

## **CHAPTER 1: PURPOSE AND NEED**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

On August 9, 2001, Core Mountain Enterprises, LLC, submitted an application to the USDI-Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for authorization of long-term commercial use of about 1,300 acres of BLM administered land by the Silverton Outdoor Learning and Recreation Center (SOLRC). In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the BLM initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) process to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts of issuing the requested authorization. The general location of the project area is shown in Figure 1-1.

SOLRC currently operates at a small scale on private land and on BLM land used under annual permits. Their proposal to expand onto BLM-administered land would substantially increase the unique recreational and educational opportunity available to the public at the center, capitalizing on the San Juan Mountain's rugged beauty, steep and challenging terrain, abundant snowfall, and intact high-elevation ecosystems. In terms of winter recreation, the centerpiece of SOLRC's operation, the requested authorization would allow a one-of-a-kind melding of minimal ski area infrastructure with otherwise undeveloped terrain. The intended result would be an affordable opportunity for advanced and expert skiers to obtain an extreme, backcountry type experience previously available only to helicopter and cat skiers at a high price or to those with the specialized knowledge, equipment, and stamina to access high-elevation backcountry on their own. (Note that the term "skiing" is used in this document to include alpine skiing, alpine touring, telemark skiing, snowboarding, and other snow-sliding sports.) The requested use authorization would also increase the scope of year-round educational and summer recreational opportunities available at SOLRC.

The SOLRC proposal was reviewed by the BLM interdisciplinary team and by the public, organizations, and other agencies through a scoping process conducted in August and September 2001. Internal review, scoping, and initial environmental impact analysis indicated that the proposal had the potential to generate significant environmental impacts. As a result, the EA process was stopped, and the BLM prepared this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addressing the SOLRC proposal. A Notice of Intent (NOI) announcing the BLM's decision to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on September 3, 2002. The NOI initiated a second round of scoping, which ended October 31, 2002. The BLM decision on whether or not to authorize this commercial use of federal lands will be based on this analysis.

Under subsequent headings, this chapter summarizes NEPA process requirements, provides background information on the project, describes the Proposed Action, outlines the purpose and need addressed by the project, defines the decisions to be made on the basis of this EIS, describes the public involvement process and its outcomes to date, and identifies the permits and authorizations that may be required to implement the project.

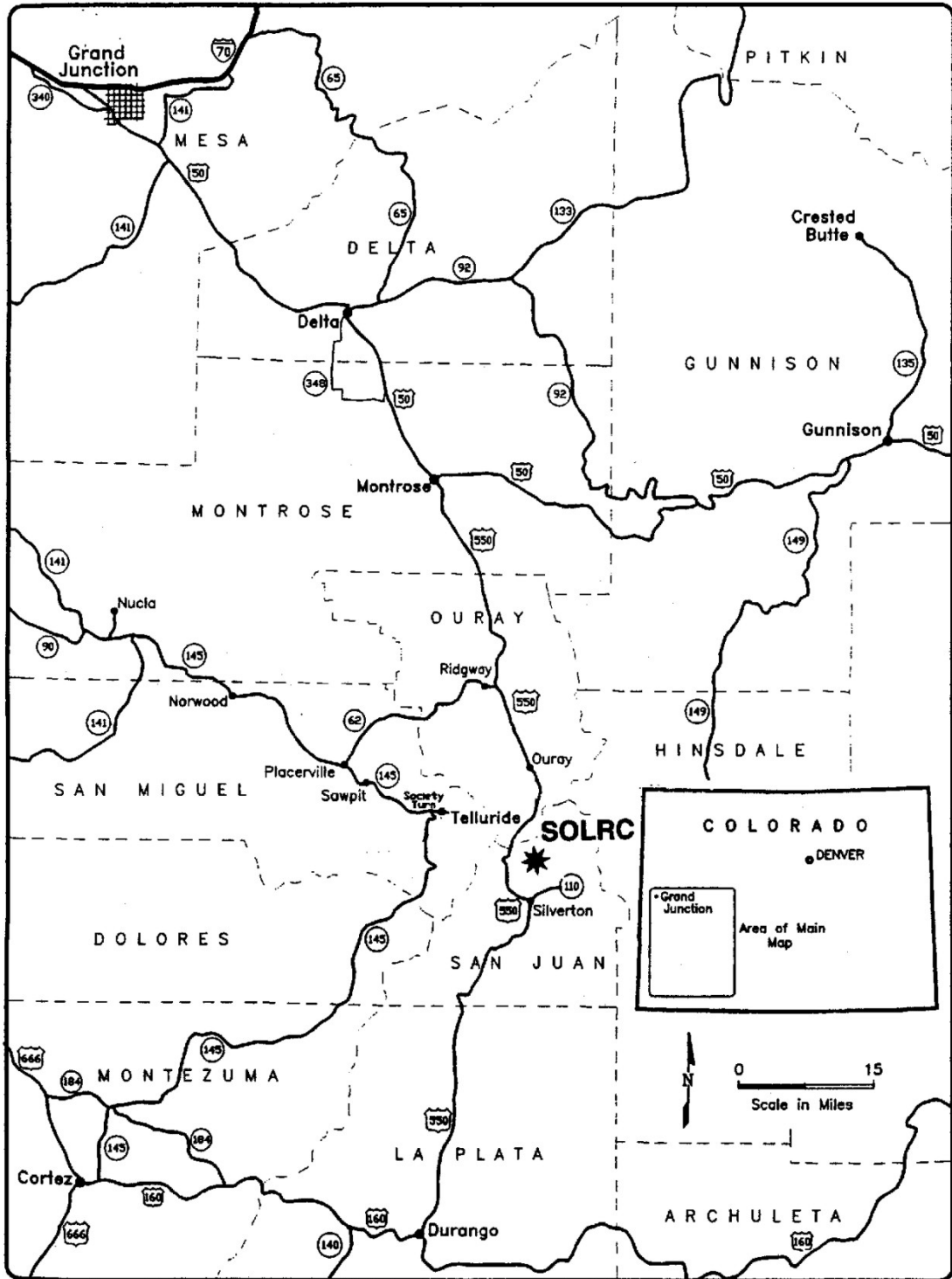


Figure 1-1. SOLRC Vicinity Map.

## 1.2 THE NEPA PROCESS

Since SOLRC's activities would involve BLM administered lands, and since issuing SOLRC the requested land-use authorization could potentially result in significant environmental impacts, NEPA requires the BLM to assess and disclose the potential environmental impacts of issuing the authorization in an EIS. NEPA stipulates that complete environmental information be made available to federal, state, and local agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals that may be interested in or affected by a proposed action. Opportunities to review and comment on this information must be provided before decisions are made or actions are taken on public lands.

An EIS is a disclosure rather than a decision document. Its primary purpose is to provide environmental analysis to inform the public and to assist the BLM in reaching a decision, documented in a Record of Decision (ROD), to approve a proposed action or an alternative to it. Specific decisions to be made by the BLM in consideration of this analysis are described below (section 1.7).

Following publication of this Draft EIS, public and agency comments will be accepted for 90 days. Subsequently, the BLM will review and respond to comments. Responses will be published as part of a Final EIS, which will also reflect revisions made in response to comments on the Draft EIS.

A 30-day protest period will follow publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final EIS in the Federal Register. In addition, a 60-day Governor's consistency review will be required to address the amendment to the *San Juan/San Miguel Planning Area Resource Management Plan* (RMP; BLM 1985) that will be required to support the requested land-use authorization (see section 1.6.2 below).

The ROD will be released after the concurrent 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's consistency review period, documenting the State Director's decisions regarding issuance of the requested land use authorization and the requisite RMP amendment. The decision to authorize the land use will be appealable under 43 CFR Part 4, Department Hearings and Appeals Procedures. The decision to amend the RMP will be protestable under 43 CFR 1610.5-2, Resource Management Plan Approval, Use, and Modification - Protest Procedures.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations on the application of NEPA encourage federal agencies to advise private applicants of any environmental studies and information requirements that may be required to support agency review and decision making (40 CFR 1501.2[d]). The objective is to ensure that the planning of proposed actions reflects the environmental values of an area, minimizes potential conflicts, and avoids delays in completing NEPA analysis. Agencies are further directed to utilize information collected by applicants, their consultants, or other parties as long as the agency makes an independent evaluation of the content and scientific credibility of the information (40 CFR 1506.5[c]). Any such information used in this EIS has undergone such evaluation by the BLM prior to being used in this analysis.

This EIS was prepared in accordance with the BLM *National Environmental Policy Handbook* (H-1790-1) with the assistance of Cirrus Ecological Solutions, LC, of Logan, Utah (40 CFR 1506.5[c]).

### **1.3 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

SOLRC was established in 1999 at a site about 6 miles north of Silverton, CO, near the Gladstone townsite. Their private-land operation was approved by San Juan County in June of 2000 (see section 1.6.3). Their approved Final Plan includes provision for all private-land development and supporting infrastructure including access, parking, a base lodge, overnight rental units, culinary water and wastewater systems, a chairlift, and various other adjunct facilities. Current facilities and services are described below. Elements of the county approved plan that have not been completed are described in detail in section 2.3.2. Based on the design capacities of the facilities comprised by SOLRC, the county-approved Final Plan projected useage at 475 visitors per day.

The center's goal is to offer small-scale, year-round outdoor education and recreation programs, with lift-served, backcountry-style skiing as a central component. To date, operations have occurred on about 344 acres of private land that SOLRC owns or has rights to use (referred to hereafter as SOLRC land) and on approximately 1,300 acres of BLM administered land used under an annual Special Recreation Permit, CO-820-03-026. Snow safety studies and avalanche control have been conducted for 4 years (through the 2002/03 season), under a BLM Snow and Avalanche Study Permit, CO-64592, on the public land portion. Current programs and facilities include:

- Guided skiing on private and public land (used under the BLM Special Recreation Permit cited above, which allowed 10 guided guests at any one time to access the permit area during the 2000/01 season, 20 guided guests during the 2001/02 season, and 40 guided guests during the 2002/03 season).
- A fixed-grip double chairlift from the base area to a ridge below the summit of Storm Peak (completed December 2001) on private land.
- Operation of a shuttle service on SH 110A to bring skiers back to the base area from various pick-up points along the road.
- Summer scenic chairlift rides.
- Hiking and mountain biking on a trail that roughly parallels the lift alignment, on private land owned by SOLRC.
- Educational programs on private and public land, including field sessions in avalanche safety, backcountry ski travel, mountain rescue, adventure writing, and nature photography.
- A temporary base lodge with basic services and a parking area, all on private land, accessed via SH 110A.
- Ski patrol buildings at the top and bottom of the chairlift on private land.
- Two caches for avalanche-control explosives on private land near the base area.

## **1.4 PROPOSED ACTION**

The Proposed Action is BLM issuance of authorization for long-term commercial operations on the 1,300 acres of public land as requested by SOLRC. SOLRC's request is for a 40-year authorization, but the term and other administrative details of the authorization would be at the discretion of the agency, documented in the ROD or subsequent agreements between the BLM and SOLRC. The following elements of the SOLRC operation would be authorized on BLM administered land:

- Use of approximately 1,300 acres of BLM administered land for skiing in the winter, hiking in the summer, and educational programs year-round.
- Unrestricted skier access to all permit-area terrain not closed or otherwise restricted by SOLRC for snow safety reasons.
- Use of the permit area by up to 475 SOLRC guests per day.
- Up to 17 temporary foot/skier bridges across Cement Creek within the permit area of which six would be on BLM land.
- A summer and winter mountaineering route following the ridgeline south from the upper terminal of the chairlift, eastward across the top of Storm Peak, then northward and westward around the permit area boundary to tie into CR 52 near Gladstone.
- A hiking trail from the ridgeline near the upper lift terminal down into the Colorado Basin, connecting with County Road 52 (CR 52).
- A small solar-powered radio repeater on public land near the existing radio reflector on 13,053 Peak (an unnamed peak northwest of Storm Peak, within the permit area).

In addition, an amendment of the RMP adding lift-served skiing and sightseeing to the forms of recreation authorized in the planning area would be completed if the Proposed Action or an action alternative were selected by the agency decision maker.

Note that the Proposed Action includes only those elements of SOLRC's planned development that involve BLM administered land. Other elements involve private land only, including a permanent base lodge, 10 yurts or cabins for overnight accommodation, and two rope tows on the ridgeline adjacent to the upper chairlift terminal. These elements do not require federal agency approval and may be completed regardless of the BLM's decision regarding the Proposed Action. Therefore, these private-land elements are addressed in this analysis as part of the No-Action Alternative. The Proposed Action is described in detail in Chapter 2, section 2.2, the No-Action Alternative in section 2.3.2.

## **1.5 PURPOSE AND NEED**

The CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA direct that agencies define the underlying purpose and need to which they are responding in preparing an EIS (40 CFR 1502.13). In this instance, SOLRC submitted an application for authorization to conduct long-term commercial operations on BLM administered lands. As discussed below (section 1.6.1), SOLRC's objective is to

establish a viable business enterprise, drawing on the project area's outstanding natural resource base to provide unique forms of mountain recreation and education.

The BLM is responding to SOLRC's application in accordance with NEPA, analyzing and disclosing the environmental impacts of issuing the requested land-use authorization. A successful operation would further the BLM's objective of providing a broad range of recreational opportunities on the lands under their administration.

If the BLM decides to issue the requested authorization based on this analysis, an amendment of the RMP will have to be completed to include SOLRC's programs among the recreational offerings on public lands in the planning area before the authorization can be completed.

## **1.6 RELATIONSHIP TO PERTINENT PLANS, PROGRAMS, AND POLICIES**

### **1.6.1 SOLRC's Objectives**

The proposal accompanying SOLRC's land use permit application includes the following statements under the heading of Concept Plan (SOLRC 2001, p. 3):

The proposal is for long-term continued operation of a small-scale, year-round, outdoor learning and recreation facility. SOLRC plans on providing continuing education programs that promote safe and responsible recreation with a strong environmental ethic. Educational programs will include but not be limited to field sessions in avalanche safety, backcountry ski travel, mountaineering, backcountry medicine, mountain rescue, weather studies, geology, environmental studies, ecology, adventure writing, film making, environmental art, nature photography, outdoor adventure, and sustainable building techniques.

SOLRC will . . . include a lift-assisted backcountry type ski area that will provide a skiing experience that resembles helicopter or guided skiing. SOLRC will serve a specialized clientele of advanced and expert skiers and snowboarders interested in difficult alpine terrain, and will offer opportunities to educate users in the skills of ski mountaineering and alpine responsibility.

The ski operation is the core of SOLRC's proposal. The project area's location, in the heart of the San Juan Mountains, provides an ideal locale for meeting the center's objectives in regard to skiing. The area is isolated, and the alpine terrain is high, steep and rugged, including ridges, bowls, and couloirs above timberline as well as natural glades and avalanche chutes below. By facilitating access to such terrain with the bare minimum of ski-area infrastructure, SOLRC intends to create and fill a dynamic new niche in a ski industry that has seen little growth in more than a decade. SOLRC will also build on the unique aspects of the setting in expanding other four-season recreational and educational programs.

As noted above under Project Background, SOLRC has offered similar programs on a limited basis for the past 3 years, using private land and BLM administered land under short-term permits. Their current proposal would allow SOLRC to expand, offering a more comprehensive program to a larger segment of the public.

### 1.6.2 Relationship to BLM Plans, Programs, and Policies

BLM policies, plans, and programs pertinent to the SOLRC proposal are reflected in the RMP. In general terms, the RMP's recreational resource objective is as follows (p. 13): "A wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, commensurate with demand."

The RMP goes on to provide specific management guidance for areas with a recreation emphasis (Area C). These areas are of two types, special recreation management areas (SRMAs) "where recreation is defined and recognized as *the* principal management objective," and extensive recreation management areas (ERMAs), "where recreation is not the principal management objective but may be an issue or concern of some significance . . ."

For areas with recreation management emphasis, "[t]he primary management goal is to insure the continued availability of outdoor recreation opportunities which the public seek and which are *not* readily available from other public or private entities. Secondary goals include protecting resources, meeting legal requirements for visitor health and safety, and mitigating resource user conflicts involving recreation." (RMP, p. 33.)

Recreation objectives for these recreation management areas are "to provide dispersed and resource-dependent types of recreation opportunities such as cross-country skiing, hunting, hiking, boating, jeeping, and fishing and to deal with the limited number of situations which require special or more intensive types of recreation management. Decreases in nonrecreational outputs may occur. Investments will be concentrated in SRMAs and in those ERMAs where these recreation program goals apply." (RMP p. 33.)

The Silverton area is identified as a SRMA. The RMP includes direction to "[c]ontinue intensive recreation management of the Silverton Special Recreation Management Area. Provide for a blend of settings and opportunities that tend toward the resource-dependent end of the BLM's Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) system." The RMP calls for development and implementation of a recreation area management plan (RAMP) for the Silverton SRMA. This plan was completed in May, 1986 (BLM 1986b). The stated purpose of the plan is "to establish management objectives and actions to effectively provide for appropriate recreation activities, settings, and experiences" (p. 4). It notes that the ROS is the framework for planning and management of recreation, and that the ROS recognizes individual recreationists differ in needs and desired experiences. It emphasizes the dispersed forms of recreation (i.e. those that involve mobile activities on extensive land areas and are generally not site specific) that were and continue to be the primary use of the SRMA. While it does not mention fixed-base, commercial recreation of the type represented by SOLRC, the plan does recognize that the public seeks diverse and changing recreational opportunities. Thus, while the plan provides no specific direction relevant to SOLRC, the proposal is consistent with its purpose and overall objectives.

Neither the RMP nor the Silverton area RAMP specifically list lift-served skiing and sightseeing among the forms of recreation to be fostered. To update BLM planning accordingly, the RMP would be amended to include lift-served skiing and sightseeing to the list of authorized forms of recreation available in the Silverton SRMA. This amendment is part of the Proposed Action.

A final point to note is that few areas suitable for ski area development occur on lands under BLM administration. As a result, the agency does not have a body of policies, plans, and programs specific to this type of development. However, the office preparing this EIS and responsible for administration of any land use authorization is the Columbine Ranger

District/Field Office of the San Juan Public Lands Center which is a “Service First” office where BLM and Forest Service resources are pooled. As a result, the BLM is using pertinent Forest Service policy and planning documents for guidance in completing this EIS and administrating an authorization for commercial land use if one is issued.

### **1.6.3 Relationship to Non-BLM Plans, Programs, and Policies**

The most relevant non-BLM plans, policies, and programs are those of San Juan County. On June 12, 2000, the Board of County Commissioners, San Juan County approved SOLRC’s Final Plan as it addresses development on private land. A letter to SOLRC from the Board documenting this approval states, “When making its final decision, the Board considered this [public] input along with the application requirements set forth in by San Juan County’s Zoning and Land Use Regulation . . . While the Board approved development of the SOLRC based on the proposal’s compliance with San Juan County’s land use regulations and Master Plan, the Board also supports the project on the grounds that it will likely be of great benefit to the local economy” (Board of County Commissioners, San Juan County 2000). While the project must comply with specific county regulations to obtain required permits (see Other Permits and Authorizations that May Be Required, section 1.9 below), these statements indicate that the SOLRC project has been reviewed for compliance with the county policies and plans applicable to this phase of project planning and has been found to comply.

## **1.7 DECISIONS TO BE MADE**

The decisions to be made in consideration of this EIS are whether, and under what conditions, to authorize SOLRC’s requested long-term use of the permit area and whether to amend the RMP to allow for the proposed activities. The agency official making these decisions will be the BLM Colorado State Director.

The decision maker may select a combination of elements of the Proposed Action and the alternatives if the environmental impacts of the combined elements are adequately assessed and disclosed in this EIS. The decision maker may also choose to adopt some or all of the mitigation measures identified in this EIS or to require additional measures.

The land-use authorization will be issued under the authority of FLPMA, section 302(b), as implemented through regulations under 43 CFR Part 2920, Leases, Permits, and Easements. The decision to amend the RMP to allow for the proposed activity will be made under 43 CFR 1610.5-5, Resource Management Plan Approval, Use, and Modification - Amendment. The decision will be documented in a ROD that will be prepared and released at the conclusion of this EIS process.

## **1.8 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

Public involvement is a central component of the NEPA process, and several opportunities for participation by interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are being provided through the course of this EIS process. To date, two formal scoping comment periods and several public meetings have been completed to assist the BLM in identifying the environmental issues and concerns to be addressed through this NEPA process. The first scoping period was from August 9 through September 7, 2001, following initiation of the original EA process discussed above in the Introduction. Public meetings were held during this period at Durango (August 22) and Silverton (August 23). The BLM received 139 scoping responses comprising 408 specific comments.



When the decision was made to complete an EIS, the September 3, 2002, NOI and associated public notices announced another scoping period, ending October 30, 2002. A public meeting was convened in Silverton on September 24, 2001. This scoping effort generated responses from 206 individuals, organizations, and agencies raising 630 specific comments.

Public notices of the meetings and scoping periods were published in the Durango Herald and Silverton Standard newspapers. A list of interested parties also received notice of the meetings and scoping periods by direct mail.

Following these scoping periods, responses were reviewed and specific comments were extracted, sorted, and summarized. This process was documented in a scoping report prepared for the project (TetraTech/Cirrus 2002).

This public scoping input complemented the results of the agency's internal review of SOLRC's proposal. NEPA requires interdisciplinary analysis, and the interdisciplinary team (ID team) of agency specialists assembled for this NEPA process reviewed the proposal and identified the issues and concerns they felt the EIS should address. Some of these involved compliance with various statutory requirements such as pertinent terms of the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The results of ID team review are also documented in the scoping report.

Collectively, scoping and internal agency review yielded the following substantive issues, which guided the analysis documented in this EIS. The scoping report itself provides more detail on the content of the comments, and it was consulted by the specialists completing the analysis of these broad topics. These issues are presented in order, from physical resources, to biological resources, to human aspects of the environment. The same ordering guides the organization of Chapter 3, Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences. While all substantive issues identified through scoping and internal interdisciplinary review were addressed in this analysis, only one issue, snow safety, resulted in the generation of alternatives, as discussed in more detail in Chapter 2 (see section 2.3).

### **1.8.1 Watershed Resources**

The Cement Creek watershed has been severely impacted by mining activity, and a number of concerns were raised regarding additive impacts due to the proposed SOLRC operation. These concerns included: the potential for human waste to contaminate water, increased soil erosion due to construction and bicycle use, and the water quality impacts of avalanche-control explosives. Concern regarding the availability of adequate potable water for SOLRC was also noted.

### **1.8.2 Vegetation**

The permit area comprises different vegetation types, ranging from wetland and riparian areas in Colorado Basin and along Cement Creek, through upper montane spruce-dominated forest, to alpine communities at higher elevations. Comments cited potential impacts of construction and summer recreation on special status plant species (i.e., federal and state listed threatened and endangered species as well as BLM and Forest Service identified sensitive species), on alpine vegetation communities, and on wetlands and riparian areas.

### **1.8.3 Wildlife**

Associated with the project area's diverse vegetation communities are a range of wildlife species. Potential impacts to special status species, particularly Canada lynx, were identified as a key

concern. Potential impacts to elk, grouse, ptarmigan, subnivian species, and aquatic species were noted, and assessment of the effects of summer recreation, winter recreation, avalanche control, and facility construction on these species was requested.

#### **1.8.4 Land Use**

Public land and resources in and adjacent to the proposed project area provide for a number of current uses, including various forms of dispersed recreation, livestock grazing, and mining related activities. There are also a number of private inholdings within the proposed permit area. These are patented mining claims, some of which have not been developed beyond the level necessary to secure the original patent, while others have been developed with recreational or year-round residences. Right-of-way authorizations exist in the vicinity of the proposed permit area for roads (SH 110A, CR 52, and access roads), powerlines, telephone, and communication sites. Concerns regarding the Proposed Action's impact on land use involved changes in public land access and use, the impacts to existing uses of public lands, SOLRC's ultimate objectives, and impacts to other private property and property rights within the proposed permit boundary.

#### **1.8.5 Socioeconomics**

The potential for positive impacts to the depressed economies of Silverton and San Juan County was the basis for many expressions of support for the project. Specific issues raised included effects on local business, resident and visitor populations, and local schools. Potential increases in property values, taxes, and the cost of public services, including search and rescue and emergency medical services, were also noted, as was the availability of adequate emergency medical services.

#### **1.8.6 Recreation**

Comments in this category cited the unique nature of the SOLRC skiing experience (i.e., advanced, lift-served backcountry skiing with limited associated infrastructure), its lower level of impact on the environment, and its lower price relative to other resort or commercial guided skiing options. The main issue raised was whether SOLRC would in fact attract enough guests to achieve the desired purpose and need and to justify the allocation of public resources. An adequate balance between on-mountain and base-area capacities at SOLRC was also a cited concern. (Note: the issue of access to the permit area by other recreationists is addressed under Land Use.)

#### **1.8.7 Safety**

The proposed permit area is subject to frequent and severe avalanche hazard, and the primary safety issue raised was snow safety. Specific concerns included SOLRC's capability to adequately provide for the safety of their guests and the issue of liability for avalanche related injuries. The potential hazard to SOLRC visitors posed by abandoned mines was cited, as were the potential for collisions between SOLRC skiers and snowmobilers on CR 52 and the potential for heightened wildfire hazard due to increased visitation.

#### **1.8.8 Transportation**

Access to the project area from Silverton is via SH 110A. Commentors questioned the capacity of the road to handle the additional traffic, the adequacy of parking for SOLRC, the impact of avalanche control efforts and associated closures on traffic parking, and how emergency access would be maintained.

### **1.8.9 Aesthetic Resources**

The relatively undisturbed, natural character of the project area accounts for much of its attraction to recreationists, sightseers, other visitors, and residents. The potential impacts of construction noise and dust, avalanche control explosives, and proposed structures on the area's aesthetic values were noted by commentors, as was concern over the long-term visual impact if the operation should fail.

### **1.8.10 Cultural Resources**

The project area includes several historic mining sites. Potential impacts to such sites were a cited concern.

### **1.8.11 Additional Opportunities for Public Input**

Additional opportunities for public involvement in this process include a 90-day comment period following publication of this Draft EIS. The purpose of this comment period is to allow the public to: point out inaccuracies or discrepancies in this document; comment on the adequacy of the analysis; identify new impacts, alternatives, or mitigation; or disagree with significance determinations. A 30-day protest period and a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review period follow publication of the NOA of the Final EIS in the Federal Register. The ROD is prepared after the protest and review period is complete, once any protests are resolved, and after the State Director approves the plan amendment.

The final opportunity for public involvement in this NEPA process will be the administrative appeal process following release of the ROD. In accordance with 43 CFR Part 4, Department Hearings and Appeals Procedures, individuals, organizations, or agencies with standing in this NEPA process may file a notice of appeal during a 30-day period following release of the decision. The agency will review any such appeal in accordance with the cited regulations and respond to the appeal accordingly, either affirming the decision or remanding it to the decision maker.

## **1.9 OTHER PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED**

This EIS is intended to provide analysis to support decisions to be made by the BLM and, as appropriate, by other agencies with permitting authority over the proposed SOLRC operation. The BLM decision will apply only to BLM administered lands. However, potential effects of implementing the Proposed Action and alternatives on lands and activities administered by other federal, state, and local entities are also disclosed in this document.

Table 1-1 identifies agencies and permits or approvals that may be required for SOLRC to operate. This list is not exhaustive. Other permits and approvals may be required. While the BLM assumes no responsibility for enforcing laws, regulations, or ordinances under the jurisdiction of other governmental agencies, BLM regulations require that permittees abide by applicable laws and conditions imposed by other jurisdictions.

<b>Table 1-1. Permits, approvals, and consultations that may be required.</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Type of Action</b>	<b>Description of Permit or Action</b>
BLM	Land use authorization.	Authorization required to operate on BLM administered lands.
USDI-Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 consultation and Biological Opinion.	Consultation in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to insure that appropriate protection is extended to federally listed threatened, endangered, and candidate plant and animal species.
Federal Aviation Administration	FAR Part 135 certificate.	Certification of compliance with required safety standards and requirements.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 404 permit(s).	Permitting in accordance with the Clean Water Act to insure that appropriate protection is extended to waters of the U.S., including wetlands.
Colorado Department of Transportation	State highway access permit, and highway closure permit.	Permits required to provide access on and off SH 110A and to close the highway when avalanche control activities are underway.
Colorado Tramway Board	Permit to operate chairlift.	Permit issued in accordance with pertinent state regulations to insure safe operation of the chairlift.
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	Various health and environmental permitting.	Permitting necessary to operate food service facilities, to develop and maintain a culinary well, and to develop and maintain a wastewater treatment system.
San Juan Regional Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners, San Juan County	Approval of preliminary plan, final plan, and parking plan.	Approval to proceed with development following review of final plan for compliance with applicable county land use regulations and master plan.
San Juan County	Building permits.	Permits issued to insure that construction complies with pertinent county regulations.
San Juan County	County road access and closure agreement.	Agreements required to provide access on and off SH 110A and to close the road when avalanche control activities are underway if and when management of the road shifts to the county.
Private land owners	Access agreements.	Permission to allow SOLRC access to private inholdings in permit area.
Colorado State Historic Preservation Office	Section 106 consultation.	Complete Section 106 process under National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.
Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Northern Ute Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Consultation	Consultation in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act.  Consultation in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Executive Order 13007.