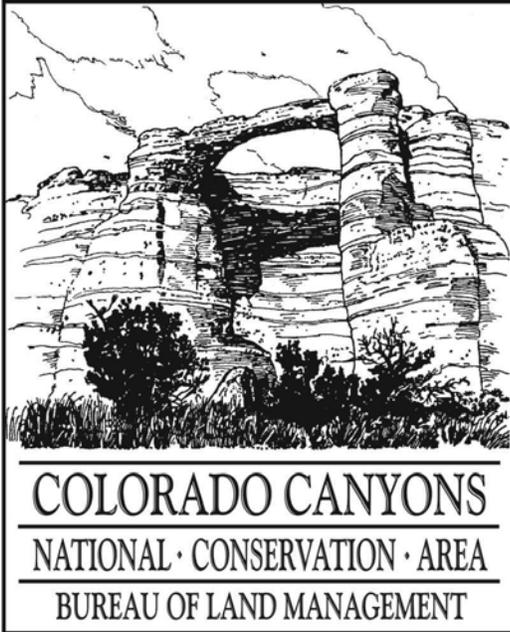


APPENDIX 5

Changes from Draft Resource Management Plan to Proposed Resource Management Plan



**COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement**

CHANGES TO DRAFT RMP

5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the changes made to the Draft Colorado Canyons Resource Management Plan (CCNCA RMP). Table A-5-1 shows the changes made to the format of the overall document between versions. While the Draft RMP contained a description and analysis of management alternatives, the Proposed RMP includes a detailed description of only the preferred alternative that now serves as the proposed RMP for the CCCNA. In addition the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), that was integrated into the DRMP, has been finalized in this version and only a summary of potential impacts of the alternatives, previously analyzed but not chosen as the preferred alternative, appears in this edition (page A-5-9), along with the detailed impact analysis for the preferred alternative (Chapter 4).

Figure A-5-1

Chapter or Appendix	Draft RMP	Proposed RMP
Chapter 1	Purpose and Need for Planning	Purpose and Need for Planning
Chapter 2	Alternatives	The CCNCA Proposed Resource Management Plan
Chapter 3	Affected Environment	Affected Environment
Chapter 4	Environmental Consequences	Environmental Consequences
Chapter 5	Consultation and Coordination	Consultation and Coordination
Chapter 6	References, Glossary and Acronyms	Public Comments
Chapter 7	(none)	References, Glossary and Acronyms
Appendix 1	Land Health Assessment	Land Health Assessment
Appendix 2	Notice Of Intent	The Colorado Canyons National Conservation and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act of 2000
Appendix 3	Advertisements and Announcements	Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Management Plan

Appendix 4	Wilderness	Recreation Management - Benefits Based Management - Resource Setting Worksheets - Standard Operating Procedures
Appendix 5	Planning Tools for Recreation	Summary of Changes
Appendix 6	Implementation and Monitoring	Coordination with the Colorado National Monument
Appendix 7	Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Plan	- Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Plan - Pinyon Mesa Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy
Appendix 8	Desired Plant Community	Desired Plant Community
Appendix 9	Known Cultural Resources	Known Cultural Resources

The changes made to the DRMP fall into three categories:

1. Changes based on public comments;
2. Changes based on internal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) input;
3. Changes based on new policy and/or guidance.

Changes Based On Public Comments

Chapter 6 details the public comments and the BLM responses to those comments. Additional detail on minor changes to the Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) that were made based on response to public comment can also be found in Table 6-5, Responses to Comments.

Language in the proposed CCNCA RMP has been changed to recognize opportunities for the BLM and other appropriate agencies, including Colorado State Parks, to work together on management issues. An example of this would be when concerns over resource damage and visitor satisfaction require modification of management for meeting travel objectives on the river.

Language, that more accurately reflects collaboration with the National Park Service at the Colorado National Monument and the City of Fruita, was added in various places including vegetation management, weed management, habitat management and recreation. Section 2.4.22 details partnership opportunities.

In section 2.4.15, Recreation Management, a narrative description was inserted describing implementation versus land use planning decisions. The distinction between these types of decisions is shown for the proposed recreation management actions.

The following clarification on proposed actions was included in the same section: “It is important to note that, for each of these proposed actions that follow, site-specific analysis would be necessary to determine if further analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is necessary for any on-the-ground activity prior to any irretrievable commitment of resources or ground disturbing activity.”

Maps in the RMP have been improved and include more information—for example the Kokopelli Mountain Bike Trail through Rabbit Valley is better identified, the Natural Resource settings for 10 unique zones identified in the recreation section of the RMP, and the proposed trails in all of the CCNCA are clearly marked as such.

The following language was added to the Special Status Species section 2.4.11:

Policies of a narrow tolerance for toxicants and pesticides, protection of peregrine eyries, and openness to restoring native species populations would be continued. Habitat improvements for special status species would be implemented and may include water developments, food and cover plot plantings, re-introductions, prairie dog den insecticide dusting, backwater development for native fish, and artificial dens (kit foxes, burrowing owls).

Historic and potential habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse will be managed to attract and support this species. A strategic plan for managing sage grouse will be drafted by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and the BLM as outlined in the conservation plan prepared by the Pinyon Mesa Gunnison Sage-grouse Working Group (Graham 2000). It will cover the public land on Pinyon Mesa, Glade Park and the CCNCA. This plan will incorporate guidance from the Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan (added at Appendix 7).

In response to recent activity regarding the potential listing of the Gunnison sage-grouse and the white tailed prairie dog we have enhanced the discussion of conservation strategies in the RMP including insertion of the following language at 3.13.1:

The Colorado State strategy for the white-tailed prairie dog, when it is developed, would include the CCNCA. Restoration of the black-footed ferret to the Cisco Desert may become a national objective and portions of

the CCNCA would likely be included. Habitat improvements for special status species would be implemented and may include water developments, food and cover plot plantings, re-introductions, prairie dog den insecticide dusting, backwater development for native fish, and artificial dens (kit foxes, burrowing owls).

Historic and potential habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse will be managed to attract and support this species. A strategic plan for managing sage grouse will be drafted by the CDOW and the BLM as outlined in the conservation plan prepared by the Pinyon Mesa Gunnison Sage-grouse Working Group (Graham 2000) and will include the recommendations of the Pinyon Mesa Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Plan (Appendix 7), as appropriate. It will cover the public land on Pinyon Mesa, Glade Park and the CCNCA. This plan will also incorporate guidance from the Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangeland Conservation Plan, once it is completed. Figure 3-12 shows the habitat where sage grouse habitat protection and enhancements would occur. Water development and forb inter-seeding (to expand the seasons of use by grouse), livestock management, raptor perch tree removal, hazardous fence removal, and decoys are some of the tools that are available to maintain sage grouse habitat.

We also added language to the description of existing environment to expand on potential Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in the CCNCA:

The Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (Dec. 1, 2003, Rocky Mountain Ecological Services, Inc., Redstone, Colo.) found that the understory on sagebrush lands averaged 1 to 3 percent in forb cover and 15 percent in grass cover. This accords with winter habitat and not nesting and chick rearing habitat. Whether livestock grazing or native site potential are responsible for the observed understory could not be determined. Only a small percent of the cover was cheatgrass, but prescribed fire, brush beating or chaining were considered high risk management activities for dramatically increasing cheatgrass. Being raptor perch sites, the low cliffs (slick rock) common around the sagebrush parks reduced the area considered optimum for wintering sage grouse. Sagebrush parks in 28 Hole and the Gore Parcel are large enough to attract sage grouse and now support other sagebrush obligate species. A few sage grouse were recorded in 2003 within a mile of the CCNCA with acceptable linking habitat between.

In section 2.4.2, Cultural Resources, the last paragraph was changed to:

Develop and implement a base-level proactive cultural resource program required under Section 110 of the NHPA. A reasonable amount of outreach/customer service work, Native American consultation,

interpretation and environmental education, cultural resource inventories, data recovery and recordation efforts, restoration and protection of "at-risk" site efforts, and systematic monitoring of cultural sites treatments are to be completed annually. The level of proactive cultural resource program work would be determined annually within constraints of available funds and staff *however, additional funding to conduct at least 500 acres of Class III inventory per year within the CCNCA will be pursued annually.*

Section 2.4.14 was changed from:

"The McDonald Creek Cultural Area is receiving considerable degradation from visitor use. This area is being removed from public use and placed in conservation for future use. The management goal is to study, rehabilitate and protect the rock art for long-term preservation."

to:

"The McDonald Creek Cultural Area is receiving considerable degradation from visitor use. This area is being studied for reclassification as an area for public use to being placed in conservation for future use. The management goal is to study, rehabilitate and protect the rock art for long-term preservation."

The Affected Environment (pp. 3-77) has been rewritten from:

"Public Use

No known sites were allocated to this use category. These sites are found to be appropriate for use as interpretive sites, or for related educational and recreational uses by the public. The McDonald Creek area, which is currently used for public interpretation, will be placed in the conservation for future use category. The rock art sites in this area are receiving considerable degradation and damage, and need additional protection and rehabilitation until specified protective provisions are met in the future."

to:

"Public Use

These sites are found to be appropriate for use as interpretive sites, or for related educational and recreational uses by the public. The McDonald Creek area, which is currently used for public interpretation, will be considered for placement in the conservation for future use category. Public interpretation in this area will be limited to general cultural education and the experience will focus on self-discovery. The rock art sites in this area are receiving considerable degradation and damage, and may need additional protection and rehabilitation until specified protective provisions are met in the future."

Changes Based on Internal BLM Input

The most significant change from the DRMP is the recreation management section in Chapter 2. The decisions detailed in the DRMP Recreation Management section in Chapter 2 for Alternative 3 make up the Recreation Management section in the PRMP. The format is different, but the actions appearing in the PRMP are largely unchanged from the DRMP. A discussion on Benefits Based Management and the Recreation Management Zone tables have been added. Section 2.4.17 – The Recreation Permit Program – has been added.

The following language has been added to section 2.4.25.1: “It is important to note that, for each of these proposed actions that follow, site-specific analysis would be necessary to determine if further analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is necessary for any on-the-ground activity prior to any irretrievable commitment of resources or ground disturbing activity.”

Actions that have changed and differ from the DRMP in Recreation Management:

1. The gate proposed for the Lions Loop Trail in Mack Ridge would be moved from near the Colorado River back to the nearest trail junction (Figure 2-1).
2. Trail D will be “considered” if future analysis dictates it is viable.
3. Trail proposal #20 in Rabbit Valley (Figure 2-2) has been removed due to legal considerations involving nearby private land.
4. Proposal #18 has been modified – rather than identifying a trail spur off existing Trail #8, the following language has been inserted: “If feasible, a river access point would be provided for motorized use, however, a ¼-mile river buffer would be maintained and prevent vehicle access along the shore vicinity.”
5. The upper access road to the Rattlesnake Arches trailhead will open, weather permitting, on Easter weekend, rather than April 15th.
6. The Pollock Canyon, Devils Canyon and Kodel’s Canyon trail system, including trailheads, would be designated for day-use only with fires, camping and nighttime use prohibited from the CCNCA boundary to the Wilderness boundary.
7. A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.

The discussion on socioeconomic resources has been enhanced in Chapters 3 and 4. The discussions on Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice have been completely replaced at section 3.22. The impacts on

Socioeconomics at section 4.12 have also been replaced. New information from studies completed for the BLM by the US Geologic Survey, from CDOW, and improved visitation numbers have improved the analysis of socioeconomic resources.

Changes Based on New Policy/Guidance

The Recreation Permit Program at section 2.4.17 is new and reflects new BLM guidance on recreation.

A discussion on Managing for Beneficial Outcomes has been added in Appendix 4, along with worksheets used to map natural resource setting for physical, social and administrative settings.

The Piñon Mesa Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy has been added in Appendix 7.

6.2 Changes to the Environmental Consequences Discussion

The draft Environmental Impact Statement that was integrated into the DRMP has been finalized in this version and only a summary of potential impacts of the alternatives, previously analyzed but not chosen as the preferred alternative, appears in this edition (Table A-5-2).

None of the alternatives identified in the Draft RMP were determined to have the potential to result in significant adverse impacts or cause irretrievable damage to the resource. Resource management in Alternative 1 would not change from current policy. Alternative 2 offers the greatest potential for impacts to the human environment by providing for increased and enhanced recreational opportunities and user facilities. Alternative 4 would have the least potential for environmental impacts because it proposes fewer surface-disturbing activities. Alternative 3 tends to provide a mix of impacts within the range of those found in Alternatives 2 and 4. However, none of the actions proposed in Alternatives 2, 3 or 4 would be considered significant in context or intensity and none of the alternatives would require any mitigation efforts to reduce impact to an insignificant level. Taking no action would restrict and potentially prohibit the BLM from implementing management measures necessary for not only protecting the resource but also meeting the demands of increased recreation.

Resource or Resource Use	Alternative 1 (No Action)																								
	Impacts From																								
	Lands	ROW	Access/ Transport'n	Geology/ Topo	Soils	Minerals/ Energy	Water Resources	Climate/Air Quality	Noise	Vegetation	Riparian	Weed Managem't	Forestry	Wildlife/Fish	SSS	Rangeland	Cultural Resources	Paleo Resources	Recreation	Visual Resources	SMA	Fire	HazMat	SocioEcon	Law Enforcement
Special Status Species (SSS)						Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+		Y+	Y+	Y+			Y						
Rangeland	Y+				Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+		Y+		Y	Y		Y			Y+			
Cultural Resources	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Paleontological Resources					Y	Y+				Y								Y	Y			Y			
Recreation	Y+		Y	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y						
Visual Resources																									
Special Management Areas (SMA)																									
Fire Management																									
Hazardous Materials																									
Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice																		Y+							
Law Enforcement and Public Safety																									

Impacts On

Y = Impact
 (+) = Beneficial Impact
 (-) = Major Negative Impact

Resource or Resource Use	Alternative 2 (Recreation Emphasis)																								
	Impacts From																								
	Lands	ROW	Access/ Transport'n	Geology/ Topo	Soils	Minerals/ Energy	Water Resources	Climate/Air Quality	Noise	Vegetation	Riparian	Weed Managem't	Forestry	Wildlife/Fish	SSS	Rangeland	Cultural Resources	Paleo Resources	Recreation	Visual Resources	SMA	Fire	HazMat	SocioEcon	Law Enforcement
Lands			Y									Y				Y			Y	Y					
Rights-of-Way (ROW)																	Y								
Access and Transportation						See "Recreation"																			
Geology and Topography																									
Soils																			Y						
Minerals and Energy Resources																									
Water Resources	Y+				Y+	Y+				Y+	Y+	Y+				Y+						Y			
Climate and Air Quality										Y+															
Noise																									
Vegetation	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y		Y			Y			
Vegetation-Riparian	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+	Y	Y+	Y+		Y+					Y			
Vegetation-Weed Management	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+		Y+				Y		Y			Y			
Forestry													Y+						Y			Y			

Impacts On

Y = Impact
 (+) = Beneficial Impact
 (-) = Major Negative Impact

Resource or Resource Use	Alternative 2 (Recreation Emphasis)																							
	Impacts From																							
	Lands	ROW	Access/ Transport'n	Geology/ Topo	Soils	Minerals/ Energy	Water Resources	Climater/Air Quality	Noise	Vegetation	Riparian	Weed Managem't	Forestry	Wildlife/Fish	SSS	Rangeland	Cultural Resources	Paleo Resources	Recreation Resources	SMA	Fire	HazMat	SocioEcon	Law Enforcement
Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Species	Y+	Y+								Y+	Y+	Y+		Y+	Y+	Y+			Y					
Special Status Species (SSS)	Y+	Y+								Y+	Y+	Y+		Y+	Y+	Y+			Y					
Rangeland	Y+				Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+		Y+		Y	Y		Y			Y+		
Cultural Resources	Y	Y	Y-		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Paleontological Resources					Y	Y+				Y								Y	Y			Y		
Recreation	Y+		Y	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y+					
Visual Resources																								
Special Management Areas (SMA)																								
Fire Management																								
Hazardous Materials																								
Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice																	Y+							

Impacts On

Y = Impact
 (+) = Beneficial Impact
 (-) = Major Negative Impact

Resource or Resource Use	Alternative 3 (Adaptive Management)																								
	Impacts From																								
	Lands	ROW	Access/ Transportation	Geology/ Topo	Soils	Minerals/ Energy	Water Resources	Climate/Air Quality	Noise	Vegetation	Riparian	Weed Managem't	Forestry	Wildlife/Fish	SSS	Rangeland	Cultural Resources	Paleo Resources	Recreation	Visual Resources	SMA	Fire	HazMat	SocioEcon	Law Enforcement
Lands			Y									Y				Y			Y	Y					
Rights-of-Way (ROW)																	Y								
Access and Transportation										See "Recreation"															
Geology and Topography																									
Soils																									
Minerals and Energy Resources																									
Water Resources	Y+				Y+	Y+				Y+	Y+	Y+				Y+						Y			
Climate and Air Quality										Y+															
Noise																									
Vegetation	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y		Y			Y			
Vegetation-Riparian	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+	Y	Y+	Y+		Y+					Y			
Vegetation-Weed Management	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+		Y+				Y		Y			Y			
Forestry													Y+									Y			
Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Species	Y+	Y+								Y+	Y+	Y+		Y+	Y+	Y+			Y						

Y = Impact
 (+) = Beneficial Impact
 (-) = Major Negative Impact

Resource or Resource Use	Alternative 3 (Adaptive Management)																								
	Impacts From																								
	Lands	ROW	Access/ Transport'n	Geology/ Topo	Soils	Minerals/ Energy	Water Resources	Climate/Air Quality	Noise	Vegetation	Riparian	Weed Managem't	Forestry	Wildlife/Fish	SSS	Rangeland	Cultural Resources	Paleo Resources	Recreation	Visual Resources	SMA	Fire	HazMat	SocioEcon	Law Enforcement
Special Status Species (SSS)	Y+	Y+								Y+	Y+	Y+		Y+	Y+	Y+			Y						
Rangeland	Y+				Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+		Y+		Y	Y		Y			Y+			
Cultural Resources	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Paleontological Resources					Y	Y+				Y								Y	Y			Y			
Recreation	Y+		Y	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
Visual Resources																									
Special Management Areas (SMA)																									
Fire Management																									
Hazardous Materials																									
Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice																	Y+								
Law Enforcement and Public Safety																									

Impacts On

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Alternative 4 (Conservation Emphasis)

Resource or Resource Use	Impacts From																									
	Lands	ROW	Access/Transport'n	Geology/Topo	Soils	Minerals/Energy	Water Resources	Climate/Air Quality	Noise	Vegetation	Riparian	Weed Management	Forestry	Wildlife/Fish	SSS	Rangeland	Cultural Resources	Paleo Resources	Recreation	Visual Resources	SMA	Fire	HazMat	SocioEcon	Law Enforcement	
Lands			Y									Y				Y			Y	Y						
Rights-of-Way (ROW)																	Y									
Access and Transport'n																										
Geology and Topography																										
Soils																										
Minerals and Energy Resources																										
Water Resources	Y+				Y+	Y+				Y+	Y+	Y+				Y+						Y				
Climate and Air Quality										Y+																
Noise																										
Vegetation	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y		Y			Y				
Vegetation-Riparian	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+	Y	Y+	Y+		Y+					Y				
Vegetation-Weed Management	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+		Y+				Y		Y+			Y				
Forestry																						Y				

Y = Impact
 (+) = Beneficial Impact
 (-) = Major Negative Impact

Resource or Resource Use	Alternative 4 (Conservation Emphasis)																								
	Impacts From																								
	Lands	ROW	Access/Transport'n	Geology/Topo	Soils	Minerals/Energy	Water Resources	Climate/Air Quality	Noise	Vegetation	Riparian	Weed Management	Forestry	Wildlife/Fish	SSS	Rangeland	Cultural Resources	Paleo Resources	Recreation	Visual Resources	SMA	Fire	HazMat	SocioEcon	Law Enforcement
Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Species	Y+	Y+				Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+		Y+	Y+	Y+									
Special Status Species (SSS)	Y+	Y+				Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+		Y+	Y+	Y+									
Rangeland	Y+				Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+		Y+		Y+		Y	Y					Y+			
Cultural Resources	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Paleontology Resources					Y	Y+				Y								Y	Y			Y			
Recreation	Y+		Y	Y+	Y+	Y+	Y+			Y+	Y+	Y+		Y	Y	Y+	Y	Y	Y						
Visual Resources																									
Special Management Areas (SMA)																									
Fire Management																									
Hazardous Materials																									

Impacts On

Y = Impact
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 (-) = Major Negative Impact

Resource or Resource Use	Alternative 4 (Conservation Emphasis)																									
	Impacts From																									
	Lands	ROW	Access/ Transport'n	Geology/ Topo	Soils	Minerals/ Energy	Water Resources	Climate/Air Quality	Noise	Vegetation	Riparian	Weed Managem't	Forestry	Wildlife/Fish	SSS	Rangeland	Cultural Resources	Paleo Resources	Recreation	Visual Resources	SMA	Fire	HazMat	SocioEcon	Law Enforcement	
SocioEcon Resources and Environmental Justice																	Y+									
Law Enforcement and Public Safety																										

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