

## SRMA (Special Recreation Management Area) Analysis

Moab BLM describes a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in the DEIS thusly:

Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) are proposed to manage intensively used recreation areas, and do not restrict other uses. Focus areas are Recreation Management Zones and are proposed in order to emphasize and provide particular types of recreation opportunities. In Alternative B, non-motorized recreation is emphasized; in Alternative D, motorized recreation is emphasized. Alternative C provides opportunities for both non-motorized and motorized recreation.

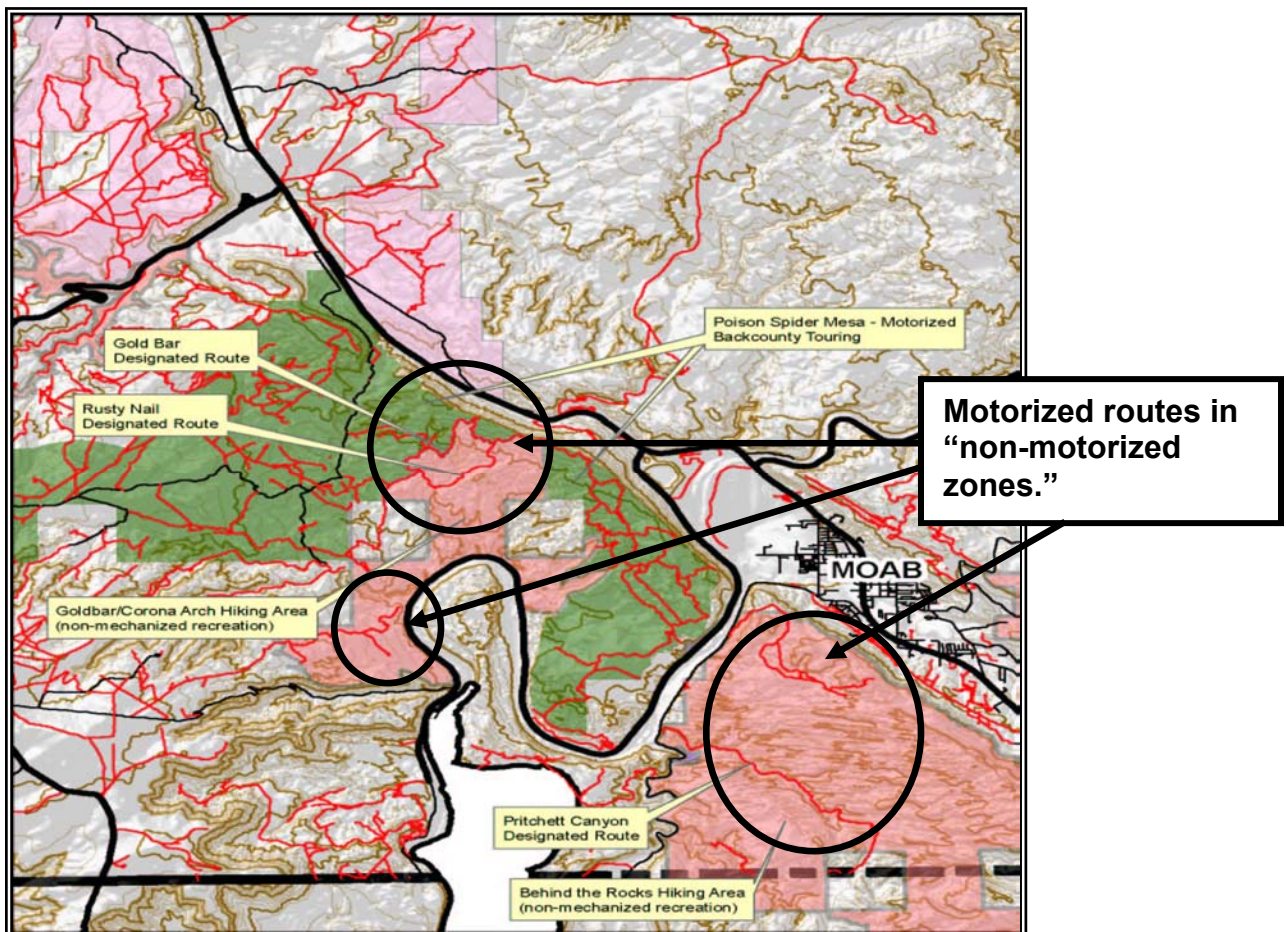
If a BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) could be compared to something similar to a county general plan, then a SRMA is like zoning. Just like a county plan, BLM's SRMA 'zones' guide future development. (The specific rules for each SRMA is given on pages 2-17 through 2-29 of [Chapter 2](#) as well as in [Appendix F](#). Check maps 2-8-A thru 2-8-D and 2-9B thru 2-9-D.

BLM's planning regulations direct BLM Field Offices to use the SRMA to guide recreation management in areas where recreation is the focus. Everything else is an ERMA. ERMA stands for Extensive Recreation Management Area. ERMAs allow only "custodial" management of recreation.

SRMA's management consists of Goals, three kinds of "Settings" and something called "Targeted Outcomes." Each of these management proscriptions overlap and are often inconsistent. In addition to all of the SRMA specific rules, the RMP also gives some common management rules for all SRMAs (see "management common to all on pages 2-17 and 2-18 of [Chapter 2](#)).

The Travel Plan is the final overlay and it represents a key flaw in the Moab BLM's Draft Plan. That's because the Travel Plan has motorized routes in non-motorized zones. (I guarantee you some SUWA lawyer is drooling over this!)

**Check this:**



The SRMA guidance contains very strict rules on camping and making it very easy for the BLM to move to "camping in designated areas only" policy. [Camping Detail Document](#)

## **Confused yet? *Just wait!***

The following types of Focus Areas are considered under the alternatives: Non-Mechanized Recreation, Mountain Bike Backcountry Touring, Motorized Backcountry Touring, Scenic Driving Corridors, Specialized Sport Venue Non-motorized, Specialized Sport Venue Motorized, and Managed Open OHV Area. (See Summary of SRMA-specific Management: [Appendix F](#))

Management Goals seem to be pretty straight forward and easy to understand. The Targeted Outcomes section might seem like a lot of meaningless goblety-gook, but they relate to the BLM's new "outcome based" planning (See the [BLM's Planning Handbook](#) for more info.)

Clearly, it is the Settings that are more likely to impact future site specific planning. Moab BLM's use of Settings is similar to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) paradigm of recreation management. ROS was developed years ago by the U.S. Forest Service. You probably remember the ROS proscriptions: Primitive (P), Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM), Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) and Rural.

In their planning regulations, BLM has settled on something similar. BLM's Settings include: Primitive (de-facto Wilderness), Back Country (no motorized, similar to SPNM), Middle Country (motorized, but less similar to the FS's Semi-Primitive Motorized, because BLM diminished the "semi-primitive" quality), Front Country (along heavily used roads and intensive camping areas) and Rural (developed).

It's important to understand that an ROS designation can take a number of forms. It can be an inventory, a general guideline, a hard and fast standard, a desired future condition or any one or a combination of all of the above.

Moab BLM managed to cover just about every base in that regard. They have formulated three different classifications of Settings:

Physical Setting: (most like an inventory) Physical Settings relate to the current condition or situation on the ground.

Social Setting: (most like a desired future condition) Social Settings are mostly about how many people you might encounter each day. This setting may end up requiring use limits should the Social Setting encounters be exceeded.

Administrative Setting: Question: Are the Administrative Setting similar to a ROS **Standard??** (A Standard is like a rule, not a guideline, which means there can be no inconsistencies, e.g. If it says non-motorized, then existing routes must be closed.) I ask the question because BRC has been given conflicting information by BLM personnel, and the planning handbook does not say. **This is a big problem.**

## **The ERMA ENIGMA:**

You may not believe this statement, but we think the ERMA, as it is described in Moab BLM's DEIS, could be the most significant management proposal on BLM lands since Bruce Babbitt tried to double the amount of Wilderness Study Areas.

A bold statement to be sure. But under the Moab proposal, an ERMA is nearly identical to the management of a Wilderness Study Area(WSA). Bad. Very bad.

According to BLM's planning regs, the purpose of the ERMA is to provide custodial management only for recreation use. But all Alternatives developed by the Moab BLM limit "facilities" for public safety only. And just like WSAs, Moab's ERMAs provide no visitor information and minimal management presence.

Worse, the Targeted Outcomes specifically mention primitive hiking, backpacking and equestrian use. Now, Moab BLM staff says that any existing mountain bike or motorized route may continue to receive use, but there will be no new additional trails. We don't believe them. Making the ERMA a decidedly hiking and equestrian focus area is not warranted anywhere in the Moab Field Office. And too much of this guidance is inconsistent and contradictory.

## **Details on SRMAs per Alternative:**

### **Bookcliffs Special Recreation Management Area (undeveloped SRMA) 357,070 acres.**

#### **Bookcliffs SRMA has been proposed for ALTERNATIVE B ONLY**

The Bookcliffs are located north of I-70 and extend the entire width of the Moab Field Office from the Green River to the Colorado state line. The SRMA is concentrated in the central and eastern portions, and much of the area is within Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). [MOSTLY NON-MOTORIZED]

#### **Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, provide opportunities for hiking, backpacking, equestrian and primitive hunting in the mostly undeveloped areas of the Bookcliffs. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2.

#### **Setting:**

Maintain the backcountry character and primarily undisturbed natural landscape to allow visitors to enjoy opportunities for solitude. Provide a very low level of facilities and management presence. Physical: Back country; Social: Primitive; Administrative: Primitive

#### **Targeted Outcomes:**

Hiking and backpacking: Savoring the total sensory experience of a natural landscape/Improved outdoor knowledge and self-confidence; closer relationship with the natural world

Equestrian: Developing your skills and abilities/Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment; improved outdoor knowledge and self-confidence.

Primitive hunting: Experiencing a greater sense of independence/Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment; Improved outdoor recreation skills

Travel Management: Primarily Closed, with remainder Limited to Designated Roads (See Map 2-11 for Designated Routes)

Visual Resource Management (VRM): Primarily VRM I (see map 2-23)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Primarily closed, with remainder Open to Leasing with Special Stipulations (see map 2-5)

### **Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area (Destination SRMA) 15,597 acres.**

#### **Cameo Cliffs SRMA has been proposed for ALTERNATIVES B, C AND D**

#### **Description:**

Cameo Cliffs is located east of U.S. Highway 191 and south of Moab near Hook and Ladder Gulch. The SRMA has an OHV trailhead, an information kiosk; the SRMA is riddled with a series of old mining exploration roads. These roads are lightly marked for OHV travel. Recreation use of this area is very light, with ATVing, hiking and horseback riding occurring.

#### **Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, provide opportunities for ATVing and other motorized travel on old mining exploration roads; provide opportunities for equestrian use on the Old Spanish Trail and in other non-roaded locations; provide opportunities for hiking in Hook and Ladder Gulch.

#### **Setting:**

Maintain the scenic qualities of the area to allow visitors to enjoy an uncrowded experience. Provide information and a management presence sufficient to ensure that travel occurs only on the designated route system.

Physical: Middle Country; Social: Middle Country; Administrative: Middle Country

**Targeted Outcomes:**

ATV Riding: Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes/Positive contributions to local economic stability

Horseback Riding: Adventure and exploration on a National Historic trail/Increased sense of adventure and appreciation for history/Increased local tourism revenue

Hiking: Enjoying an escape from crowds of people/Greater sense of adventure/Increased local tourism revenue

Travel Management: Limited to Designated Roads in all Alternatives (see Map 2-11 for Designated Routes)

Visual Resource Management: Alternative B: VRM I, II, III and IV; Alternative C: VRM II, III, IV; Alternative D: VRM III and IV (see Map 2-23)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Primarily Open to Leasing with Special Stipulations (see Map 2-5)

**Canyon Rims Special Recreation Management Area (Destination SRMA) 101,531 acres.**

**Canyon Rims SRMA has been proposed for ALTERNATIVE B, C AND D**

**Description:**

Canyon Rims is located west of U.S. Highway 191 and south of Moab on a large plateau overlooking the Colorado River. The SRMA has three developed overlooks of the Colorado River, a scenic byway, two developed campgrounds, and a network of backcountry roads. Use includes scenic driving to the overlooks, camping, hiking and backcountry driving. Use levels are currently moderate.

**Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, 1) Provide scenic driving opportunities on the Scenic Byway and on the backcountry road system; 2) provide facilities at the scenic overlooks to enhance visitor experience; 3) provide quality camping experiences in two developed campgrounds; 4) provide hiking and backpacking opportunities, especially in Hatch Wash. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2 of the RMP.

**Setting:**

Maintain the scenic character and open spaces of Canyon Rims to allow visitors to enjoy an uncrowded experience. Provide information and a management presence sufficient to protect these scenic values. Physical: Middle Country; Social: Middle Country; Administrative: Front Country.

**Targeted Outcomes:**

Visiting Overlooks and Scenic Driving: Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes/Increased local tourism revenue/Improved appreciation of nature's splendor

Hiking and Backpacking: Enjoying escape from crowds of people/Improved capacity for outdoor physical activity/Increased local tourism revenue

Camping at Developed Campgrounds: Savoring the sensory experience of the natural landscape/Greater family bonding/Increased local tourism revenue

Travel Management: Limited to Designated Roads in all Alternatives (See Map 2-11 for Designated Routes)

Visual Resource Management (VRM): Alternatives B, C and D: VRM II and III; percentage of VRM II is greatest in Alternative B, and least in Alternative D (see Map 2-23 for VRM Classes)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Alternatives B, C and D: Open to Leasing with Special Stipulations; No Surface Occupancy near the Scenic Byway and in Hatch Wash in all Alternatives (widths vary), and No Surface Occupancy on the western rim of the plateau in Alternative B only. (See Map 2-5 for Oil and Gas Leasing)

### **Colorado Riverway Special Recreation Management Area (Destination SRMA).**

**Colorado Riverway SRMA has been proposed for 103,466 acres in ALTERNATIVE B, 89,935 acres in ALTERNATIVE C, and 79,102 acres in ALTERNATIVE D.**

#### **Description:**

The Colorado Riverway consists of the lands accessed by Utah Highways 128 and 279 and Kane Creek, Entrada Bluffs, Onion Creek, Castle Valley and Potash Roads. The SRMA has 19 developed campgrounds, 6 boat ramps, and 7 developed hiking trails. The Riverway has a very high level of use, with at least 600,000 visitors per year. Recreation use includes driving for pleasure, camping, hiking, boating, BASE jumping, climbing and equestrian use.

#### **Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, 1) provide scenic driving opportunities on the scenic byways, as well as on the non-paved roads; 2) provide quality camping experiences in the developed campgrounds; 3) provide non-motorized opportunities, including hiking, boating, climbing, equestrian use and BASE jumping. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2.

#### **Setting:**

Maintain the scenic character and important vistas of the Colorado Riverway to allow visitors to enjoy the unsurpassed visual resources. Provide information and a regular and continuous management presence to allow the large numbers of visitors to enjoy the area while protecting its natural resources. Physical: Middle Country; Social: Middle Country; Administrative: Front Country

#### **Targeted Outcomes:**

Scenic driving: Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes/Increased tourism revenue/Improved appreciation of nature's splendor

Camping at Developed Campgrounds: Savoring the sensory experience of the natural landscape/Great family bonding/Increased tourism revenue

Boating: Enjoying unique outdoor opportunities/Greater sense of adventure/Improved local economy

Hiking/equestrian: Enjoying physical activity in a scenic setting/Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature

Climbing/BASE jumping: Enjoying risk taking and adventures/Improved skills for outdoor adventure

Travel Management: Limited to Designated Roads in all Alternatives ( Map 2-11)

Visual Resource Management (VRM): Alternatives B, C and D: VRM I and II; percentage of VRM I is greatest in Alternative B, and least in Alternative D (see Map 2-23 for VRM Classes)

Oil and Gas Leasing: No Surface Occupancy along the rivers (Alternatives B, C, and D) and in the Richardson Amphitheater (Alternatives B and C). Remainder of SRMA is Open to Leasing with Special Stipulations. (See Map 2-5)

### **Dolores River Canyons Special Recreation Management Area: (Undeveloped SRMA.)**

**Dolores River SRMA has been proposed for 31,661 acres in ALTERNATIVES B AND C.**

**Description:**

The Dolores River Canyons SRMA is located about 25 miles east and south of Moab. The area has a limited number of roads, making motorized access difficult. Recreation use of this area is very light, with rafting and hiking being the most common activities. The only current infrastructure consists of directional signs.

**Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, provide opportunities for non-motorized boating, hiking and backpacking in the mostly undeveloped areas of the SRMA. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2 of the RMP.

**Setting:**

Maintain the backcountry character and primarily undisturbed natural landscape to allow visitors to enjoy opportunities for solitude. Provide a very low level of facilities and management presence. Physical: Back country; Social: Primitive; Administrative: Primitive

**Targeted Outcomes**

Non-motorized Boating: Enjoying/going exploring on my/our own; enjoying an escape from crowds of people/Greater sense of adventure

Hiking and Backpacking: Savoring the total sensory experience of a natural landscape/Improved outdoor knowledge and self confidence; closer relationship with the natural world

Visual Resource Management: Primarily VRM II in both B and C Alternatives (See Map 2-23)

Travel Management: Limited to Designated Roads in all Alternatives (See Map 2-11 for map of designated roads)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Primarily Open to Leasing with No Surface Occupancy in both the B and C Alternatives (See Map 2-5)

**Labyrinth Special Recreation Management Area (Destination SRMA).****Labyrinth SRMA has been proposed for 300,650 acres in ALTERNATIVES B AND C****Description:**

Labyrinth SRMA includes the area between Labyrinth Canyon of the Green River, Highway 191, and the southwestern boundary of the field office. Scenic Byway 313 is within the SRMA. The SRMA has one developed campground and multiple designated campsites, multiple day use areas and numerous popular backcountry routes. Use includes river recreation, camping, hiking, scenic driving, mountain biking and backcountry driving. Use levels are moderate overall with some areas receiving heavy seasonal use.

**Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, provide opportunities for 1) quality river recreation experiences on Labyrinth Canyon; 2) quality camping experiences in one developed campground and other designated sites; 3) quality hiking experiences on- and off-trail; 4) quality scenic driving experiences on Highway 313; 5) quality on-route mountain biking and backcountry driving experiences on established routes throughout the SRMA. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2 of the RMP.

**Setting:**

Maintain the scenic character of Labyrinth SRMA to allow visitors to enjoy an unconfined experience. Provide information and a management presence sufficient to protect these scenic values. Physical: Middle – Front Country; Social: Middle – Front Country; Administrative: Front Country.

### **Targeted Outcomes**

River Recreation: Enjoying an escape from crowds of people/A more outdoor-oriented lifestyle  
Scenic Driving: Learning more about things here/Greater sense of adventure  
Mountain Biking: Enjoying/going exploring on my/our own/Restored mind from unwanted stress  
Backcountry Driving: Developing your skills and abilities/Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment  
BASE jumping: Enjoying outdoor challenge/Improved skills  
Open OHV Exhilaration and excitement/Freedom from urban living

Travel Management: Limited to Designated Roads in all Alternatives (See Map 2-11 for Designated Routes)

Visual Resource Management (VRM): Alternative B: VRM I, II, III. Alternative C: VRM II, III, IV (See Map 2-23 for VRM Classes)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Alternative B: Open to Leasing with Special Stipulations, No Surface Occupancy. Alternative C: Open with Standard Stipulations, No Surface Occupancy. (See Map 2-5 for Oil and Gas Leasing)

### **Lower Gray Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (Destination SRMA).**

**Lower Gray Canyon SRMA has been proposed for 3,760 acres in ALTERNATIVES B AND C.**

#### **Description:**

Lower Gray Canyon SRMA is located along the east side of the Green River near the City of Green River. The SRMA has one developed campground, two day use areas, and hiking/equestrian trails. Use includes whitewater boating, camping, hiking and horseback riding. Use levels are currently moderate.

#### **Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, provide opportunities for 1) scenic river recreation opportunities on the Green River Daily; 2) quality camping experiences in one developed campground and other designated sites; 3) quality hiking and horseback riding experiences on existing trails. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2 of the RMP.

#### **Setting:**

Maintain the scenic character of Lower Gray Canyon to allow visitors to enjoy an unconfined experience. Provide information and a management presence sufficient to protect these scenic values. Physical: Middle Country; Social: Middle Country; Administrative: Front Country.

### **Targeted Outcomes**

Whitewater Boating: Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes/Improved outdoor recreation skills and increased local tourism revenue  
Camping: Enjoying the closeness of family/Stronger ties with my family and friends  
Hiking: Enjoying an escape from crowds of people/Restored mind from unwanted stress  
Horseback Riding: Learning more about things here/Improved appreciation of nature's splendor

Travel Management: Limited to Designated Roads in all Alternatives (See Map 2-11 for Designated Routes)

Visual Resource Management (VRM): Alternatives B and C: VRM I and II. (See Map 2-23 for VRM Classes)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Alternatives B and C: No Surface Occupancy and Closed (predominantly Closed). (See Map 2-5 for Oil and Gas Leasing)

## **Sand Flats Special Recreation Management Area (Destination SRMA).**

**Sand Flats SRMA has been proposed for 6,246 acres in ALTERNATIVES B, C, AND D.**

### **Description:**

Sand Flats SRMA is located two miles east of the city of Moab. The area has 9 campgrounds with 120 sites, the Slickrock Bike Trail, the Porcupine Rim Trail and two well known jeep routes, Hell's Revenge and Fins and Things. Recreation use averages 100,000 visitors per year. Use includes camping, mountain biking, four wheel driving (including ATVs and dirt bikes), and hiking.

### **Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, 1) provide facilities for quality camping experiences; 2) provide the unique experience of biking the Slickrock Trail; 3) provide four wheel drive challenge routes; 4) provide opportunities for hiking. Continue the partnership between Grand County and the BLM. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2 of the RMP.

### **Setting:**

Maintain the scenic character of Sand Flats to allow visitors to enjoy an outdoor adventure experience. Provide information and a high degree of management presence to protect the scenic values and to allow for a large number of visitors.

Physical: Front Country; Social: Front Country; Administrative: Front Country

### **Targeted Outcomes**

Mountain Biking: Enjoying a physical challenge/Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment and physical activity/Increased local tourism revenue

Motorized Touring: Enjoying the great outdoors and testing one's skills/Greater sense of adventure/Increased local tourism revenue

Camping in Developed Sites: Enjoying time with family and friends in an outdoor setting/Greater freedom from urban living/Greater family bonding

Travel Management : Limited to Designated Roads in all Alternatives (See Map 2-11 for Designated Routes)

Visual Resource Management (VRM): All Alternatives: VRM II (see Map 2-23 for VRM Classes)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Alternatives B and C: No Surface Occupancy; Alternative D: Open to Leasing with Special Stipulations (See Map 2-5 for Oil and Gas Leasing)

## **South Moab Special Recreation Management Area (Destination SRMA).**

**South Moab SRMA has been proposed for 63,999 acres in ALTERNATIVES B AND C.**

### **Description:**

The South Moab Special Recreation Management Area is located south of Moab, with US 191 being an approximate bisection. It includes popular day use areas such as Ken's Lake, as well as portions of the Mill Creek Canyon WSA. Most of the area is easily accessible from Moab, and receives moderate to heavy recreation use, both motorized and non-motorized. Infrastructure ranges from developed campgrounds to directional signing only.

### **Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, provide opportunities for hiking, camping, motorized and mechanized touring. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2 of the RMP.

**Setting:**

Maintain the mainly front country character to allow visitors to enjoy hiking, camping and scenic touring activities.

Physical: Front country; Social: Front country; Administrative: Front country

**Targeted Outcomes**

Hiking: Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes; Enjoying getting some needed physical exercise/A more outdoor-oriented lifestyle

Camping: Experiencing a greater sense of independence; Enjoying the closeness of family Improved outdoor knowledge and self confidence

Motorized Touring: Developing your skills and abilities; Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes/Enlarged sense of community dependency on public lands

Mechanized Touring: Enjoying strenuous physical exercise; Experiencing a greater sense of independence/Improved physical capacity to do my favorite recreation activities

Visual Resource Management: A combination of VRM I, II and III (See Map 2-23)

Travel Management: Limited to Designated Roads in all Alternatives (See Map 2-11 for map of designated roads)

Oil and Gas Leasing: A combination of Open, Open with Special Stipulations, Open with No Surface Occupancy Stipulation and Closed (WSAs) (See Map 2-5)

**Two Rivers Special Recreation Management Area (Destination SRMA)**

**Two Rivers SRMA has been proposed for 29,838 acres in ALTERNATIVES B and C; and 14,056 acres in ALTERNATIVE D.**

**Description:**

Two Rivers SRMA is located along the Colorado River (from the Colorado/Utah state line to Dewey Bridge) and the Dolores River. The SRMA contains river sections very popular for scenic floating and/or whitewater boating, including the lower portion of the Ruby/Horsethief Canyon trip and Westwater Canyon. Use includes river running, camping, and hiking. Use levels are moderate to high.

**Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, provide opportunities for 1) high quality river running opportunities on the Colorado and Dolores Rivers; 2) high quality camping experiences along the river corridors; 3) high quality hiking opportunities in proximity to the river. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2 of the RMP.

**Setting:**

Maintain the scenic character of Two Rivers SRMA to allow visitors to enjoy a backcountry experience. Provide information and a management presence sufficient to protect this type of experience.

Physical: Back Country; Social: Back Country – Middle Country; Administrative: Middle Country.

**Targeted Outcomes**

River Recreation: Savoring the total sensory experience of a natural landscape/Closer relationship with the natural world

Camping: Escaping everyday responsibilities for a while/a more outdoor-oriented lifestyle

Hiking: Enjoying an escape from crowds of people/Restored mind from unwanted stress

Travel Management: Limited to Designated Roads and Closed in all Alternatives (See Map 2-11 for Designated Routes)

Visual Resource Management (VRM): Alternatives B, C, and D: VRM I and II. (See Map 2-23 for VRM Classes)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Alternatives B, C, and D: Open to Leasing with Special Stipulations, No Surface Occupancy and Closed. (See Map 2-5 for Oil and Gas Leasing).

### **Utah Rims Special Recreation Management Area (Community SRMA).**

**Utah Rims SRMA has been proposed for 15,424 acres in ALTERNATIVES B AND C**

#### **Description:**

Utah Rims is located south of Interstate 70 adjacent to the Colorado/Utah border and near the Colorado River. The SRMA has one developed camping area, and a network of backcountry routes. Use includes trail-based motorcycle and mountain bike riding, camping and horseback riding. Use levels are currently low.

#### **Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, provide opportunities for 1) quality scenic trail-based motorcycling and mountain biking experiences on the backcountry route system; 2) quality camping experiences in one developed camping area; 3) quality horseback riding experiences on existing routes and in non-roaded locations. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2 of the RMP.

#### **Setting:**

Maintain the scenic character and wide open spaces of Utah Rims to allow visitors to enjoy an uncrowded experience. Provide information and a management presence sufficient to protect these scenic values.

Physical: Middle Country; Social: Middle Country; Administrative: Middle Country.

#### **Targeted Outcomes:**

Motorcycling: Enjoying being able to frequently participate in desired activities and settings/Increased desirability as a place to live or retire

Mountain Biking: Enjoying strenuous physical exercise/Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment

Horseback Riding: Developing your skills and abilities/Greater sense of adventure

Camping: Enjoying an escape from crowds of people/Restored mind from unwanted stress

Travel Management: Limited to Designated Roads in all Alternatives (See Map 2-11 for Designated Routes)

Visual Resource Management (VRM): Alternatives B and C: VRM II and III (predominantly VRM III). (See Map 2-23 for VRM Classes)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Alternatives B and C: Open to Leasing with Standard Stipulations and Open to Leasing with Special Stipulations. (See Map 2-5 for Oil and Gas Leasing)

### **Dee Pass Special Recreation Management Area (Destination SRMA).**

**Dee Pass SRMA has been proposed for 60,939 acres in ALTERNATIVE D (Dee Pass is a subset of the Labyrinth SRMA for this alternative).**

#### **Description:**

Dee Pass SRMA is located south of I-70 and east of the Green River, about 40 miles northwest of Moab. The SRMA contains a great number of roads, user-made dirt bike trails and a sand dune area (White Wash Sand Dunes). The area is currently used primarily by dirt bikers and other motorized

recreationists. Current use levels are light to moderate. There are no recreation facilities in the SRMA at the present time.

### **Management Goals:**

For a variety of visitor benefits, provide motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated roads and dirt bike trails in the majority of the SRMA. Provide a 3000 acre open OHV area centered around the White Wash Sand Dunes. Establish motorized staging areas near the Sand Dunes, with trails emanating from these staging areas. For specific recreation management prescriptions, see Chapter 2.

### **Setting:**

Maintain the backcountry setting and preserve the scenic values for the enjoyment of the motorized recreating public. Provide information and a management presence sufficient to maintain scenic designated trail riding opportunities. Provide facilities to promote responsible use of the area. Physical: Middle Country; Social: Middle Country; Administrative: Front Country

### **Targeted Outcomes**

Dirt bike and ATV riding on Designated Trails; Open riding on sand dunes:  
Adventure and exploration/Exhilaration and excitement/Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment with others/Greater freedom from urban living

Visual Resource Management: VRM Class III and IV (See Map 2-24-D)

Travel Management: Limited to designated roads and trails, with the exception of the White Wash Sand Dunes area, which is open to cross country travel (See Map 2-10-D for map of open area; see Map 2-11-D for designated roads and trails)

Oil and Gas Leasing: Primarily open to leasing with standard stipulations (See Map 2-5)

### **Focus Areas: Scenic Driving Corridors**

Highway 313 and the Island in the Sky Road (Utah Scenic Byway). (1/4 mile on each side of the road)

### **Focus Areas: Non-Mechanized Recreation:**

*Goldbar/Corona Arch Hiking Focus Area* (4,191 acres) covers the lands below the Golden Spike OHV route inclusive of the Culvert Canyon drainage to the northern rim of Long Canyon exclusive of the main stem of the Day Point Road. (Hiking Only) No new motorized routes would be considered.

*Spring Canyon Hiking Focus Area* (457 acres) would be established upstream from the Spring Canyon Bottom Road. No new motorized routes would be considered.

*Labyrinth Canyon Canoe Focus Area* (7,709 acres) inclusive of the rims along the east side of Labyrinth Canyon from Placer Bottom to Mineral Bottom exclusive of the Hey Joe Mine OHV and mountain bike route. No new motorized routes would be considered.

*Sevenmile Canyons Equestrian Focus Area* (1,026 acres) inclusive of the north and south forks of Sevenmile Canyon westward from the junction of the two canyons. Equestrian use in this area would be restricted to private (non-commercial) horse use. No new motorized routes would be considered.

### **Focus Areas: Mountain Bike Backcountry Touring**

*Klondike Bluffs Mountain Biking Focus Area* (14,626 acres) between Arches National Park and U.S. 191. Work with Grand County and SITLA to establish mountain-bike only opportunities in the Klondike area. Manage the Copper Ridge Sauropod Trackway Interpretive Trail for hiking only.

*Bar M Mountain Biking Focus Area* (2,904 acres) between Arches National Park, U.S. Highway 191, and the Bar M area state lands, exclusive of motorized access for the Copper Ridge Jeep Safari Route and the 191

rock quarry access road. Convert existing routes to mechanized use and provide for a limited number of new and connecting routes to support use of area as the destination for the 191 bike lane. Recommend that the old highway route in Moab Canyon be managed for non-motorized use to facilitate use of the route as part of the 191 bike lane.

*Tusher Slickrock Mountain Biking Focus Area* (428 acres) on slickrock between Bartlett and Tusher Washes with main access from Bartlett Wash to reduce traffic in Tusher Canyon. Manage the Tusher Canyon slickrock and Bartlett slickrock areas for mountain bike and hiking use only. Cross-country mountain biking across slick rock would be allowed throughout this area.

*Mill Canyon / Upper Courthouse Mountain Biking Focus Area* (5,744 acres) inclusive of areas within the Mill Canyon and upper Courthouse drainages with continued use of the Sevenmile Rim Jeep Safari route for motorized use, with non-motorized trailheads near the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Trail and the Halfway Stage Station. Manage the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Trail for hiking only (35 miles of road designated for motorized travel; 23 miles of route designated for mechanized use only).

### **Focus Area: Motorized Backcountry Touring**

*Gemini Bridges / Poison Spider Mesa Focus Area* (16,299 acres) for multiple use, including full-size OHV, ATV, and motorcycle use with consideration given to managing routes suitable for each vehicle type. Travel would be intensively managed on designated routes only. Close the spur route to Gemini Bridges to facilitate public use and help restore damaged lands along the spur route. Construct a parking area near the bridges.

### **Focus Areas: Specialized Sport Venues (Non Motorized)**

*Mineral Canyon/Horsethief Point Competitive BASE Jumping Focus Area* (762 acres) would be established.

*Bartlett Slickrock Freeride Focus Area* (166 acres) would be established. No man-made structures would be added to facilitate "stunt riding".

### **Focus Areas: Specialized Sport Venue (Motorized)**

*Dee Pass Motorized Trail Focus Area* (35,290 acres) for motorcycle and ATV use. This is the area for competitive motorized events. Competitive routes within this area would be identified based on site-specific NEPA analysis. All routes designated for motorized use in the accompanying Travel Plan would remain open while section 106 cultural resource inventories are conducted. If these inventories indicate the present of eligible sites, the trail would be re-routed or closed. All new routes would require section 106 cultural resource inventory prior to designation. Establish a managed OHV trail system with provision for on-going management of existing single-track routes to maintain their single-track character.

*Airport Hills Motocross Focus Area* (285 acres) Manage the focus area for motocross use in partnership with local government under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Management of such areas would transfer to local government.

### **Focus Areas: Managed Open OHV area** (cross country travel allowed)

*White Wash Sand Dunes Open OHV Focus Area*, (1,866 acres) encompassing the area round the dunes themselves. Manage the central portion of the White Wash Sand Dunes for motorized sand play with exception of the dune field cottonwood trees and White Wash water sources which would be closed to motorized travel and fenced.

Limit camping use in the White Wash Sand Dunes area to designated sites and establish basic camping facilities on the bench on the north side of White Wash.

Implement a fee system, using individual Special Recreation Permits, to help fund cost of intensive management of the White Wash Sand Dunes area.