and important values, and apply special management strategies, where standard or routine management is not adequate in order to protect the values from risks or threats of damage/ degradation or to provide for public safety from natural hazards.

Additional Referenced Guidance

43 CFR Part 3809.

Monitoring

A long-term monitoring program would be established for the Big Gypsum Valley ACEC. In order to establish baseline information on the current condition of gypsum soils and sensitive plant community values, it will include a Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) inventory of the designated ACEC. Once the baseline condition assessment information was compiled, the ACEC will be monitored a minimum of once every 4 years in order to identify any potential adverse impacts that might occur, identify trends in resource condition and/or deterioration, and determine whether or not any actions taking place in the area are causing detrimental changes to the soil and vegetation values deemed relevant and important. Any changes will be noted and recorded in the CNHP database and reported to the land manager so that appropriate action may be taken.

FALLS CREEK ARCHEOLOGICAL AREA

Introduction

Falls Creek Valley may contain archeological resources that could aid in efforts to study the earliest agricultural and sedentary societies in the southwestern United States. The area is an important and highly valued place for Native Americans, who view it as part of their heritage. The Falls Creek Archeological Area contains one of the earliest and best dated Basketmaker II sites ever documented. These sites are preserved and protected for their scientific, educational, social, and cultural values.

The area is frequented on a year-round, daily basis by residents and visitors taking advantage of the close proximity to Durango in order to enjoy the scenic beauty, open space, and recreational opportunities (see Figure 26). The historic landscape, including the irrigated hayfields of the Hidden Valley Ranch, is managed by the SJPLC. They provide a window into the area's ranching heritage (offering one of the only hayfields open to public recreation anywhere in the region). These fields are managed in order to provide nutritious forage for big game dependent upon this mild, southern exposure lowland for winter habitat.

Desired Conditions - Falls Creek Archeological Area

35.1 Archeological sites are protected and preserved for their scientific, educational, social, and cultural values.

35.2 Native American values are respected and preserved, and tribal members are provided special access to the area.

35.3 Access to the Falls Creek Rock Shelter is allowed to educational institutions through a Special Use Permit.

35.4 Historic viewsheds (including the historic hayfields) are protected, enhanced, and preserved.

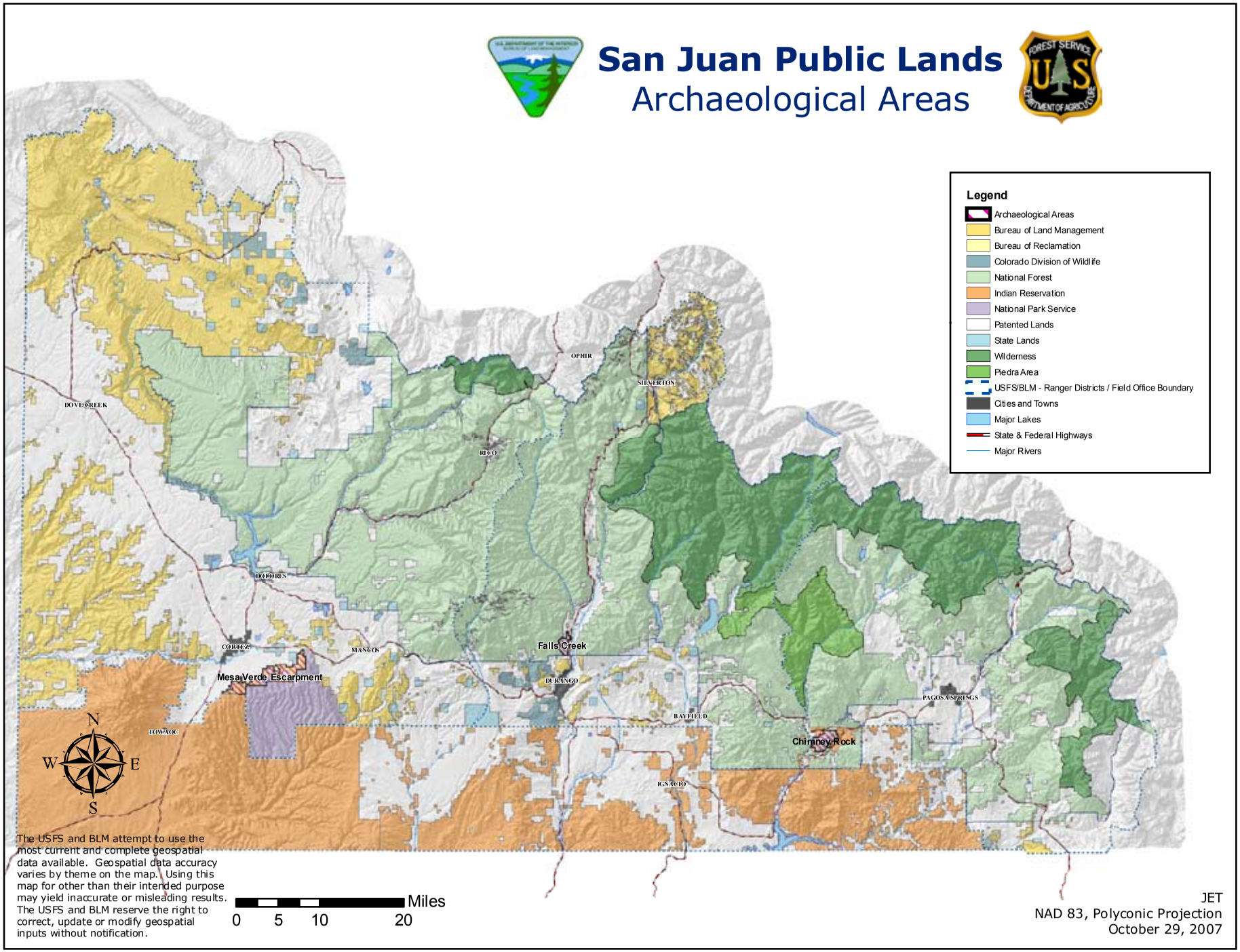
35.5 Native American tribes and Pueblos are consulted with regard to the development of appropriate off-site educational materials.

35.6 NAGPRA repatriation of items removed during the 1930s excavation is completed (including analysis of these items necessary in order to complete the cultural affiliation study).

35.7 The area continues to provide big game winter range habitat.

35.8 Wetlands are managed in order to retain the floral and faunal diversity that currently exists.

Figure 26 - Archeological Areas



Program Emphasis

The management emphasis for Falls Creek is protection and preservation of archeological sites and providing compatible recreational opportunities. This area will also be managed for wildlife diversity, with an emphasis on winter range value (especially for elk and deer).

Objectives - Falls Creek Archeological Area

- Within 5 years, create a dispersed recreation plan that is congruent with desired conditions and that would be incorporated into the management plan for the Falls Creek Archeological Area.
- Within 1 year, implement a site-steward program.
- Within 5 years, implement intensive digital/photogrammetry documentation of the rock art; develop and implement a rock art preservation plan in order to mitigate deterioration.
- Within 5 years, develop appropriate and sensitive off-site interpretive and educational materials. Make the information from the collection analyses available to researchers.

Suitability

Table 26 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Falls Creek Archeological Area.

Table 26 - Falls Creek Archeological Area Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - PROHIBITED - RESTRICTED
Wildland Fire Use	Prohibited
Prescribed Burning	Restricted (Archaeological and historic resources must be protected from impacts from fire.)
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Allowable
Timber Harvesting	Restricted (Archeological and historic resources must be protected.)
Timber Production (schedule on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Livestock Grazing	Prohibited
Recreation Facilities	
Motorized (Summer)	Prohibited
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Summer)	Restricted
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowed
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Restricted (Archaeological and historic resources must be protected.)
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Restricted to designated roads and trails.
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Prohibited
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Administratively Not Available
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted (A provision would be required for assessing the affected area for future mineral withdrawal.)
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

CHIMNEY ROCK ARCHEOLOGICAL AREA

Introduction

The Chimney Rock Archeological Area is a treasure without parallel in the public lands system. The site has been recognized as being "the ultimate outlier" of the Chaco culture (which flourished from A.D. 900 through A.D. 1130). In recognition of its national significance, the Congress has designated Chimney Rock as part of the Chacoan Outliers Protection Act of 1995 system. The Chimney Rock area exhibits many of the same hallmarks associated with Chacoan culture that earned Chaco Cultural National Historical Park a World Heritage listing. In addition, the Chimney Rock area also exhibits unique features associated with its location and setting within the landscape. It is the north-easternmost Chacoan site, and is hypothesized to be an astronomical observatory. It is valued by Native Americans as part of their ancestral heritage (see Figure 26).

Desired Conditions - Chimney Rock Archeological Area

36.1 Archeological sites are protected and preserved in the Chimney Rock Archeological Area.

36.2 Chimney Rock provides a heritage tourism experience with an emphasis on educational interpretation of the area.

36.3 Native Americans are allowed to use the area, and their values are respected and preserved.

36.4 Fuels treatment projects (including timber sales) reduce fire danger and protect archeological sites.

36.5 Water rights are maintained.

36.6 General recreational opportunities for the public are provided, in accordance with the dispersed recreation plan.

Program Emphasis

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association currently manages this Archeological Area with volunteers under a USFS Special Use Permit. Under the direction of the LMP, Chimney Rock sites will be preserved and protected for their scientific, educational, and cultural values; and be managed in a manner designed to contribute to tourism (which is one the most powerful regional economic drivers in southwestern Colorado). Visitor services and preservation of the sites would be greatly improved by stabilizing and preserving the Great House, upgrading the existing Visitor Center; and by completing intensive architectural documentation. Adjacent archeological resources on Peterson Mesa should be researched in order to understand their potential relationship to the Chimney Rock Archeological Area. If found to be related, the Chimney Rock Archeological Area boundaries should be expanded in order to include those resources.

Maintaining and developing additional partnerships will be critical for preserving, interpreting, and better understanding the area (including partnerships with Native Americans, the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association, Fort Lewis College, the Chaco Interagency Management Group, the National Park Service, and the University of Colorado).

Objectives - Chimney Rock Archeological Area

- Within 6 years, and in cooperation with the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association, construct an expanded visitor facility.
- Within 5 years, stabilize and preserve the Great House.

Suitability

Table 27 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Chimney Rock Archeological Area.

Table 27 - Chimney Rock Archeological Area Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - PROHIBITED - RESTRICTED
Wildland Fire Use	Prohibited
Prescribed Burning	Restricted
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Restricted (Significant archaeological resources must be protected.)
Timber Harvesting	Restricted (Significant archaeological resources must be protected.)
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Livestock Grazing	Prohibited
Recreation Facilities	Restricted to existing facilities and facilities identified in the Chimney Rock Management Plan.
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted to paved entrance road.
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Summer)	Restricted to designated roads and trails.
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowed
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Restricted (Significant archaeological resources must be protected.)
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Restricted to paved entrance road.
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Restricted to maintenance of existing paved entrance road.
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Administratively not available
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted (A provision would be required for assessing the affected area for future mineral withdrawal.)
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

WILD HORSE HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

Introduction

The Spring Creek Herd Management Area is located approximately 18 miles south of Naturita, Colorado (in San Miguel County). The herd management area is comprised of approximately 16,455 acres (approximately 14,835 acres or 90% are public lands).

Desired Conditions - Wild Horse Herd Management Area

37.1 The Spring Creek Basin wild horse herd population is within an acceptable range.

37.2 Adequate genetic viability and variability exists in order to maintain a healthy wild horse herd.

37.3 Vegetation provides sufficient cover in order to reduce salinity and to prevent sediment from reaching Disappointment Creek and the Dolores River.

Program Emphasis

Wild horses and burros are managed under the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971, as amended (PL 92-195). The 1985 San Juan/San Miguel RMP designated a wild horse emphasis area for the Spring Creek Basin, with direction to maintain an appropriate management level (AML) of 50 horses. Portions of the Spring Creek Herd Management Area also emphasize watershed management (in order to reduce salinity into the Colorado River and for the watershed health of the McKenna Peak WSA).

A Wild Horse Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) was approved in October of 1986. It was revised in 1994. The HMAP objective is to maintain AML at 50 adult horses. In 2005, additional analysis was completed in order to determine whether or not the existing AML was appropriate (based on an opportunity to provide additional AUMs for the herd area). The analysis showed that current AML was appropriate, considering that rangeland health standards (43 CFR 4180) were not being met, and that the few available AUMs would not improve herd genetics (#EA-800-2005-027 2005).

Objectives - Wild Horse Herd Management Area

- By 2010, as determined by a census, gather excess horses and provide for their adoption.

Figure 27 - Wild Horse Herd Management Area

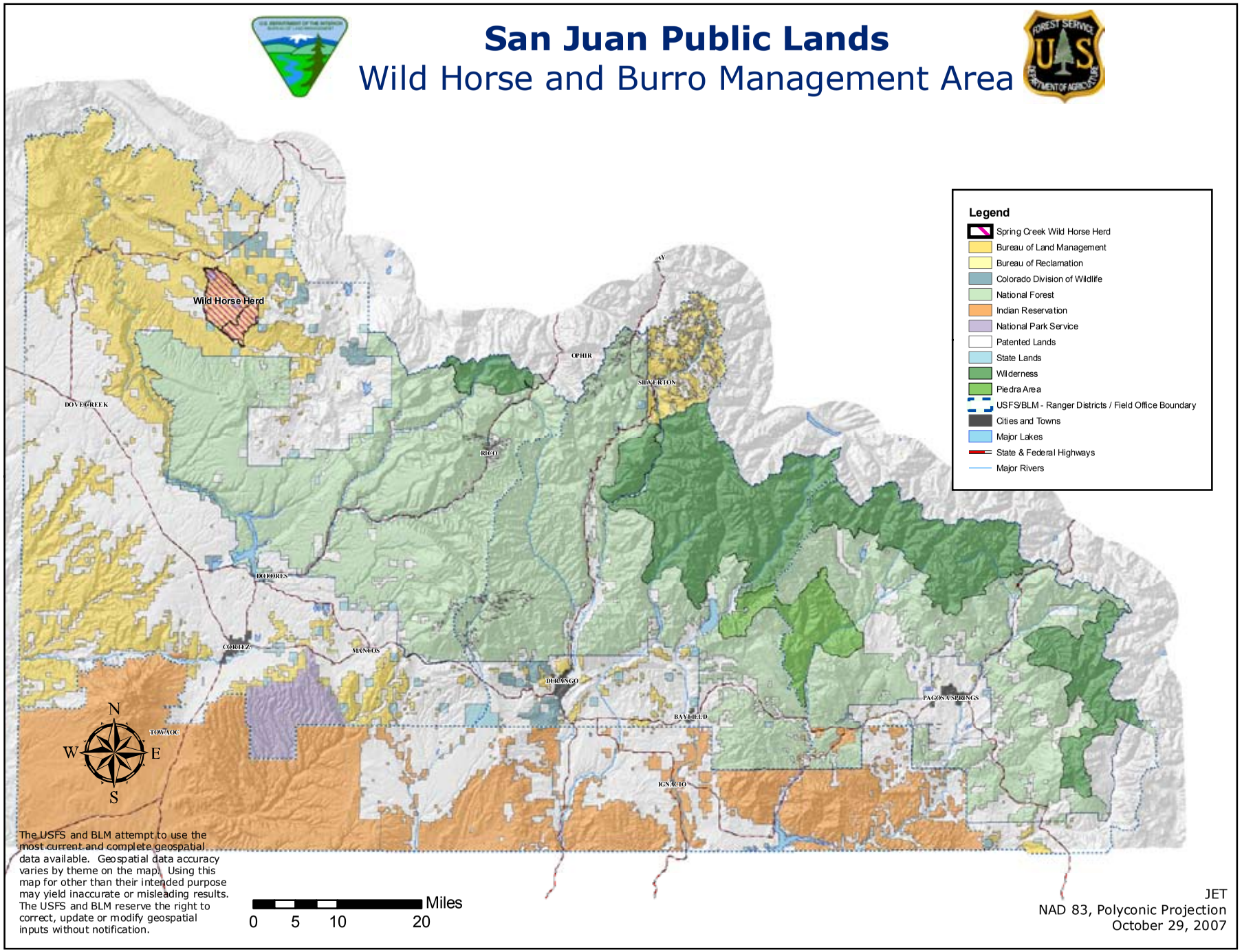


Table 28 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Spring Creek Wildhorse Herd Area.

Table 28 - Spring Creek Wildhorse Herd Management Area Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - PROHIBITED - RESTRICTED
Wildland Fire Use	Allowable
Prescribed Burning	Allowable
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Restricted (Few suitable areas for fuels treatment in HMA.)
Timber Harvesting	Prohibited
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Restricted opportunities for firewood; however, gathering other forest products may be acceptable as long as gathering is not detrimental to wild horse management.
Grazing	Allowable
Recreation Facilities	Restricted (Dispersed recreation for viewing opportunities is encouraged.)
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted to on roads only.
Motorized (Winter)	Restricted to on roads only.
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Restricted to on roads only.
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Allowable
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Allowable
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Allowable

Additional Referenced Guidance

The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971; the Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978; the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, as amended (TGA); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA); Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4700, Protection, Management, and Control of Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros; 43 CFR 4100; the Colorado Public Land Health Standards EA and FONSI, 1997; Vegetation Treatment on BLM lands in the 13 Western States, 1991; Weeds-Revised Integrated Weed Management in the San Juan Field Office (CO-038-99-035 EA); BLM Manual 9015; BLM Partners Against Weeds, 1996; various BLM Instruction Memoranda and Information Bulletins relating to wild horse and burro management; Rules Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act (8 CCR 1203-10); the Spring Creek Basin Wild Horse Management Plan, 1994; and the Wild Horse Appropriate Management Level (AML) in the Spring Creek Basin Herd Management Area (HMA) (EA #CO-800-2005-027).

PERINS PEAK WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA (MA 2)

Introduction

Wildlife habitat management areas provide for habitat features that are special, or limiting, to certain wildlife species. They provide the opportunity for maintaining diversity components for species sustainability found within each area's Habitat Management Plan (including the restoration, maintenance, and/or improvement of these features for the target species, as well as for other species with habitats within the area). Timing stipulations and use restrictions may be applied in these areas in order to preserve diversity components. The Perins Peak Wildlife Habitat Management Area consists of approximately 1,512 acres of BLM-administered public lands, and approximately 3,400 acres of State lands administered by the CDOW. The area is located northwest of, and immediately adjacent to, Durango. Historically, the area has served as winter range for large herds of elk, mule deer, and a remnant population of bighorn sheep. Breeding populations of golden eagle, prairie falcon, and peregrine falcon add to the significance of the area. The area also supports populations of Meriam's wild turkey. More than half of the elk herd of CDOW Game Management Unit 74 is dependent upon this area in severe winters. Rapid development in the Durango area has increased impacts to wildlife resources in the area due to land conversions, migration corridor disruption, and increased recreational pressures to disturbance-sensitive wildlife species.

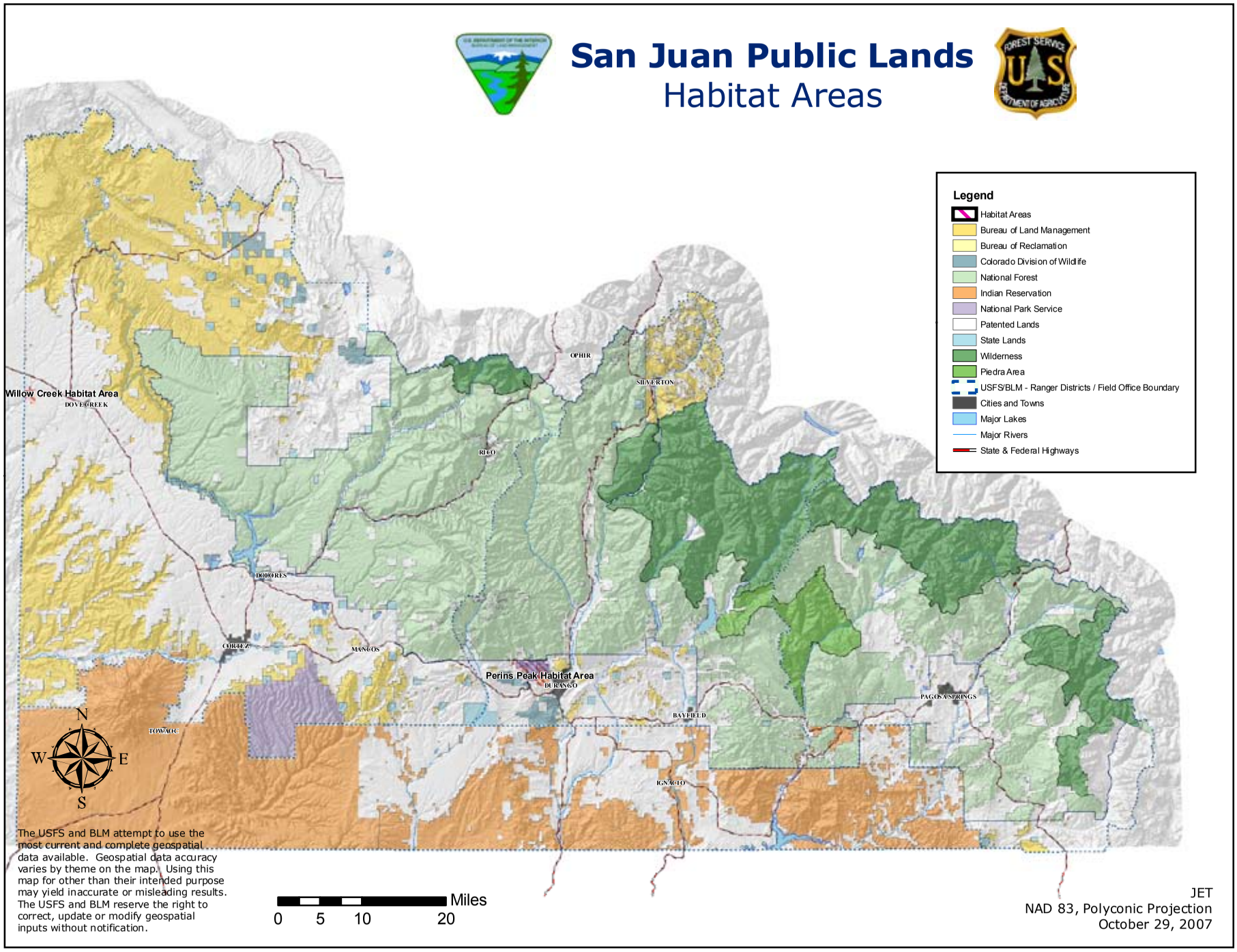
Desired Conditions - Perins Peak Wildlife Habitat

38.1 Habitat diversity components are secure, undisturbed, and sufficient to sustain the wildlife populations that depend on the Perins Peak HMA in an urbanizing environment.

Program Emphasis

Under the direction of the DLMP, management emphasis would focus on habitat features and effectiveness for raptor reproduction, big game winter range, and other improvements for non-game birds and small mammals, in coordination and conjunction with adjacent CDOW lands. The Perins Peak Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (CO-03 WHA-T1), which was prepared by the BLM in cooperation with the USFWS and the CDOW, outlines the emphasis and management objectives for the area. Within this HMP, a comprehensive list of management objectives is provided for raptors, big game winter range, habitat improvements, and public access.

Figure 28 - Wildlife Habitat Management Areas



Suitability

Table 29 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Perins Peak Habitat Management Area.

Table 29 - Perins Peak Habitat Management Area Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - PROHIBITED - RESTRICTED
Wildland Fire Use	Restricted (Project design would maintain or improve effectiveness and be of primary benefit to habitat and species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Prescribed Burning	Restricted (Project design would maintain or improve effectiveness and be of primary benefit to habitat and species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Restricted (Project design would maintain or improve effectiveness and be of primary benefit to habitat and species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Timber Harvesting	Restricted (Project design would maintain or improve effectiveness and be of primary benefit to habitat and species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Timber Production (schedule on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Grazing	Restricted (Project design maintains or improves effectiveness and be of primary benefit to habitat and species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Recreation Facilities	Prohibited
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted (Timing of use and route restrictions maintain habitat effectiveness for species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Summer)	Restricted (Timing of use and route restrictions maintain habitat effectiveness for species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Non-motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Restricted (Timing, noise levels, and impact to habitat effectiveness will be compatible with habitat and species objectives described in the HMP.)
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Prohibited
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Restricted (Construction timing, construction type, route, and use and timing of use conforms with habitat and species needs described in the HMP.)
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Restricted - (CSU and TL, as defined for leasable minerals, maintains habitat effectiveness for species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Minerals - Locatable	Allowable
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

Other Referenced Guidance

The Perins Peak Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (CO-03 WHA-T1).

WILLOW CREEK WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA (MA 2)

Introduction

Wildlife habitat management areas provide for habitat features that are special, or limiting, to certain wildlife species. They provide the opportunity for maintaining diversity components for species sustainability found within each area's habitat management plan (including the restoration, maintenance, or improvement of these features for the target species, as well as for other species with habitats within the area). Timing stipulations and use restrictions may be applied in these areas in order to preserve diversity components.

The Willow Creek Habitat Management Area contains approximately 900 acres of BLM-administered public lands, and approximately 2,000 acres of adjacent State wildlife area. The primary objective of these areas is to provide habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse on State and BLM-administered lands. Detailed desired conditions are described in the Gunnison sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan (CDOW 2005) for the Dove Creek sub-population (including connectivity to the Monticello sub-population). Gunnison Sage-grouse are known to occur on private lands on, and adjacent to, the State wildlife area. Managing Gunnison Sage-grouse on public lands or on State-owned lands has not been possible until the recent acquisition by the CDOW of private lands in the Willow Creek and Coal Bed Canyon area.

Desired Conditions - Willow Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area

39.1 The area provides a designated area of publicly managed land for the continued conservation and sustainability of the Gunnison Sage-grouse.

Program Emphasis

Under the direction of the LMP, program emphasis is on managing Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat, in partnership with the CDOW, for the Dove Creek Sage-grouse sub-population. Management objectives for the area will be developed in cooperation with the CDOW, and will be contained in the Draft Willow Creek Habitat Management Plan.

Objectives - Willow Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area

- Over the 10-year-life of the HMP, reduce 25% of the cheatgrass infestation.
- Within 5 years of implementation of the HMP, remove all encroaching pinyon-pine and juniper trees in sagebrush areas.
- Within 5 years of implementation of the HMP, remove all tamarisk within riparian areas and wetland ecosystems.
- Within 10 years, improve 100 acres of sagebrush habitat for reproduction and brood-rearing through vegetation management.
- Within 10 years, provide water sources in all identified brood-rearing habitat.

Suitability

Table 30 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Willow Creek Habitat Management Area.

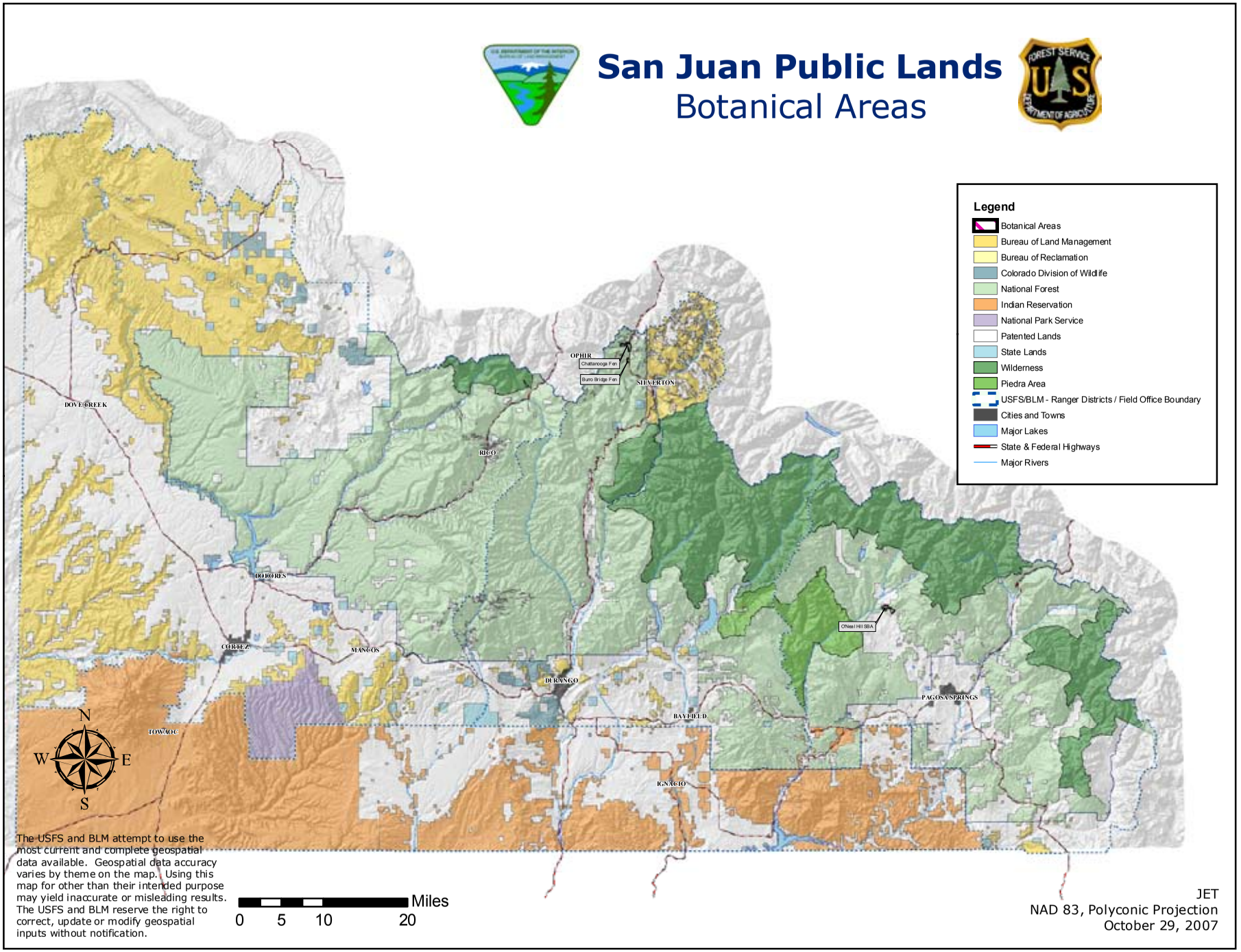
Table 30 - Willow Creek Habitat Management Area Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - PROHIBITED - RESTRICTED
Wildland Fire Use	Restricted (Project design maintains or improves effectiveness and is a primary benefit to habitat and species objectives in the HMP.)
Prescribed Burning	Restricted (Project design maintains or improves effectiveness and is a primary benefit to habitat and species objectives in the HMP.)
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Restricted (Project design maintains or improves effectiveness and is a primary benefit to habitat and species objectives in the HMP.)
Timber Harvesting	Prohibited
Timber Production (schedule on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Grazing	Restricted (Project design maintains or improves effectiveness and is a primary benefit to habitat and species objectives in the HMP.)
Recreation Facilities	Prohibited
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted (Timing of use and route restrictions maintain habitat effectiveness for species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Motorized (Winter)	Restricted (Timing of use and route restrictions maintain habitat effectiveness for species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Non-motorized (Summer)	Restricted (Timing of use and route restrictions maintain habitat effectiveness for species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Non-motorized (Winter)	Restricted (Timing of use and route restrictions maintain habitat effectiveness for species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Restricted (Timing, noise levels, and impacts to habitat effectiveness will be compatible with habitat and species objectives described in the HMP.)
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Restricted (Timing of use and route restrictions maintain habitat effectiveness for species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Prohibited
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Restricted (CSU and TL, as defined for leasable minerals, maintain habitat effectiveness for species objectives outlined in the HMP.)
Minerals - Locatable	Allowable
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

Other Referenced Guidance

The Gunnison Sage-Grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan, 2005; the Dove Creek Conservation Plan, 1998; and the Willow Creek Habitat Management Plan (Draft).

Figure 29 - Special Botanical Areas



O'NEAL HILL SPECIAL BOTANICAL AREA

Introduction

Botanical Areas are botanical reserves designated in order to protect and preserve unique or rare plant species, or plant communities and their habitat. The O'Neal Hill Special Botanical Area is located approximately 14 miles north of the Town of Pagosa Springs. It totals approximately 130 acres at an elevation of about 8,100 feet. The area occurs on relatively flat plains and hills, and is primarily associated with the mountain grassland vegetation type and the Mancos Shale geologic formation. The largest known population of the globally rare plant species, Pagosa Springs bladderpod *(Lesquerella pruinosa)* occurs here. This yellow-flowered member of the mustard family occurs only in the Pagosa Springs area and in northern New Mexico.

Desired Conditions - O'Neal Hill Special Botanical Area

40.1 *Lesquerella pruinosa* has self-sustaining populations.

40.2 Favorable habitat conditions exist for *Lesquerella pruinosa*.

40.3 Invasive plant species in the botanical area are absent or rare.

Program Emphasis

Unless deemed necessary, most management activities are prohibited in this area to maintain the unique features for which the Special Botanical Area was established. The protection provided by this Special Botanical Area designation will help maintain self-sustaining populations of this rare plant species, and help prevent the need for its designation as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Suitability

Table 31 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the O'Neal Hill Botanical Area.

Table 31 - O'Neal Hill Special Botanical Area Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - PROHIBITED - RESTRICTED
Wildland Fire Use	Restricted (May be used in order to meet desired conditions.)
Prescribed Burning	Restricted (May be used in order to meet Desired Conditions.)
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Prohibited
Timber Harvesting	Prohibited
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Grazing	Prohibited
Recreation Facilities	Prohibited
Motorized (Summer)	Prohibited
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Prohibited
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Prohibited
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Prohibited
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Prohibited
Minerals - Locatable	A provision is required for assessing the affected area for future mineral withdrawal.
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

CHATTANOOGA IRON FEN SPECIAL BOTANICAL AREA
BURRO BRIDGE IRON FEN SPECIAL BOTANICAL AREA

Introduction

The Chattanooga Iron Fen Special Botanical Area is situated in the Mineral Creek Valley, which is approximately 5 miles northwest of the Town of Silverton. It is fed by groundwater from the east, highly acidic groundwater from mineralized springs emerging from the west, and by acid mine drainage. Limonite terraces within the fen perch the water table and form an extensive network of pools and ponds.

The vegetation of the Chattanooga Iron Fen is characterized by acid-tolerant shrubs and a thick groundcover of sphagnum and other mosses. Engelmann spruce dominates the tree layer. Bog birch and whortleberry dominate the shrub layer. Mosses, bluejoint reedgrass, water sedge, beaked sedge, and alpine spicy wintergreen form the herbaceous layer. Open water accounts for approximately 25% to 30% of the surface.

Until its discovery in the Chattanooga Iron Fen, the range of *Sphagnum balticum* in North America was thought to extend only down from the north to southern British Columbia. A rare liverwort, *Jungermannia rubra,* also occurs in this fen.

The Burro Bridge Iron Fen Special Botanical Area is situated at the confluence of Mineral Creek and the middle fork of Mineral Creek (which is approximately 4 miles northwest of the Town of Silverton). Springs at the first drainage south of Browns Gulch (on the east side of Mineral Creek Canyon) provide the iron-rich water that has created the fen, as well as the limonite ledges within it.

The Burro Bridge Iron Fen is dominated by acid-tolerant shrubs and a thick groundcover of sphagnum and other mosses. Engelmann spruce dominates the tree layer. Bog birch and whortleberry dominate the shrub layer. Mosses, bluejoint reedgrass, water sedge, and alpine spicy wintergreen form the herbaceous layer. The fruticose lichen *(Cladina rangiferina)* is common on the margins of Burro Bridge Iron Fen. The next closest location for this lichen is in northern Montana.

Desired Conditions - Burro Bridge Iron Fen Special Botanical Area

41.1 The rare mosses, lichen, and liverwort have self-sustaining populations.

41.2 Habitat conditions for the rare mosses, lichen, and liverwort, as well as for other native plant species in the area, remain suitable for their continued persistence within the fens.

41.3 The ecological integrity of these fens is intact (including their native biota, organic soils, and hydrology).

41.4 Invasive plant species are absent or rare.

Suitability

Table 32 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Chattanooga and Burro Bridge Iron Fen Botanical Areas.

Table 32 - Chattanooga and Burro Bridge Iron Fens Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - PROHIBITED - RESTRICTED
Wildland Fire Use	Prohibited
Prescribed Burning	Prohibited
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Prohibited
Timber Harvesting	Prohibited
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Livestock Grazing	Prohibited
Facilities	Prohibited
Motorized (Summer)	Prohibited
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Restricted (Only if ecological values would be unaffected.)
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Prohibited
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Prohibited
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Prohibited
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted (A provision would be required for assessing the affected area for future mineral withdrawal.)
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

DOLORES RIVER CANYON (MA 2)

Introduction

The Dolores River Canyon is situated in Dolores and San Miguel Counties. It includes the river canyon from McPhee Dam to the Dolores WSA boundary at the San Miguel County bridge on County Road 20R in Gypsum Valley southwest of Naturita, Colorado (see Figure 20). In 1975, the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommended WSR status for roughly 94 miles of the river downstream of Bradfield Bridge. The river canyon from Bradfield to Bedrock was identified as a Structured Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in the San Juan/San Miguel RMP and a Recreation Area Management Plan was completed in 1989. This portion of the Dolores River Canyon will continue to be managed as an SRMA (see Appendix E, Dolores River SRMA).

The Dolores River Canyon has historically been recognized as a nationally significant, unique resource capable of providing outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities associated with the river, canyons, and mesas; unique plant and animal communities found within the canyon that contain threatened and endangered species habitat; and extremely diverse topography and geology that create outstanding scenic vistas and excellent solitude opportunities.

Desired Conditions - Dolores River Canyon

42.1 Significant biological resources and unique features of the Dolores River Canyon play an important role in the character of the canyon, with resources identified by the CNHP continuing to thrive.

42.2 Significant resources in the canyon (including cultural resources, outstanding scenery, unique geology, desert bighorn sheep, river otter, flannelmouth suckers, bluenose suckers, roundtail chub, old-growth ponderosa pine, boxelder riparian community, and Fremont cottonwood galleries) are protected and preserved.

42.3 Invasive species (including tamarisk, Russian knapweed, and Canada thistle) are minor components of the riparian systems of the Dolores River and its tributaries.

Program Emphasis

Table 26 describes the management emphasis of each segment of the Dolores River Canyon.

Table 33 – Management Emphasis for Dolores River Canyon Segments

Dolores River Canyon Feature	Management Emphasis	Acres/ Miles
Canyon Corridor	Recreation - whitewater boating	94 miles
	Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers	30,000 acres
	McPhee to Bradfield - Recreational	
	Bradfield to Dove Creek Pump station - Wild	
	Dove Creek Pump Station to Disappointment Creek - Scenic	
	Disappointment Creek to Big Gypsum Valley - Recreational	
	Big Gypsum Valley to Bedrock - Wild	15,900 acres
Ponderosa Gorge: Bradfield Camp Ground to Dove Creek Pump Station	Scenic canyon, old-growth ponderosa pine, wilderness characteristics of outstanding solitude, primitive/semi-primitive recreation, whitewater boating	
Wildlife	Desert Bighorn Sheep critical habitat	2,000 acres
	Aquatics - trout- McPhee Dam to Bradfield Bridge	12 miles
	Aquatics - Roundtail Chub, Flannel mouth sucker, Bluenose sucker	94 miles
	River Otter	70 miles
	Peregrine Falcon	70 miles
	Amphibians - red spotted toad, tiger salamander, canyon treefrog	
Coyote Wash unique plant community	Potential Research Natural Area (RNA) - Hanging Gardens	329 acres
Riparian Management	*Forrestria pubescens* riparian community, boxelder community, Fremont cottonwood galleries	15,900 acres
Bradfield, Boxelder, Lone Dome	Developed campgrounds	80 acres
Water resources	Flow sufficient for channel maintenance and whitewater recreation	

Suitability

Table 33 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Dolores River Canyon MA 2.

Table 34 - Dolores River Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Allowable
Prescribed Burning	Restricted to areas above Canyon Rim within ponderosa and oak brush treatments.
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Restricted to areas above canyon rim within ponderosa and oak brush treatment area, and within 200 yards of developed facilities within canyon.
Timber Harvesting	Restricted to areas above Canyon Rim within ponderosa and oak Brush treatment area.
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	N/A
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Restricted to areas above Canyon Rim within ponderosa and oak Brush treatment area.
Livestock Grazing	Restricted to grazing within existing allotments.
Facilities	Restricted to currently developed recreation sites in the canyon.
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted to existing county roads within the canyon.
Motorized (Winter)	Restricted to existing county roads within the canyon.
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (temporary roads)	Restricted to existing county roads within the canyon.
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas)	Prohibited within Dolores WSA. Restricted to NSO in canyon and TL in Desert Bighorn Lambing Areas.
Minerals - Leasable (other)	Uranium leases are restricted to lands withdrawn to the Department of Energy (DOE).
Minerals - Locatable	Allowable
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

Objectives - Dolores River Canyon

- By 2012, tamarisk is eradicated in New Mexico Privet riparian areas and wetland ecosystems of the Dolores River Canyon (in cooperation with The Tamarisk Coalition and The Nature Conservancy), on the main stem of the Dolores River.

Design Criteria - Dolores River Canyon

- Management activities and recreational use avoids or minimizes impacts to rare or unique plant communities.
- Refer also to Dolores River Corridor Management Plan, 1990; and the BLM Alpine Triangle Cultural Resources Management Plan, 1994.

Monitoring - Dolores River Canyon

Under the direction of the DLMP, monitoring of significant resource values would be done in cooperation with the CDOW and the CNHP. It would include monitoring of significant biological resources at least once every 4 years in order to identify trends in resource condition and/or deterioration, and to determine whether or not any actions taking place in the area are causing detrimental changes to the resource values. Any changes would be noted and recorded in the CNHP database and reported to the land manager.

Monitoring of recreation use levels, types of recreation, and impacts related to recreation use would be conducted, on an average, once every 5 years.

MESA VERDE ESCARPMENT (MA 2)

Introduction

The Mesa Verde Escarpment area includes the BLM lands adjacent to Mesa Verde National Park. Originally slated for inclusion in the designation of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, this area has the highest density of Ancestral Puebloan architectural sites on BLM lands within the planning area. These highly significant sites are critical to understanding Ancestral Puebloan life-ways across the landscape.

Desired Conditions - Mesa Verde Escarpment

43.1 Mesa Verde Escarpment offers appropriate recreation and interpretive opportunities while, at the same time, preserving archeological resources.

43.2 User-made trails are re-routed or eliminated in order to avoid impacts to archeological sites.

43.3 Hazardous fuels are managed in order to protect and preserve archeological resources, and to reduce the risk of wildfire to adjacent private lands.

43.4 Cultural viewsheds are preserved; incompatible uses or developments are prevented.

43.5 Vegetation is managed in order to protect and enhance cultural resources.

Program Emphasis

The management emphasis for the Mesa Verde Escarpment is on the protection and preservation of the area's outstanding archeological sites, as well as on the development of appropriate recreational opportunities (in collaboration with private land development). This area is surrounded by private lands that have not yet been developed; however, focused management of this area is needed to address the impacts related to currently proposed and probable future, development. Collaboration with the developers and new landowners will be emphasized in order to develop an understanding and appreciation of the archeological resources, as well as an understanding of the importance of protecting them. A proactive management approach will take full advantage of the educational, interpretive, recreational, preservation, and scientific opportunities available.

Objectives - Mesa Verde Escarpment

- Within 5 years, implement site-steward and "adopt-a-site" programs.
- Over the implementation-life of the LMP, develop 3 interpretive trails.
- Develop and implement an integrated archeological, recreation, and interpretation plan.

Suitability

Table 34 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Mesa Verde Escarpment MA 2.

Table 35 - Mesa Verde Escarpment Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Prohibited
Prescribed Burning	Restricted in order to protect significant archaeological resources.
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Restricted in order to protect significant archaeological resources.
Timber Harvesting	Restricted in order to protect significant archaeological resources.
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Livestock Grazing	Allowable
Facilities	Restricted in order to protect significant archaeological resources.
Motorized (Summer)	Prohibited
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Restricted in order to protect significant archaeological resources.
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Restricted to designated roads and trails.
Road Construction (temporary roads)	Restricted in order to protect significant archaeological resources.
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	NSO
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted in order to protect significant archaeological resources.
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

HD MOUNTAINS (MA 2)

Introduction

The HD Mountains (MA 2) total approximately 49,000 acres (see Figure 20). (The name HD is thought to be derived from the brand of an early Twentieth Century cattle company.) The area's elevation ranges from just over 6,000 feet to just under 9,000 feet. Private and State lands (located primarily along the flanks of the USFS-administered lands) make up a small portion of the HD area (and are not subject to the direction of the LMP). A 25,140-acre IRA within the HD Mountains forms the core of the Management Area.

The roadless area provides many social and ecological benefits. As urban areas grow in southwestern Colorado, undeveloped private lands continue to be converted to urban areas and rural infrastructure. In the increasingly developed landscape in the vicinity of the HD Mountains, this large unfragmented tract of land serves a critical role (in that it provides functioning watersheds and biological strongholds that promote diversity for plant and animal populations). The area provides a large, relatively undisturbed landscape with opportunities for dispersed outdoor recreation (opportunities that diminish as open space and natural settings are developed elsewhere). The area also serves as a bulwark against the spread of non-native invasive plant species and provides a reference area for study and research related to development in the roadless area.

The HD Mountains area encompasses the northeastern portion of the San Juan Basin (which is a geologic structure containing one of the largest natural gas reservoirs in the world). The majority of the area has been leased for oil and gas development, and markets have prompted additional interest and investments in gas wells and associated facilities and infrastructure in the San Juan Basin. Natural gas development in the HD Mountains is controversial due to the potential impacts to roadless area values, surface and ground water, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, property values, tax revenues, employment, and air quality in the Weminuche Wilderness Area and the Mesa Verde National Park Class 1 air-quality areas.

Companies or individuals holding existing valid leases have legal, non-discretionary development rights. Over the next few decades, as gas is produced and transported, the impacts of development will be evident; however, in the long-term, the SJPLC would manage so that facilities (including all surface and subsurface features related to management activities) would be reclaimed when no longer needed, and so that altered lands would be restored to natural conditions. Planning for, and administering, management activities with the intent to ultimately reclaim development areas will make for a more rapid and successful recovery to natural conditions. An important element of this recovery effort is the approximately 22,400 acres of the roadless area that would remain unroaded under the gas field development plan authorized by the Northern San Juan Basin Final EIS and Record of Decision (NSJB FEIS and ROD).

Although the primary values and important characteristics listed below are not all unique to the HD Mountains, the fact that they all occur in the same area makes the HD Mountains unique and deserving of special management approaches. The overall goal of management approaches in the HD Mountains is to maintain, improve, and/or return these values and characteristics to the landscape. These values and characteristics are described below.

Primary Values and Important Characteristics

Roadless Area: The HD Mountains area includes the 25,140-acre HD Mountain 2006 IRA. This area is important for recreational opportunities, pristine and primitive conditions, wildlife habitat, and roadless values (including those described above). The roadless area may also take pressure off of the more heavily used Wilderness Areas and WSAs within the planning area by providing solitude and quiet, as well as dispersed recreation opportunities.

Wildlife Habitat: The HD Mountains area, and the associated IRA, represent important, unfragmented wildlife habitat. They also provide connectivity to other important wildlife habitats. The combination of elevation, exposures, and vegetation also means that much of the area is winter range. In addition, important migration corridors for big game and other migrating wildlife are present in the area. The relatively unique occurrence of oak brush on north-facing slopes in the HD Mountains adds to the importance of the area as bear habitat.

Archeological Resources: The HD Mountains area contains important archeological resources (including the Spring Creek National Register District; the Sauls Creek, Armstrong-Ritter, Turkey Creek, and Peterson Gulch Proposed National Register Districts; and other archeological sites) -- resources offering unique information and values. These sites and districts may provide information related to Chimney Rock, neighboring populations in the lower San Juan Basin (including Gobernador Valley and Chaco Canyon), and settlements to the west (including Mesa Verde and Canyons of the Ancients National Monuments). They may also provide important clues about chronology and settlement patterns, relationships with temporally parallel neighboring populations, and resource utilization across the HD Mountains area landscape.

Geology and Geomorphology: The HD Mountains area is noteworthy for its geology, topography, and landslides. It also contains many areas of steep, unstable, erosive soils and slopes, as well as the Fruitland Formation. (The Fruitland Formation is one of the most productive formations for natural gas in the San Juan Basin.) The Fruitland Formation is exposed at the surface in the HD Mountains area, in a feature known locally as the Outcrop. The Outcrop is an important hydrogeologic feature connected to the Fruitland Formation coal-bed methane gas reservoir and fresh water aquifer.

Surface and Ground Water Resources: Due to the area's dry climate and the unique hydrogeology of the Fruitland Formation, surface water and groundwater are critical resources in the area. There are important water resources connected to the Fruitland Formation, and fresh-water springs are present in the core area of the HD Mountains area.

Vegetation: The HD Mountains support a variable mix of vegetation types, ranging from sagebrush to cool-moist mixed-conifer forests. Old-growth ponderosa pine forests and aspen forests still stand in portions of the HD Mountains area. The stands of old-growth ponderosa pine in the HD Mountains area are particularly important (because this is a rare resource on the SJPL).

Social and Economic Values: The existing and potential natural gas resources in the HD Mountains area have significant direct and indirect economic benefits for the local and regional area related to gas-field development. The area also provides important social and economic value to the local area (including motorized and non-motorized recreation, primitive solitude, hunting, enjoyment of scenic vistas, and benefits related to gas-field revenues and taxes). Examples of these values include low residential property taxes, as well as new or improved city and county facilities, services, and infrastructure.

Recreation: Recreational opportunities in the HD Mountains area include wide open vistas, as well as views of Chimney Rock and the Piedra River Valley (to the east) and the Pine River Valley (to the west). The core roadless area provides opportunities for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding in an environment of natural sights and sounds. There are motorized trails on the western and eastern flanks of the HD Mountains.

Livestock Grazing: Livestock grazing is an important use of the HD Mountains area (which has several active allotments that would continue to be utilized). This use is not expected to increase or decrease significantly in the future.

Fire and Fuels Management: Fire and fuels management are important activities in the HD Mountains area. These management activities would be aimed at reducing fire risk to private lands and residences along the flanks of the core area, as well as improving the overall health of the lands within the planning area and restoring a more natural condition.

Desired Conditions - HD Mountains

44.1 Specific actions for cultural resource are protected, preserved, and interpreted as directed in the Northern San Juan Basin Cultural Resources Management Plan.

44.2 High priority historic and prehistoric resources are stabilized and preserved for future generations.

44.3 The Spring Creek, Sauls Creek, Armstrong-Ritter, Turkey Creek, and Peterson Gulch National Register Districts/Proposed National Register Districts are maintained in an undisturbed condition and protected from impacts (including from vandalism, visual intrusion, surface disturbances, and erosion).

44.4 Motorized travel occurs on designated motorized roads and trails within the boundaries of the Spring Creek, Sauls Creek, Armstrong-Ritter, Turkey Creek, and Peterson Gulch National Register Districts/ Proposed National Register Districts.

44.5 Scenic integrity meets an overall moderate scenic integrity objective, and areas of high scenic integrity are maintained, wherever practicable.

44.6 Although private land and mineral access may be authorized, as appropriate, opportunities to protect private and other key resources is sought through cooperative efforts with local, State, Native American tribal, and other Federal agencies.

44.7 Coordination between local, State, Native American tribal, and other Federal agencies is effective and on-going (especially regarding the integration of management for the San Juan Basin gas field.)

44.8 Water quality is maintained at current, or improved, conditions. Water quantity is maintained at current levels, unless affected by natural factors (including drought).

44.9 In general, management activities maintain or improve roadless area values, wherever practicable, with a long-term goal of returning the landscape to an unroaded condition. Existing roads in areas such as Spring Creek, Sauls Creek, Turkey Creek, Goose Creek, Lange Canyon, Fosset Gulch, and the Relay Tower Road, as well as motorized trails proposed under the NSJB FEIS ROD travel management plan, remain open to motorized travel indefinitely.

44.10 Development practices allow for efficient extraction of fluid-mineral resources in order to maximize recovery and related economic benefits (including property tax base and other indirect social and economic benefits to the local and regional area).

44.11 Mineral resources are developed so that the area can be returned to a relatively natural setting as production phases out.

44.12 Existing mineral leases are reasonably developed using the minimum size and amount of facilities necessary. Future mineral leases are issued with NSO stipulations.

44.13 Facilities are designed and constructed with the goal of ultimately reclaiming them to closely resemble pre-construction conditions.

44.14 Facilities are located in order to minimize or avoid construction in steep, erosive, unstable, highly visible, and/or other critical resource areas (including water-influence zones; areas with low potential for revegetation; and areas of known habitat for sensitive, threatened or endangered plant and animal species).

44.15 Where facilities are required, they are co-located, to the extent practicable, in order to reduce overall disturbance and indirect impacts (e.g., vehicle trips, air quality impacts, etc.).

44.16 Reclamation plans are an integral component of management activities.

44.17 Natural resources unique to the area (including old-growth ponderosa pine forests, wildlife habitat, and water sources) are effectively protected and managed in conjunction with other actions.

44.18 Wildlife habitat effectiveness and connectivity is maintained.

44.19 Wildlife habitat and big game winter range are protected, enhanced, or replaced.

44.20 Management activities avoid disturbance to old-growth vegetation.

44.21 Forest health, restoration, and fuels management are routine and recurring management activities (especially along the flanks of the HD Mountains). Forest ecosystem health is consistent with minimally disturbed natural systems. Fire-return intervals and risks of catastrophic fire are consistent with the range of natural variability for the various forest communities. Stand structures and vegetative compositions are representative of more natural conditions.

44.22 Forest health, restoration, and fuels projects are completed in order to reduce fire risk to private lands and residences along the flanks of the HD Mountains, with an overall goal of improving forest health while, at the same time, maintaining and/or returning the area to a more natural forested condition.

44.23 Invasive plant species (including noxious weeds) are absent or rare in the HD Mountains area.

44.24 Management activities complement primitive recreation and roadless values.

44.25 Livestock grazing management complements roadless values and natural forest conditions.

44.26 Motorized travel occurs on designated roads and trails during appropriate times. Mineral development roads authorized by the NSJB FEIS ROD are closed year-round to public motorized use (see the NSJB FEIS for travel management direction.)

44.27 Air-quality impacts from management activities are reduced or avoided using BMPs and the best available technology.

Program Emphasis

The NSJB FEIS Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on April 4, 2007, and provides guidance for gas-field development in the HD Mountains area. The development approach required by the NSJB FEIS ROD balances valid existing gas development lease rights with legitimate social and environmental issues. It also sets the stage for the long-term goal of returning the area to a natural condition. Under the direction of the LMP, the SJPLC program approach would include comprehensive implementation, monitoring, mitigation, and reclamation plans for all phases of project development that address gas seepage, water quality/quantity, landslide, wildlife, vegetation, recreation, transportation, visual, noise, health and safety, air quality issues, as well as the minimization of impacts to the IRA.

In addition, a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) will be developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other consulting parties. The CRMP will provide a framework in which to address cumulative impacts to cultural resources, and will provide strategies for proactive management of cultural resources within the NSJB EIS Area of Potential Effect (which includes the HD Mountains area) (see the Cultural Resources section of the NSJB FEIS for more CRMP details).

In addition, hazardous fuels reduction projects will continue to prioritize the WUI related to SJPL/private land boundaries.

Noxious weeds are managed cooperatively with State of Colorado (especially in relation to impacts to the Little Squaw Creek drainage).

Objectives - HD Mountains

- Every 5 years, unless otherwise determined by the Authorized Officer, operators conducting oil and gas activities in the NSJB EIS project area would complete elk and deer habitat enhancement project(s). The project(s) must enhance acreage in elk habitat or deer winter range in the HD Mountains area (preferably on State and/or SJPLC-administered lands) in an amount that is equal to, or greater than, the acreage disturbed in elk habitat or deer winter range by oil and gas activities in the NSJB EIS project area.
- Permanently close all roads that are not designated as open in the travel management plan (roads not used by industry to access coal-bed methane (CBM) sites and not used for administrative purposes). Measures would be taken in order to effectively close such roads to all motorized use (including to full-size vehicles, ATVs, motorcycles, OHVs, and snowmobiles). Measures would include, but are not limited to, blocking roads at least one site distance up the roadbed by the placement of large boulders, livestock gates, and/or earthen barriers interspersed with tree trunks and branches; or obliterating and re-contouring areas back to the original slope.
- Every 5 years, stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore 1 mile or more of gullied channel in order to reduce erosion and sediment delivery.
- Annually, treat the full length of Crowbar Creek and Sauls Creek in order to control noxious weeds (primarily musk thistle).
- Twice per year, treat Spring Creek, Salt Canyon and Fosset Gulch in order to control noxious weeds (primarily musk thistle).

Suitability

Table 36 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the HD Mountains MA 2.

Table 36 - HD Mountains Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Allowable
Prescribed Burning	Allowable
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Restricted (Treatments generally would not be allowable in the core roadless area.)
Timber Harvesting	Restricted
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Allowable
Livestock Grazing	Allowable
Facilities	Prohibited
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted (Summer motorized travel is suitable and may occur on designated routes. Seasonal motorized restrictions may apply in order to protect resources and wildlife habitat areas.)
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Restricted (Road development would be limited to lease contract obligations and for restoration management, as necessary.)
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	NSO
Minerals - Locatable	Allowable
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited

RICO (MA2)

Introduction

The Rico "special area" includes the USFS-administered lands adjacent to the Town of Rico. Approximate boundaries include Telescope Mountain to the northeast, Spruce Gulch to the southeast, Burnett Creek to the southwest, and Horse Creek to the northwest. The Rico area is located in a sub-alpine region of the San Juan Mountains, with elevations ranging from 8,800 feet in town to 12,681 feet on nearby Blackhawk Mountain. The area's climate is best described as having four distinct seasons with significant winter snows, as well as the associated springtime run-offs. The large volumes of water from the winter snow-melt support a vast conifer and aspen forest with interspersed meadows. The high altitude and southerly latitude of the Rico area offer diverse and sometimes extreme climatic conditions that can range from warm and pleasant sunny days in the middle of January to harsh snowstorms in the summer months. Due to the high altitude, significant temperature drops usually occur at night. Snowstorm events can be substantial, and it is not unusual for roads to be closed, power to be disrupted, and/ or emergency services to be delayed.

The Rico area is located primarily on the east side of the Dolores River (which is fed by several tributaries). The headwaters of these tributaries begin in the cirques and basins formed by the numerous surrounding mountain peaks. The majority of these peaks (including Expectation, Dolores, and Telescope) have elevations of over 12,000 feet. The area supports an array of big game wildlife (including deer, elk, sheep, mountain lion, and black bear). Elk and deer are primary resources. Small game is also plentiful (including blue grouse and snowshoe hare). The Dolores River, Silver Creek, and many other local tributaries, support a diverse plant and wildlife ecosystem. Canada lynx have recently been reintroduced into the San Juan National Forest and are often seen in the area.

The historic mining industry in the Rico area has provided a rich cultural history; however, it has also left behind a legacy of environmental damage. Impacts are primarily from previous mining activities (including mill tailings, mine dumps, shafts and tunnels, water-quality degradation, and lead contamination to some of the area's soil).

The Town of Rico is relatively remote. The nearest towns to the north are Telluride and Mountain Village (which are approximately 28 miles away, over Lizard Head Pass). The nearest towns to the south are Dolores (which is approximately 40 miles away), and Cortez (which is approximately 50 miles away).

Rico is a community that aims to preserve its small mountain town historic character, even as the population grows. The community utilizes the natural resources of the surrounding public lands in order to assist in building a new post-mining economy. The relatively undeveloped, non-resort character of Rico is rapidly becoming rare in Colorado (as it is in other western states). Preserving the feel and appearance of the historic compact "mountain town" land pattern of the existing town is extremely important to the residents and property owners of Rico. New development areas beyond the historic town plat will complement the existing town site by focusing development adjacent to town on the north and south sides while, at the same time, preserving natural forest areas to the east and west of town. Management of population growth, new development, and overall rate of growth are essential to preserving the unique character and relationship between the USFS/BLM and the Rico community (Rico Master Plan 2003, p. 2-4).

Desired Conditions - Rico

45.1 Management of SJPLC-administered lands contributes to, or enhances, the historic "mountain town"' scale and appearance of the Rico.

45.2 Trailheads and informational signage direct locals and visitors to the appropriate desired recreational experience.

45.3 Land ownership patterns are improved and consolidated between the town, private landowners, and the SJPLC in order to enhance community development objectives and to reduce resource impacts (including to the viewshed on the surrounding public lands).

45.4 Trails accessing SJPLC-administered lands from within town boundaries emphasize non-motorized recreation modes in order to emphasize the community's quiet-use character.

45.5 Restoration and preservation of the natural space, beauty, and terrain of the area is recognized as the principal resource asset to the town.

45.6 Undeveloped areas and IRAs on SJPLC-administered lands near and/or around Rico provide quality elk and other large game habitat and wildlife corridors. These areas also provide quality hunting and wildlife viewing, as well as pristine backcountry non-motorized recreational experiences.

45.7 Undeveloped and unroaded areas on SJPLC-administered lands near and/or around Rico continue to provide habitat for wildlife and continue to contribute to the sustainable reintroduction of the Canada lynx.

45.8 Select historic structures associated with the area's past mining history are stabilized, protected, and interpreted.

45.9 Area residents, as well as the visiting public, are directed to appropriate areas for non-motorized and motorized recreation opportunities through a variety of informational, educational, and interpretational venues.

45.10 In-stream flows on the upper Dolores River above McPhee Reservoir are maintained in order to enhance and preserve the scenic quality of the Dolores River (and the surrounding watershed), and to protect fisheries, riparian, and aquatic habitat.

45.11 The watersheds surrounding Rico are maintained and enhanced, with a focus on water-quality improvement for perennial streams entering the Dolores River.

45.12 Water quality entering the Dolores River is improved due to collaborative remediation efforts to clean up mining-impacted lands in the Rico area.

45.13 The Silver Creek watershed remains the municipal water source for the town of Rico until such time as additional and/or new water sources are developed.

Program Emphasis

Under the direction of the LMP, focused management of this area will address the impacts that occur in tandem with private land development and the maintenance of the interconnected SJPL resources. A sustainable management approach that maintains the close relationship between the people of Rico and the landscape of public lands will allow these goals to be met.

The Rico special area would offer an opportunity for the SJPLC to work collaboratively with the people of Rico in order to develop sustainable management practices for the planning area. SJPLC managers will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for projects in the Rico area in order to outline common goals and to achieve sustainable management approaches throughout the implementation-life of the LMP.

Objectives

Management of the Rico special area will emphasize a proactive working relationship between the town of Rico and the SJPLC that serves to preserve and protect the uniqueness of the Rico community. Annual meetings between the town and the SJPLC will be encouraged in order to review community and public land management objectives specific to the public lands within the Rico MA 2. In addition:

- Within 5 years, develop a parking lot outside of the town limits for the Burnett Trailhead in order to provide an adequate staging area for motorized recreational experiences; as well as to preserve the quiet of the community while, at the same time, providing motorized opportunities.
- Annually, sign a minimum of 1 trail within the Rico area in order to inform and direct appropriate recreation use.

Suitability

Table 37 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Rico MA 2.

Table 37 - Rico Area Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Allowable
Prescribed Burning	Restricted to mitigating natural disturbances (including insect or disease epidemics) and preventing adverse impacts to the surrounding viewshed, watershed, and overall land health.
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Restricted to mitigating natural disturbances (including insect or disease epidemics) and preventing adverse impacts to the surrounding viewshed, watershed, and overall land health.
Timber Harvesting	Allowable
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation bassi)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Allowable
Livestock Grazing	Restricted to grazing allotments
Facilities	Restricted (Primitive facilities, including parking areas, staging areas, and adequate signage, are generally suitable to direct and inform recreation activities.
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted to motorized routes and trails designated within the Rico area
Motorized (Winter)	Restricted to motorized areas designated within the Rico area
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Restricted (Permitted in order to provide access to valid existing rights, including mining claims). Temporary construction may occur in some areas in order to achieve resource restoration objectives.)
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Restricted (A NSO would be applied to IRAs within the Rico area. CSU and TL stipulations may be applied to specific locations, as necessary, in order to mitigate resource impacts.)
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted (Limited road access and other constraints in the Rico area may limit or preclude mineral collection.)
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Restricted (Limited road access and other constraints in the Rico area may limit or preclude mineral collection.)

SILVERTON (MA 2)

Introduction

The Silverton special area includes the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway, portions of the San Juan Skyway, the Silverton SRMA, and the town of Silverton (see Figure 20). The Silverton Ski Area and the Durango-Silverton Narrow-Gauge Railroad also operate within this area. A portion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Colorado Trail pass through this area.

The Silverton area has outstanding outdoor opportunities, extraordinary scenery (accessed by two byways and an extensive network of rough roads and trails), sensitive plant and animal habitats, and diverse year-round nature-based recreation and adventure tourism. The Town of Silverton's history, and vintage architecture, is recognized by residents and visitors as a precious cultural resource. The Town of Silverton, which has strong community values and a "sense of place," is a place where it's possible to "step back in time."

The top two reasons that more than 300,000 people visit the area annually are heritage tourism and recreation. These are the two main economic contributors to local communities. Activities for visitors include camping, hiking, mountain biking, wildlife and wildflower viewing, winter sports, OHV-use, and heritage tourism. The area is well-suited to day trips, as well as to multi-day excursions.

Situated primarily above 9,000 feet, this is largely a sensitive and beautiful subalpine-to-alpine environment. This area has important biological value (including its essential function as a linkage area for wildlife across the San Juan Mountains, and north to other parts of Colorado). The valleys and mountain passes provide key linkage corridors for migratory wildlife and wide-ranging carnivores (e.g., Canada lynx). The high country provides a large block of alpine and tundra habitat that is contiguous with adjacent public lands. This provides key habitat areas for a suite of unique species specially adapted to this fragile and harsh environment (including the endangered Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, the white-tailed ptarmigan, and the brown-capped rosy finch). The Silverton area contains peat-forming wetlands called fens. Fens require thousands of years to develop and cannot easily be restored once damaged. Rare and sensitive plants are found only in these fens. The Silverton area is also the only area where iron fens are found within the planning area. Iron fens are a unique type of fen found in areas with geology that produces acidic, metal-rich conditions. The San Juan Mountain Range is one of only a few regions in the world that contain iron fens (see the Special Areas Plan Component for descriptions of the iron fens).

Many local residents are active stewards of this area, and have strong concerns regarding the protection of the unique environment. Concerns expressed by residents and visitors include issues related to recreation and travel management, cultural resource protection, sheep grazing, protection of scenic views and fragile tundra, adequate visitor information and services, mining impacts, economic benefits, conflicts between residents and tourists, and conflicts between motorized and other users.

The combination of road access, rewarding vistas, and outstanding remnants of the hard-rock mining heritage make the Silverton area one of the most spectacular high-elevation landscapes in the United States.

Desired Conditions - Silverton

46.1 Interpretation of the historic landscapes and features of the Silverton special area is made available through a range of effective and appropriate venues. Information is designed to enhance the touring experience and to encourage the greatest extent of appreciation and protection of these precious assets.

46.2 Commercial summer and winter recreation opportunities are available through permitted Outfitter/ Guides and the Silverton Ski Area.

46.3 Recreational uses (including motorized/non-motorized travel or camping) are at sustainable levels within ROS settings.

46.4 Recreation management compatible with the area's cultural and natural resource management goals is allowed and promoted.

46.5 High-priority historic resources are stabilized and preserved for future generations.

46.6 The built environment supports essential visitor services, heritage tourism and interpretation, and recreation opportunities (as identified in the Recreation Activity Management Plans (RAMPs)). Design elements (including scale, materials, and colors) complement the natural environment and are consistent with the architectural vernacular of local historic structures.

46.7 Support services are located within, or close to, gateway communities.

46.8 Local communities serve as gateways to the Silverton area; take an active role in stewardship of surrounding public lands; and receive lifestyle, community, and economic benefit. The site-stewardship program and the SJPLC presence are fully effective for resource protection, visitor contact, education, and safety.

46.9 Natural resources unique to the area (including Canada lynx/lynx habitat, fens, bighorn sheep, Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, ptarmigan, and rosy finch) are effectively protected and managed in conjunction with other actions.

46.10 Water quality meets or exceeds State standards.

46.11 Although private land access is provided, as required, opportunities for protection of key resources are sought through the county development process, easement options, and acquisition.

46.12 High-priority parcels of land are protected and preserved through methods that include acquisition, land exchange, or conservation easements. (No specific target is proposed for this action, since its funding is totally dependent upon available land and water conservation fund allocations.)

46.13 Where public lands are isolated by surrounding private parcels, and where other resource values are minimal, the BLM considers sales (disposals) to the surrounding landowner in order to improve management of private and public lands. (These disposal lands are not depicted on a current map; however, they would be clearly delineated as current land surveys are conducted.) Land exchanges are another tool available for land tenure adjustment (ownership consolidation) employed in San Juan County. The proposals meet the test of public benefit, and the BLM costs of processing are borne by the private landowner proponents.

46.14 The responsibility to provide appropriate marketing and adequate interpretation, conservation education, and recreation information is understood and shared by agencies, partners, commercial Outfitter/Guides, and businesses.

46.15 Coordination between the Rio Grande, Gunnison, and Uncompahgre National Forests; the Gunnison BLM Field Office, and the SJPLC is effective and on-going (especially with regard to the integration of management for the San Juan Skyway, the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway, and the Silverton area.)

46.16 The transportation system throughout the Silverton area meets the desire of visitors for access, provides a range of interesting touring experiences, and is designed in order to limit access to sites in need of protection.

46.17 Mining clean-up activities address resource protection and public safety.

Program Emphasis

Protecting the heritage of the amazingly persistent hard-rock miners is vital to preserving the nation's history, as well as the allure of the Silverton area. Historic sites within the Silverton area include mills, dams, hydro-electric power houses, water flumes, shaft houses, tramways, miners' cabins, assayer offices, boarding houses, powder houses, toll roads, railroads, mining camps, and countless mine shafts and adits. These sites are deteriorating in the harsh environment and as a result of the impacts from the increasing numbers of visitors. Private land development also threatens the integrity of the cultural landscape.

As the result of the configuration of mineral patents, San Juan County has a somewhat fragmented land-ownership pattern. In some cases, several acres of public land are isolated by private lands (sometimes the public land "splinters" are small fractional parts of an acre). Most of these parcels would not be fully known until a land survey is conducted for the private lands. When the patents in San Juan County were issued, this splintered private/public property ownership was of very little consequence. In more recent years, however, the uses of the private lands have shifted from mining to recreation and residential (seasonal and permanent). A proliferation of cabins on parcels of 5 acres or more has increased the applications to the BLM for ROWs for service infrastructure. Some consolidation of ownership would assist private owners and the BLM to better manage the land. This consolidation of ownership would be implemented by BLM land acquisitions, sales (disposals), and land exchanges. Access to public land interest areas away from county roads could be augmented by acquiring access easements. In keeping with the BLM mission of "serving communities," lands near the town of Silverton may also be made available for recreation and public purposes, and the competitive or direct sale for expansion of residential and business property and/or provision for recreational or infrastructure facilities may occur.

Residents, visitors, and public land managers all see many opportunities for sustainable conservation of the Silverton area. Due to its complex resource values, and to the high levels of public interest, successful strategies for conservation will continue to depend upon partnerships (including with local, State, Native American tribal, and other Federal agencies; historic preservation advocates and agencies; non-profit organizations; interpretive associations; commercial recreation providers; and local businesses). Management tools (including land acquisition, land exchange, and conservation easements) would be critical to the protection of high-priority lands within the larger cultural landscape, the mitigation of resource impacts, and the improvement in land ownership patterns. As one of the "crown jewels" of the BLM lands, designation as a National Conservation Area or National Monument may also be considered, in order to give the area appropriate recognition and protection.

The Alpine Triangle CRMP provides guidance for the management and interpretation of cultural resources in the Silverton special area (see Appendix E). Under the direction of the DLMP, management will be intensive and include visitor facilities for interpretation and resource protection (including parking, trailhead facilities, signage, and trail maintenance). Regulations and visitor guidance will also play a role in protecting resources, as well as in enhancing visitor experience (including camping restrictions, travel management for motorized and non-motorized uses, resource protection, and visitor safety related to mines).

Successful implementation of the DLMP will depend upon collaborative management that addresses cross jurisdictional boundary issues (including Canada lynx habitat protection, cultural and scenic viewshed protection, and adequate visitor services). Cooperation with State historic and heritage programs; San Juan, Ouray, and Hinsdale Counties; local communities and their residents; local, State, Native American tribal, and other Federal agencies; non-profit organizations; interpretive associations; businesses; and public land permittees will be emphasized. Expansion of on-the-ground signs and patrols to effective levels will also be key to successful heritage tourism and resource protection. Special emphasis will be given to the protection of cultural viewsheds that are in jeopardy due to the impacts of incompatible private development.

Suitability

Table 38 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the Silverton MA 2.

Table 38 – Silverton Area Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Restricted (Wildland fire use would be allowed in high-elevation spruce-fir, and in order to protect historic structures and private property.)
Prescribed Burning	Restricted (May be used in order to improve wildlife habitat, including for as bighorn sheep.)
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Prohibited
Timber Harvesting	Restricted
Timber Production (schedule on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Restricted to Christmas trees, post and poles, mushrooms and medicinal plants collected in the area.
Livestock Grazing	Restricted to grazing allotments.
Facilities	Restricted in order to protect resources, direct traffic, and to provide essential visitor services.
Motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Restricted (Allowable for access to valid existing rights and for effective public access.)
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Prohibited
Minerals - Locatables	Allowable
Minerals- Saleable (materials)	Restricted (Allowable where natural, cultural, and/or scenic values are not degraded.)

MCPHEE (MA 2)

Introduction

The McPhee unique landscape area includes the Anasazi National Register Archeological District and McPhee Dam (see Figure 26). With over 997 archeological sites, the Anasazi Archeological District contains one of the densest concentrations of Ancestral Puebloan sites in the southwestern United States. These sites were identified and documented during the Dolores Archeological Project. In 1977, the National Register of Historic Places District was established in recognition of this unique concentration of nationally significant cultural resources and landscapes (with sites including Basketmaker III and Pueblo II sites).

McPhee Dam was constructed on the Dolores River in order to provide storage for irrigation water in southwestern Colorado. McPhee Reservoir also provides outstanding recreation opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking, and ATV-use.

Desired Conditions - McPhee

47.1 McPhee offers diverse recreation for communities while, at the same time, preserving archeological resources.

47.2 McPhee provides big game winter range, and sharptail and sage-grouse habitat.

47.3 Vegetation is managed in order to protect and enhance cultural resources.

47.4 Interpretive and educational opportunities enhance visitor experience and increase stewardship of sites.

47.5 User-made trails are re-routed or eliminated in order to avoid impacts to archeological sites.

47.6 Hazardous fuels are managed in order to protect and preserve archeological resources, and to reduce the risk of wildfire to recreational facilities.

47.7 Cultural viewsheds are preserved; incompatible uses or developments are prevented.

Program Emphasis

Under the direction of the LMP, management of the McPhee area emphasizes protection and preservation of archeological sites while, at the same time, providing recreation opportunities and protecting big game winter range and sage-grouse habitat. Focused management will address the intensive recreational use of the area, as well as the on-going impacts to significant archeological resources. An integrated archeological, recreation, and interpretive plan should be developed. The existing monitoring plan will be implemented in order to improve management and to protect archeological resources in the area. A proactive management approach will take full advantage of the educational, interpretive, scientific, and research opportunities available within the area. These proactive approaches include interpretive trails, "Passport In Time" projects, campground programs, and "Archaeology Month" programs. In order to improve management, archeological testing will be conducted on sites that were 100% surface collected in order to determine if subsurface deposits exist. This information can be used to determine future management and uses of these sites. Archeological sites could also be assessed in the waterline in order to ascertain impacts associated with fluctuations in reservoir levels. Data recovery will be conducted, if necessary, in order to mitigate adverse impacts.

Objectives - McPhee MA 2

- Within 5 years, implement site-steward and "adopt-a-site" programs.
- Over the implementation-life of the LMP, develop 2 interpretive trails.
- Within 10 years, test 2 sites for subsurface archeological deposits.

Suitability

Table 39 shows the allowable, prohibited, and restricted management activities and uses for the McPhee MA 2.

Table 39 - McPhee Unique Landscape Suitability

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Prohibited
Prescribed Burning	Restricted
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Allowable
Timber Harvesting	Restricted (Significant archaeological resources must be protected.)
Timber Production (schedule on a rotation basis)	Restricted
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Livestock Grazing	Allowable
Recreation Facilities	Restricted to existing facilities (Significant archaeological resources must be protected prior to the development of any new facilities.)
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted to designated routes
Motorized (Winter)	Restricted
Non-motorized (Summer)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Winter)	Restricted
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Restricted (Significant archaeological resources must be protected.)
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Restricted to designated roads and trails.
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Restricted
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Administratively not available
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted (A provision would be required for assessing the affected area for future mineral withdrawal.)
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited