

managed as San Juan Extensive Recreation Management Area (RMA). An SRMA serves as the basis for preparation of an activity plan; activity plans are not projected for the extensive RMA. Additional SRMAs may be identified without a plan amendment in response to future use demands.

Dispersed recreation use would be allowed throughout SJRA, with permits required for commercial use. Permits are also required for private use in San Juan River SRMA. If demand increases, BLM may require permits for use in other areas where needed to protect resource values; this would not require a plan amendment. SJRA would continue to manage recreation use of the San Juan River in conjunction with NPS under the memorandum of understanding that existed prior to the RMP.

ORV use designations developed in the RMP would be made following completion of an ORV implementation plan and would become effective following publication in the Federal Register. The ORV designations do not distinguish between recreational and nonrecreational use; ORV use in an area designated closed or limited may be allowed under an authorized permit. ORV designations do not apply to federal, state, or county roads or to private or state inholdings and can be changed only through a plan amendment.

ROS classes have been identified based on inventory work in SJRA. Classes are based on five setting factors, which are reviewed periodically; a change in condition of the setting factors in any area could bring about a change in ROS class. RMP special conditions developed to preserve and protect ROS P- and SPNM-class areas reflect the attributes present when the RMP was prepared; these special conditions may be changed only through a plan amendment.

Portions of the San Juan and Colorado Rivers and the White Canyon drainage are listed as potential wild and scenic study segments under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended. BLM has examined these study segments (appendix DD in the September 1987 proposed RMP) to determine

their eligibility for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system and to determine their potential classification as wild, scenic, recreational, or a combination thereof.

Interim management of these three river segments under RMP special conditions will serve to protect the identified values until Congress acts to accept or reject the segment. (See Chapter 3 - Special Management Conditions for more detail). Any proposal for use of a study segment would require site-specific NEPA documentation, which would take these values into account and provide mitigation for any potentially adverse impacts.

The three river segments identified above were the only rivers considered in the RMP process for eligibility as wild and scenic rivers. This conformed with BLM policy at that time to consider only those rivers identified in the 1982 Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Additional planning will be needed to evaluate other rivers for eligibility under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Suitability for designation as a wild and scenic river will be determined in a future plan amendment for the three original river segments as well as any additional rivers determined to be eligible.

DECISIONS

1. Designate Dark Canyon (62,040 acres) as an ACEC and manage in accordance with special conditions in Chapter 3. Prepare a management plan for this area within two years of approval of the RMP.
2. Identify three SRMAs upon approval of the RMP and manage to preserve ROS P-class and protect ROS SPNM-class areas as listed below. Special conditions for management of these ROS classes are found in Chapter 3. Prepare management plans for these areas as prioritized below (one plan per fiscal year).

6. Analyze all other rivers in the resource area as to eligibility and classification for wild and scenic river designation within 5 years of approval of the RMP.

SUPPORT

Support would be needed from the Division of Operations and a landscape architect for recreation site design, construction, contract supervision and maintenance.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

Visual resource management (VRM) class areas have been identified based on inventory work in SJRA. Classes are based on visual resource conditions such as scenic quality, distance zones, and sensitivity levels. These are reviewed periodically; a change in conditions could result in a change in VRM class. The RMP special conditions developed to protect visual resources through application of a specific VRM class may be changed only through a plan amendment.

VRM classes give management objectives to be applied to actions taking place on public lands. Land use proposals are reviewed individually to determine whether visual impacts can be adequately mitigated to meet the objective of the existing VRM class.

DECISION

1. Designate four ACECs as shown below and manage in accordance with special conditions in Chapter 3. Prepare management plans for these areas as prioritized below (one plan per fiscal year).

	<u>Acres</u>
Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC	78,390
Cedar Mesa ACEC	323,760
Indian Creek ACEC	13,100
Butler Wash ACEC	13,870
Total	407,740

NOTE: Acres are not additive because of overlap, which is accounted for in total.

SUPPORT

None.

SOIL, WATER AND AIR MANAGEMENT

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

BLM would manage actions on the public lands to protect the soil resource. Additionally, BLM would manage the soil resource to maintain or increase soil productivity as needed. Public lands would be managed in accordance with laws, executive orders, and regulations on floodplain and wetland areas to reduce resource loss from floods and erosion. BLM would determine the existence of prime and unique farmlands prior to approval of any actions.

BLM would maintain the soil data base by updating range site descriptions from information collected through range monitoring and other specific studies. Information is shared with Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

Watershed control structures in place prior to the RMP would be maintained. Additional structures may be installed if needed, subject to conditions developed in the RMP.

BLM would maintain the water quality data base. Water quality data have been entered in the USGS STORET computer program and would be maintained. BLM would maintain water rights files and data entry on the statewide computer system. USGS stream gauging stations would be accommodated. BLM would take appropriate actions to maintain water quality in streams within SJRA to meet state and federal water quality standards, including designated beneficial uses and antidegradation requirements.

BLM would manage actions on public lands to meet air quality standards prescribed by federal, state, and local laws. BLM would protect existing air quality when feasible.

To maintain scenic quality, surface disturbance would be limited to that for which revegetation could be successfully established within 1 year after project completion. Revegetation would be deemed successful when seedlings are established and tending toward the density that existed before the surface was disturbed. All revegetation must be with native species naturally occurring in the vicinity. Butler Wash ACEC would be:

- open for mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy (Category 3); however, the area manager would grant an exception to the no surface occupancy stipulation in the event it is determined, through an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary, with the adoption and use of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area.
- available for geophysical work;
- closed to disposal of mineral materials;
- open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry;
- excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires;
- available for livestock use;
- designated as closed to ORV use;
- managed to limit recreation use if scenic values are being damaged;
- managed as VRM class I, with projects that meet these visual quality standards allowed; and
- subject to conditional fire suppression, with motorized suppression methods used only if necessary to protect life or property.

CEDAR MESA

Cedar Mesa ACEC (323,760 acres), which covers the area between Grand Gulch and Comb Wash, contains Grand Gulch Archaeologic District and Grand Gulch Primitive Area and falls within Grand Gulch Plateau SRMA. It includes two special emphasis areas: Grand Gulch (49,130 acres) and Valley of the Gods (36,800 acres).

The Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC (designated under program 4333) overlaps 21,380 acres; in this area, the special conditions developed for Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC take precedence.

Where riparian areas overlap Cedar Mesa ACEC, the special conditions for floodplains and riparian/aquatic areas take precedence.

The ACEC contains both ROS classes P and SPNM. The following special conditions, which take precedence, are in addition to the ROS special conditions.

The ACEC would be designated jointly under programs 4331, Cultural Resource Management and 4333, Recreation/Visual Resource Management. It would be managed to protect cultural resources, scenic values, and natural values associated with primitive recreation. Cultural resources would be managed for information potential, public values, and conservation.

Activities within the ACEC would be approved only with special conditions to protect cultural and visual resources and primitive recreation opportunities. Areas identified as ROS class P would be managed to maintain that class.

Measures that limit surface disturbance serve cultural resource objectives by reducing direct and indirect impacts. Cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be surrounded by an avoidance area sufficient to allow permanent protection. If cultural resources or their avoidance areas cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation would be applied; such measures range from limited testing to extensive excavation. In any given

case, mitigation would be designed to fit the specific circumstances and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The CRMP developed for the ACEC would guide site protection, data recovery, and all other necessary cultural resource management activities.

Revegetation efforts for surface disturbance must be successfully established within 5 years after project completion. Revegetation would be deemed successful when seedlings are established and tending toward the density that existed before the surface was disturbed.

The Grand Gulch special emphasis area and ROS P-class areas within the ACEC would be managed to provide primitive recreation opportunities. The Valley of the Gods special emphasis area would be managed to maintain scenic quality. The Grand Gulch special emphasis area and ROS P-class areas would be protected from surface disturbance to the maximum extent possible. In the Valley of the Gods, surface disturbance would be managed to be compatible with VRM Class I criteria. Surface disturbance in these special emphasis areas would be limited to that for which revegetation could be successfully established within 1 year after project completion. Revegetation would be deemed successful when seedlings are established and tending toward the density that existed before the surface was disturbed. Revegetation in these special areas must be with native species naturally occurring in the vicinity.

Cedar Mesa ACEC would be:

- open for mineral leasing (Category 1) and geophysical work;
- available for disposal of mineral materials;
- open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations;
- retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry;

- available for private and commercial use of woodland products in designated areas, except that onsite collection of dead fuelwood for campfires would be allowed throughout the area;
- available for livestock use;
- available for land treatments or other range improvements;
- available for wildlife habitat improvements;
- designated as limited for ORV use, with use limited to designated roads and trails; and
- subject to conditional fire suppression.

The Grand Gulch special emphasis area and the ROS P-class areas within the ACEC would be:

- closed to mineral leasing in Grand Gulch special emphasis area (Category 4); and open to leasing with no surface occupancy (Category 3) in ROS P- Class areas;
- available for geophysical work except Grand Gulch Special emphasis area;
- closed to disposal of mineral materials;
- retained in public ownership and classified as segregated from entry (a Secretarial withdrawal would be requested);
- excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires;
- available for livestock use, except Grand Gulch itself, below Kane Gulch fence to the confluence with the San Juan River, 11,200 acres;
- designated as closed to ORV use;
- managed to limit recreation use if cultural resources or scenic values are being damaged;
- managed as VRM class I;

Surface disturbance would be limited to that for which revegetation could be successfully established within 5 years after project completion. Revegetation would be deemed successful when seedlings are established and tending toward the density that existed before the surface was disturbed. All revegetation must be with native species naturally occurring on the mesa top.

Lavender Mesa ACEC would be:

- open for mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy of the mesa top (Category 3);
- available for geophysical work;
- closed to disposal of mineral materials;
- open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations, subject to stipulations precluding surface use of the mesa top insofar as possible;
- retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry;
- excluded from private or commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires;
- excluded from livestock grazing, including grazing by saddle stock and pack animals allowed for access;
- excluded from land treatments or other improvements, except for test plots and facilities necessary for study of relict plant communities;
- excluded from wildlife habitat improvements;
- excluded from watershed control structures;
- designated as closed to ORV use;
- managed to limit recreation use if cultural resources or scenic values are being damaged;

- subject to conditional fire suppression; and
- excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment, except helicopter access for scientific study and heliportable equipment, insofar as possible.

SCENIC HIGHWAY CORRIDOR

Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC (78,390 acres) covers a visual zone along Highways U-95, U-261, and U-276 (formerly U-263), and part of the White Canyon viewshed. With the exception of the White Canyon viewshed, the corridor is approximately 1 mile wide. In the White Canyon viewshed (U-95 west from U-276), the south boundary of the corridor is the toe of the slope of Fry Point and Wingate Mesa. The north boundary is generally the toe of the slopes of the mesas north of White Canyon unless drawn differently on the RMP map. This ACEC contains part of Butler Wash Archaeologic District (2,030 acres total) and crosses Cedar Mesa ACEC and Grand Gulch Plateau SRMA. Cedar Mesa ACEC overlaps 21,380 acres. Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC would be designated under program 4333, Recreation/Visual Resource Management and managed to maintain scenic quality as viewed from the highways in the corridor. The following special conditions, which take precedence, are in addition to other special conditions.

To maintain scenic quality, surface disturbance would be limited to that for which revegetation could be successfully established within 5 years after project completion. Revegetation would be deemed successful when seedlings are established and tending toward the density that existed before the surface was disturbed. All revegetation must be with native species naturally occurring in the area.

Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC would be:

- open for mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy (Category 3); however, the area manager would grant an exception to the no surface occupancy

stipulation in the event it is determined, through an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary, with the adoption and use of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area.

- available for geophysical work;
- open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations;
- available for disposal of mineral materials subject to visual quality considerations;
- retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated or withdrawn from entry;
- available for private and commercial use of woodland products in designated areas except that onsite collection of dead fuelwood for campfires would be allowed throughout the area;
- available for livestock use;
- designated as limited for ORV use, with use limited to existing roads and trails;
- managed to limit recreation use if scenic values are being damaged;
- managed as VRM class I, with projects that meet these visual quality standards allowed (those recreation development projects proposed in the 4333 section of this plan would not have to meet the VRM class standards); and
- subject to conditional fire suppression.

SHAY CANYON

Shay Canyon ACEC (1,770 acres), which includes two branches of the Indian Creek drainage, would be designated under program 4331, Cultural Resource Management, and managed for conservation and public values. The following

special conditions are intended to protect cultural resources and aquatic habitat and would apply to actions within Shay Canyon ACEC. Shay Canyon ACEC contains a special emphasis area along Indian Creek (200 acres). Where riparian areas overlap part of Shay Canyon ACEC, the special conditions for floodplains and riparian/aquatic areas take precedence.

Measures that limit surface disturbance serve cultural resource objectives by reducing direct and indirect impacts. Within Shay Canyon ACEC, cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be surrounded by a buffer sufficient to allow permanent protection. If cultural resources or their buffers cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation would be applied; such measures range from limited testing to extensive excavation.

In any given situation, mitigation would be designed to fit the specific circumstances and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The CRMP developed for the ACEC would guide site protection, data recovery, and all other necessary cultural resource management activities.

Revegetation efforts for surface disturbance must be successfully established within 5 years after project completion. Revegetation would be deemed successful when seedlings are established and tending toward the density that existed before the surface was disturbed.

The upper Indian Creek special emphasis area (200 acres) would be managed to enhance riparian/aquatic habitat. The special emphasis area would be a corridor averaging 275 feet wide centered on Indian Creek.

Shay Canyon ACEC would be:

- open for mineral leasing (Category 1) and geophysical work;
- available for disposal of mineral materials;