

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LITTLE SNAKE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN CRAIG, COLORADO

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Type of Action: Administrative

Jurisdiction: Portions of Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco Counties

Abstract: This draft environmental impact statement (EIS) addresses alternative resource management plans (RMP) for the Little Snake Resource Management Plan Planning Area (RMPPA). When completed, the Little Snake RMP will have provided an overview of goals, objectives, and needs associated with public lands management; considered new data; involved local levels of government and citizens in determining traditional and emerging uses of public land; and provided management direction for management of lands with wilderness character outside of existing WSAs, management of energy and mineral resources, particularly in sensitive or unique areas, and management of increased off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and non-motorized visitation.

The RMPPA comprises approximately 1.3 million acres of surface federal ownership and 1.1 million acres of federal mineral estate overlain by private and State lands in northwestern Colorado. This Draft EIS analyzes four alternative resource management plans, including a Preferred Alternative (Alternative C), that provide management direction for the protection of certain resources (e.g., big game habitat, Special Status Species, suitable wild and scenic rivers, cultural sites) and allow leasing and development of energy resources, recreational activities, grazing practices, and other activities at varying levels. These alternatives are a continuation of present management (Alternative A) and three other alternatives, including a Preferred Alternative, that provide a variety of management choices ranging from restricting management actions or development to actively mitigating the effects of resource management actions or development. The Preferred Alternative is, in part, a combination of Alternatives A, B, and D. The four alternatives in Chapter 2 of the Draft EIS focus on allocating public lands and resources among the uses and prescribing the general management actions that would be taken. The various impacts that would be expected from implementing each of the alternatives are documented in Chapter 4.

When the Little Snake RMP is completed, it will provide a comprehensive framework for managing the BLM-administered public lands and resources and allocating their uses in the RMPPA. Further information regarding this draft RMP/EIS can be obtained from the address below. Comments will be accepted for 90 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of filing of this Draft EIS in the Federal Register. Comments should be sent to the following addresses:

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