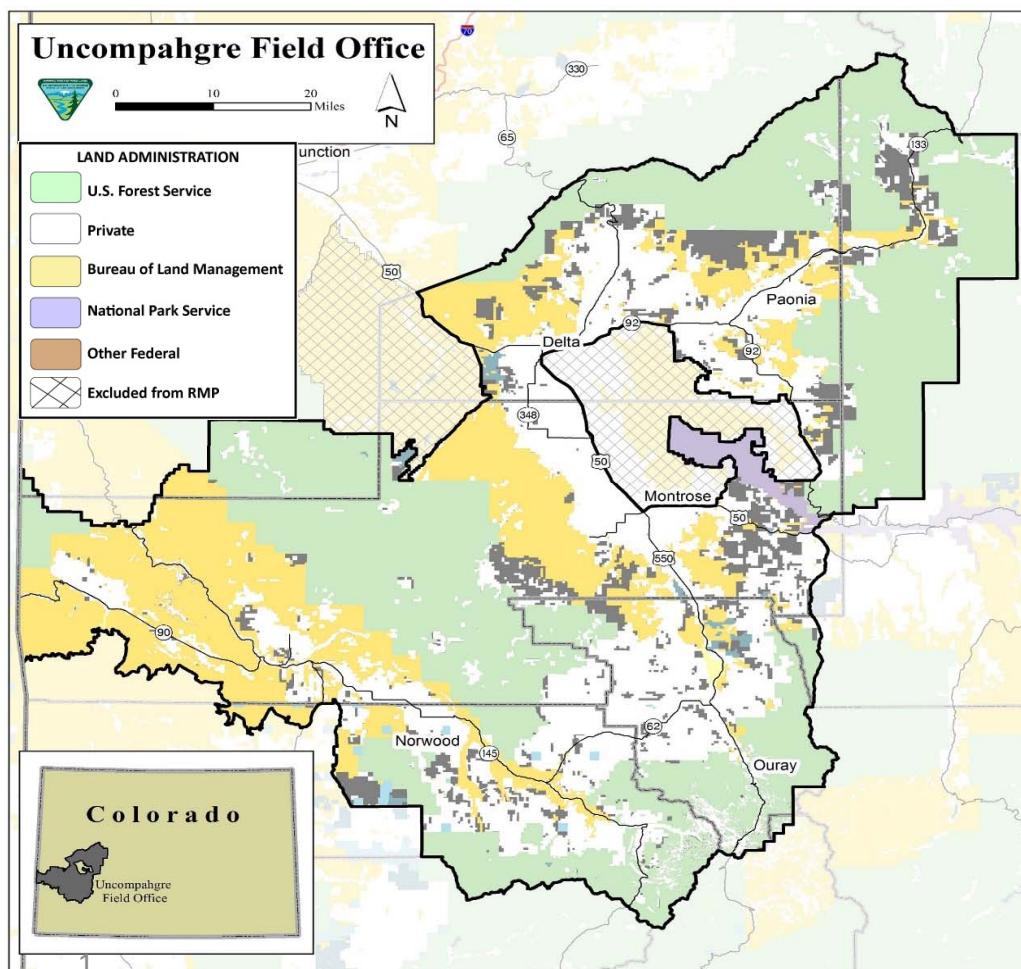




U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Uncompahgre Field Office PRMP/FEIS

Review Team Briefing, BLM-UFO Proposed Resource Management Plan



Planning Area

Total Surface Acres: 3,096,780

SURFACE ADMINISTRATION

- **USFS (40%)** - 1,248,390 acres
- **Private (36%)** - 1,125,350 acres
- **BLM (22%) - 675,800 acres**
- **NPS (1%)** - 27,130 acres
- **State (1%)** - 20,110 acres

Two NCAs within the Uncompahgre Field Office are managed under separate RMPs.

BLM DECISION AREA

- 971,220 acres of BLM Subsurface
- 675,800 acres of BLM Surface

COUNTY OVERLAP

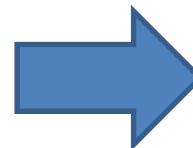
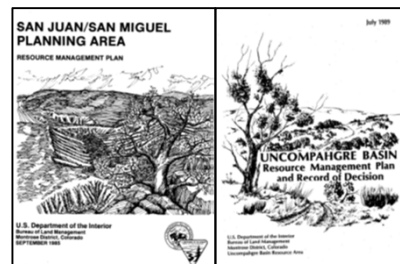
- **Montrose County (66%)**
- **Delta County (18%)**
- **San Miguel County (8%)**
- **Ouray County (4%)**
- **Gunnison County (2%)**
- **Mesa County (2%)**

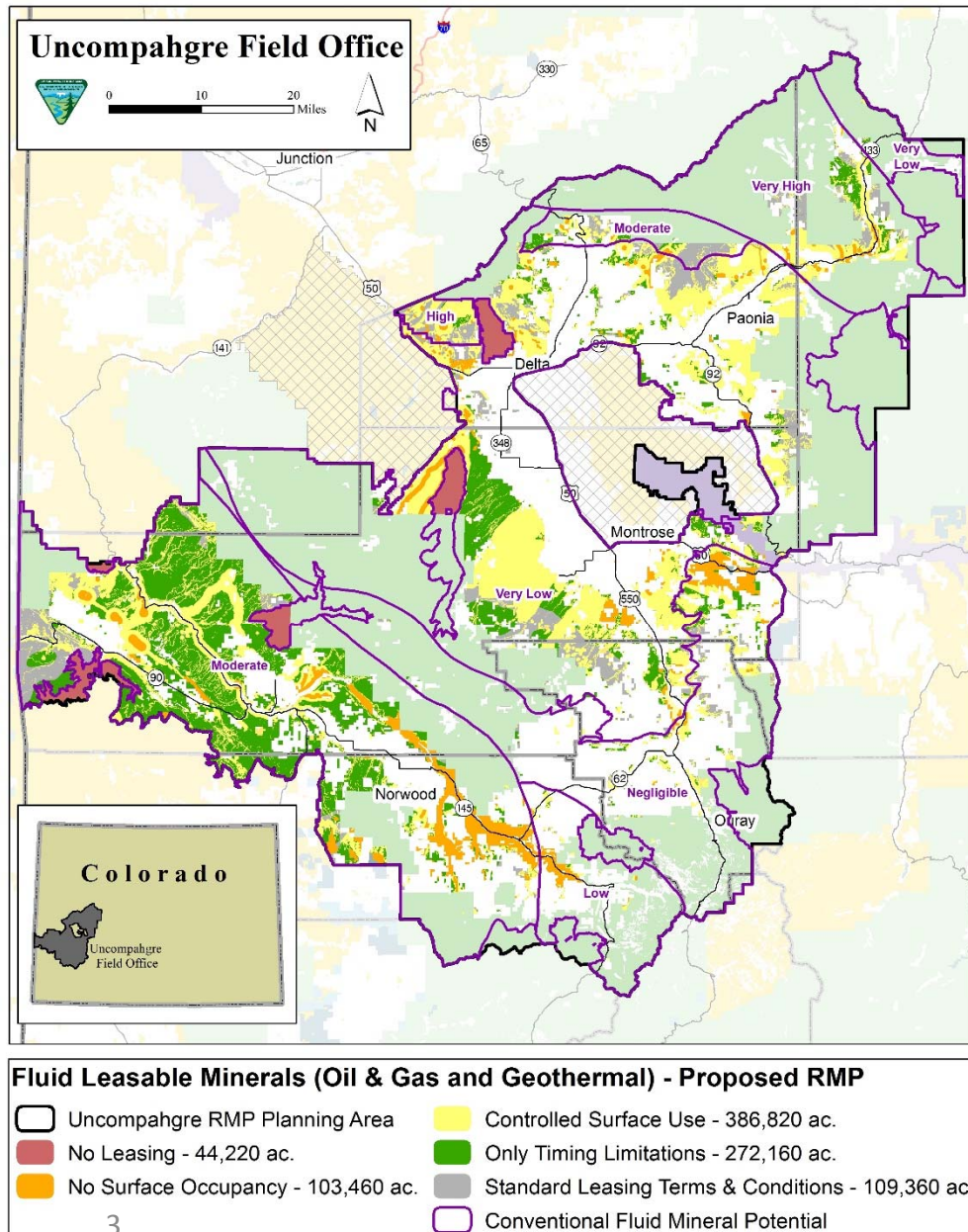
Refer to Map 1



Need for Plan Revision

- The Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) will replace the 1985 San Juan/San Miguel RMP and the 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP.
- The plan continues multiple-use management and addresses new issues and resources:
 - Five newly (ESA) listed species
 - Improved fluid mineral extraction methods, including hydraulic fracturing and directional drilling
 - Increased prominence of hunting, fishing, and recreation in the local economy
 - A 62% increase in the population of the planning area since 1990
 - Shift from the mining sector to the recreation and tourism sectors, notably in Ouray, Gunnison, and San Miguel counties
 - Decreased coal mining and increased small scale agriculture in the North Fork Valley in Delta County
 - Rapid increase in ATV and mountain bike use
 - Frequent protests, appeals, and litigation related to fluid mineral development and leasing





Proposed RMP- Alternative E

• Key Planning Issues:

- Energy and mineral development
- Economics of recreation, hunting, and fishing
- ESA-listed species

• Proposed Plan:

- Promotes access and reduced regulatory burden
- Promotes economic development by resource and location
- Responds to community needs and input in a diverse field office:
 - North Fork (of the Gunnison River) Valley; *Paonia and Hotchkiss*
 - Uncompahgre River Valley; *Delta, Montrose, and Ridgway*
 - San Miguel Headwaters; *Telluride and Norwood*
 - The “West End” and west slope of Uncompahgre Plateau; *Nucla and Naturita*



PRMP Increases Access and Reduces Regulatory Burden:

- Access:
 - Increases coal available for leasing by 189%.
 - 13,020-acre increase in locatable mineral availability.
 - 30,040-acre decrease in ROW exclusion areas.
 - All fluid minerals are leasable for potential development.
 - Recreation designations promote up to 280 miles of trails, campgrounds, event staging areas, parking lots, ATV ramps, boat ramps, etc.
 - Opens 2,680 acres to livestock trailing in the Camel Back WSA.
- Regulatory Burden:
 - Industry-familiar stipulations reduce “planning to production” regulatory burden by streamlining leasing, master development planning, staking, on-siting, NEPA, and APD approval. Stipulations in key locations reduce need for site-specific analysis.
 - ROW avoidance areas provide notice of potential resource conflicts to streamline proposal development, NEPA, and approval process.
 - Plan provides predictability to proponents and partner agencies.



Changes to Resource Uses

Resource	Current	Proposed RMP
Locatable minerals	Open for location: 840,440	Increases area open for location by 13,020 acres. Retains 28,060 acres currently withdrawn, no new areas recommended for withdrawal.
Fluid minerals	Open to leasing: 871,810	No change.
Coal	Acres acceptable for leasing: 144,790	Increases area acceptable for leasing by 226,460 acres.
ROW	590,720 acres open 85,080 acres excluded	Increases acres open, and decreases acres excluded, by 32,040 acres.
Lands for disposal	9,850 acres available for disposal	1,930 acres available for disposal
Livestock grazing	AUMs: 35,520 Acres open: 619,500	No change to AUMs Closes 2,000 acres of open OHV play area and 610 acres of T&E plant habitat.
Recreation	2 SRMAs: 49,320 acres 0 ERMAs	Adds 6 SRMAs, and 72,810 acres. Adds 3 ERMAs and 64,790 acres.
Target shooting	Closed in developed recreation sites	Closed within 150 yds. of developed recreation sites
Special designations	5 ACECs: 30,000 acres WSRs: 154 miles eligible	6 ACECs: 30,190 acres WSRs: 105 miles suitable
Lands with wilderness characteristics	None managed for wilderness characteristics (inventoried 42,150 acres)	None managed for wilderness characteristics (18,320 managed for other uses, with impacts minimized as feasible)



Job Creation

Over the 20 year life of the plan, the PRMP will contribute **\$2.5 billion in total economic output to the region and support approximately 950 jobs** on an average annual basis.



- Exploration, development, and production of minerals and mineral materials, including oil and gas, solid leasable minerals (such as coal), and locatable minerals including Uranium
- Rights-of-Way and Designated Communication Sites
- Livestock production
- Recreational and Motorized/Nonmotorized Uses



Stakeholders

Cooperating Agencies	Primary Comments/Concerns	Addressed in PRMP
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Highlighted protections from surface disturbing activities for T&E species.	PRMP applies a fluid mineral stipulations in some T&E species habitat.
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)	Acknowledged land protection, resource allocation, and stipulations to protect and enhance Gunnison Sage Grouse	Brought forward limited management for Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat. Includes NSO stipulation for occupied critical habitat.
Delta County	Requested the North Delta OHV Open Play Area remain Open for economic reasons.	The PRMP includes the North Delta OHV Open Play Area as open to cross-country motorized uses.
Montrose County	Declared its position on managing the Camelback, Dry Creek, and Roc Creek areas to preserve wilderness characteristics.	No lands would be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics.
	Declared its position on potentially managing the Roubideau SRMA to preserve wilderness characteristics.	Roubideau SRMA provides motorized and mechanized opportunities in specific zones; not managed to preserve wilderness characteristics.
Ouray County	Supported CPW specified buffers, timing limitations, BMPs.	Revised stipulations to better match CPW policy and BLM CO Statewide Stipulations.
San Miguel County	Maintain San Miguel River Corridor SRMA to support large local demand for these types of services.	The PRMP includes the 29,530-acre San Miguel SRMA to preserve recreation opportunities.
	Supported expansion of the existing San Miguel River ACEC and its withdrawal from mineral entry.	San Miguel River ACEC carried forward in slightly reduced size; not recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry.



Schedule

Milestone	Target Date
DOI Review Team briefing and permission to publish	Mid-May
BLM and EPA publish NOAs in Federal Register	Late May
30-Day Public Protest Period/60-Day Governor's Consistency Review	June and July
Protest resolution; consistency review resolution	July; early August
ROD and NOA package to DOI Review Team	Mid-August
DOI Review Team approves ROD publication	Mid-August
Sign ROD	Mid-August



Questions/Comments?

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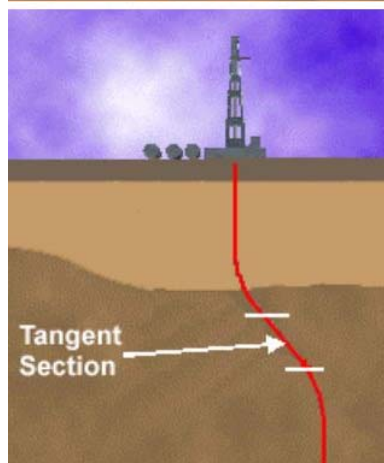
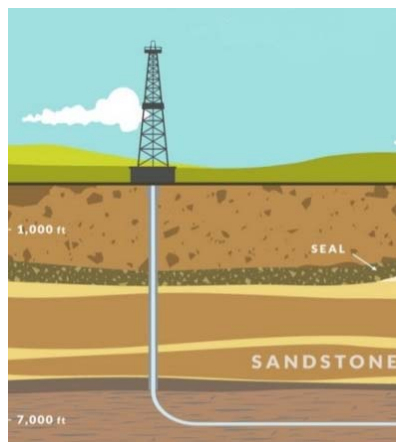


Fluid Mineral Leasing – Fluid Mineral Estate

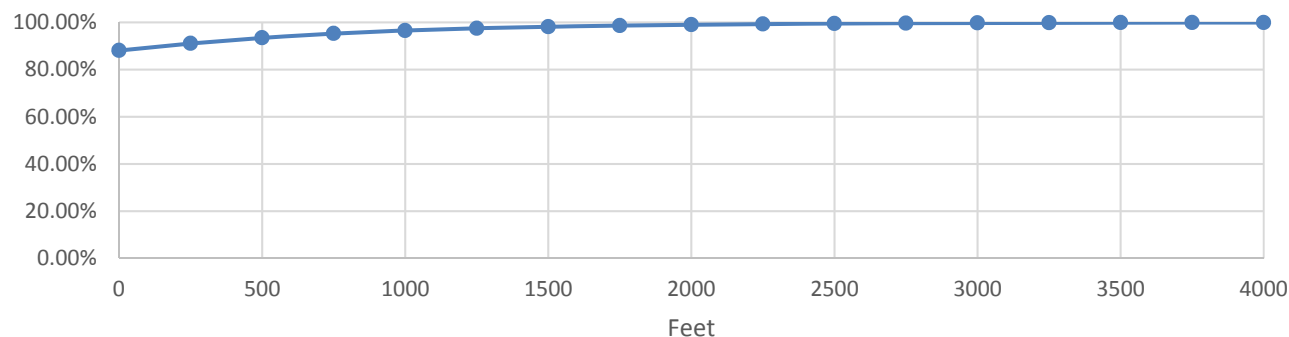
- All fluid minerals open to leasing, unless closed by law.
- Stipulations would provide access to all federal minerals with less than a 4,000 ft. directional reach.
- In high fluid mineral potential areas, 100% of federal minerals would be accessible with less than a 1,000 ft. reach.
- PRMP uses the least restrictive stipulations needed for resource protection.
 - Only 8% of high fluid mineral potential areas would be under an NSO.
 - Of that, ~40% is from source water protection areas, state wildlife areas (~20%) and raptors or ESA-listed species (~40%).
- General increase in stipulations reflective of new resource issues; would (i) allow orderly development, and (ii) streamline planning, authorizations, and leasing.
- Stipulations substantially reduced since Draft RMP; industry not a major commenter on the draft.
- CSU stipulations narrowly and specifically written:
 - not a blanket ability to relocate.
 - clear notice of resource constraints to avoid or mitigate.



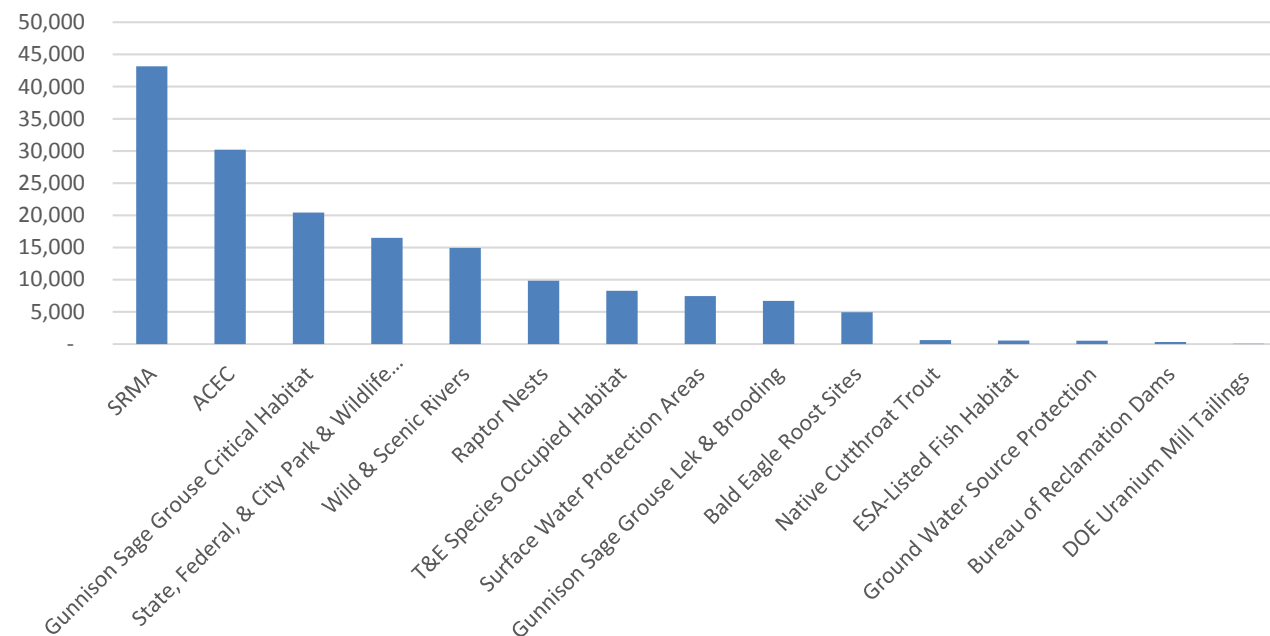
Fluid Mineral Leasing – Fluid Mineral Estate



Percent Fluid Minerals Accessible by Lateral Reach



NSO Acres by Resource





Fluid Mineral Leasing – Fluid Mineral Estate

	No Action Alternative A	DEIS Alternative B1 (N.F. Citizen)	DEIS Alternative C (Development)	DEIS Preferred Alternative D	Proposed Alternative E
<u>Land Status</u>	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)
	Decision Area for Fluid Minerals – 916,030 acres				
Closed to Leasing*	44,220 (5%)	306,670 (33%)	44,220 (5%)	50,060 (6%)	44,220 (5%)
Open for Leasing	871,810 (95%)	609,360 (67%)	871,810 (95%)	865,970 (94%)	871,810 (95%)
Open – NSO**	25,610 (3%)	404,690 (44%)	22,300 (2%)	238,140 (26%)	103,460 (11%)
Open – CSU**	119,860 (13%)	199,170 (22%)	457,120 (50%)	333,330 (36%)	386,320 (42%)
TL Only	400,040 (44%)	5,500 (<1%)	266,890 (29%)	294,500 (32%)	272,160 (30%)
Open – Standard Stipulations	326,300 (36%)	0	125,500 (14%)	0	109,360 (12%)

* Includes Wilderness Study Areas and Tabeguache (Wilderness) Area (44,220); **Most stringent stipulation

NSO:

- SRMAs (Dolores/San Miguel); ACECs; Gunnison Sage Grouse (GUSG) Critical Habitat; WSRs; State Parks, National Recreation Areas; raptor nests; ESA plant habitat; Source Water Protection Areas (surface); GUSG leks; Bald Eagle roosts; Green lineage trout streams; ESA-listed fish rivers; Source Water Protection Areas (ground); BOR withdrawals; uranium mill tailings

CSU:

- Slopes >30%; saline/selenium soils; SRMAs; Scenic Byways; bighorn habitat; domestic wells; GUSG leks; raptors; national trails; WSRs; GUSG critical habitat; coal leases; surface water protection areas; sensitive plants, yellow billed cuckoo; rivers, lynx habitat; state wildlife areas, streams, bat hibernacula, groundwater source protection areas.



Coal Mineral Leasing

- PRMP increases area available for coal leasing by 275,640 acres, or 189%, compared to existing plans.
- PRMP would continue a successful and collaborative coal program. Recently modified leases at the West Elk Mine to continue production for several more years.
- Proposal did not receive any industry opposition. It places no limitations on areas with developments or meaningful development potential.





Coal Mineral Leasing

	No Action Alternative A	DEIS Alternative B	DEIS Alternative C	DEIS Preferred Alternative D	Proposed Alternative E
<u>Resource Status</u>	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)
Coal Resource Development Potential Area	145,860	421,500	421,500	421,500	421,500
Congressionally Closed	1,910 (<1%) *	1,910 (<1%)	1,910 (<1%)	1,910 (<1%)	1,910 (<1%)
Unsuitable	490 (<1%)	2,500 (<1%)	2,500 (<1%)	2,500 (<1%)	2,500 (<1%)
Unacceptable	0 (0%)	96,650 (23%)	11,860 (3%)	45,690 (11%)	44,570 (10%)
Acceptable	144,790 (99%)	320,440 (76%)	405,230 (96%)	371,400 (88%)	371,250 (88%)
* Includes new coal development potential area in Tabeguache Area					

- Moderate to high coal mineral potential in the UFO is limited. The PRMP keeps these limited areas open to leasing to support American energy independence and jobs in the local communities.



Uranium and Other Locatable Minerals

	No Action Alternative A	DEIS Alternative B	DEIS Alternative C	DEIS Preferred Alternative D	Proposed Alternative E
<u>Resource Status</u>	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)
Currently withdrawn	28,060 (3%)	28,060 (3%)	28,060 (3%)	28,060 (3%)	28,060 (3%)
Recommended for Withdrawal	27,690 (3%)	387,270 (43%)	11,250 (1%)	55,880 (6%)	15,790 (2%)
Open for Location	840,440 (94%)	496,410 (55%)	856,880 (96%)	812,250 (91%)	853,460 (95%)

- Increased lands open for locatable minerals such as Uranium and precious metals by reducing the lands recommended to the Secretary for withdrawal by 60 percent compared to Alt D.
- This increase supports the Administration's priorities for energy independence and job creation.

Refer to Map 4



Recreation

The UFO PRMP:

- Carries forward OHV Open Play Area, avoiding concentrations of ESA-threatened Colorado Hookless Cactus
- Identifies eight Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and three Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs)
- Greatly increases access for OHVs, fishing, rafting, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, rock crawling, mountain biking, etc.
- Promotes development of:
 - up to 280 miles of new trails,
 - campgrounds/campsites,
 - event staging areas,
 - parking lots,
 - horse and ATV ramps,
 - boat ramps,
 - informational kiosks,
 - commercial operations, and/or events.





Recreation

	No Action Alternative A	DEIS Alternative B	DEIS Alternative C	DEIS Preferred Alternative D	Proposed Alternative E
<u>Land Status</u>	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)
SRMA	49,320 (7%)	246,760 (37%)	0	124,400 (18%)	122,130 (18%)
ERMA	0	0	215,880 (32%)	73,310 (11%)	64,790 (10%)
Total	49,320	246,760	215,880	197,710	186,920
OHV Open Play Area	8,560	0	16,070	0	3,950

- Included the OHV Open Play Area in North Delta to address public comments and Delta and Montrose county support for keeping area open to OHV use; benefits local economies.
- Maintained large portion of OHV Open Play Area focused on areas of highest use, despite populations of ESA-listed Hookless Cactus in this area.
- Manages the North Delta OHV Open Play Area as an SRMA to highlight OHV use and provide enhanced access and infrastructure.
- PRMP does not otherwise change travel management in the planning area.



Livestock Grazing

	No Action Alternative A	DEIS Alternative B	DEIS Alternative C	DEIS Preferred Alternative D	Proposed Alternative E
<u>Land Status</u>	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)
Available for Grazing	619,500 (92%)	517,670 (77%)	653,270 (97%)	617,050 (91%)	616,640 (91%)
Unavailable for Grazing	56,300 (8%)	158,130 (23%)	22,530 (3%)	58,750 (9%)	59,160 (9%)
Closed to Livestock Trailing	2,680 (0.4%)	2,680 (0.4%)	0	0	0
AUMS	35,520	28,958	36,950	35,558	35,520

- PRMP increases access by opening 2,680 acres of currently closed lands to livestock trailing in the Camel Back WSA.
- Carries forward **99.5%** of currently grazed lands for continued use and has no change in AUMs.
 - 610 acres in the proposed Fairview ACEC, home to one of the largest populations of federally endangered clay-loving buckwheat, and 2,250 acres in the proposed North Delta OHV Open Play Area would be closed to grazing. These have no AUMs available.



Rights of Way (ROW) and Utility Corridors

- PRMP reduces ROW exclusion areas by 32,040 acres (38%) relative to the No Action Alternative, greatly reducing regulatory burden.
- PRMP identifies limited ROW avoidance areas to facilitate development of proposals, minimize unexpected issues during NEPA/coordination/authorization, and streamline overall “planning to production” process.
- Exceptions to ROW exclusion areas include the West-wide Energy Corridor, 100-feet from county roads and highways, reasonable access for private in-holdings, and valid existing rights.





Rights of Way (ROW) and Utility Corridors

	No Action Alternative A	DEIS Alternative B	DEIS Alternative C	DEIS Preferred Alternative D	Proposed Alternative E
Status	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)
Utility Corridors	26,880 (4%)	64,180 (9%)	26,880 (4%)	64,180 (9%)	64,180 (9%)
ROW Exclusion	85,080 (13%)	431,040 (64%)	44,550 (7%)	53,700 (8%)	53,040 (8%)
ROW Avoidance	22,780 (3%)	195,460 (29%)	210,390 (31%)	276,500 (41%)	66,030 (10%)

Exclusion:

- WSAs, “Wild” WSRs, Wilderness, Gunnison Sage Grouse leks, some ACECs

Avoidance:

- SRMAs; some ACECs; ESA plants; rivers; surface water source areas; streams; national trails; Gunnison Sage Grouse leks and critical habitat; “scenic and recreational” WSRs.



Special Designations

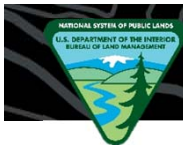
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern:

- Net change of 190 acres (0.6%) relative to No Action Alternative; major area of change relative to the published draft.
- ACECs are sized to only cover their Relevant and Important Values.
- Reduced size of existing ACECs; two new ACECs managed for rock art, biological soil crust assemblage, and an expanded existing ACEC for ESA-listed plant species.

Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Suitability recommendations are the outcome of a robust stakeholder process.
- Met with Montrose County and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the parties with the most questions about WSRs, and both are comfortable with the recommendations of the PRMP.





Special Designations

	No Action Alternative A	DEIS Alternative B	DEIS Alternative C	DEIS Preferred Alternative D	Proposed Alternative E
Special Designation	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)
ACEC	30,000 (4%)	215,940 (32%)	29,440 (4%)	51,320 (8%)	30,190 (4%)
Wild & Scenic Rivers	29 Eligible Segments (154 miles)				
	0	16 Suitable Segments (105 miles)			

- 289,960 acres found to have Relevant and Important Values – 30,190 acres brought forward to the PRMP:
 - **Adobe Badlands** (6,370 acres) – Existing ACEC within a WSA and important hookless cactus refuge to promote its delisting and allow for North Delta OHV Open Play Area.
 - **Biological Soil Crust** [new – (390 acres)] - Extremely unique assemblage with limited resource development conflicts.
 - **Fairview South** (610 acres) - Existing ACEC managed to protect endangered plant habitat.
 - **Needle Rock** (80 acres) - Existing ACEC managed to protect a unique volcanic formation with high-value scientific, scenic, and interpretive characteristics.
 - **Paradox Rock Art** [new – (1,080 acres)] - Regionally important to consulting Tribes.
 - **San Miguel River** (21,660 acres) - Existing ACEC supported by San Miguel County; important to tourism economy.



Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

	No Action Alternative A	DEIS Alternative B	DEIS Alternative C	DEIS Preferred Alternative D	Proposed Alternative E
<u>Land Status</u>	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)	Acres (percent)
Managed to preserve wilderness characteristics	0 (0%)	42,150 (6%)	0	18,320 (3%)	0 (0%)
Managed for multiple uses, reducing impacts to wilderness characteristics	0	0	0	0	18,320 (3%)
Managed to prioritize other multiple uses	42,150 (6%)	0	42,150 (6%)	23,830 (4%)	23,830 (3%)

- None of the inventoried units would be managed to preserve their wilderness characteristics.
- 18,320 acres would be managed for other multiple uses, with impacts to wilderness characteristics minimized as feasible (CSU, ROW avoidance, and design features).
- 23,830 acres would prioritize other multiple uses over wilderness characteristics.
- Minimizing impacts to wilderness characteristics, where it can be accomplished in a multiple-use framework, may benefit other associated values, like wildlife, hunting, and recreation.