



PRELIMINARY DRAFT ALTERNATIVES HERITAGE RESOURCES

Documented vertebrate fossil sites are avoidance areas for surface disturbing activities and rights-of-way. Management guidelines in BLM Handbook 8270-1 would apply. Unavoidable impacts would require mitigation plans, which may include activity monitoring, fossil documentation, recovery, and storage in a federally-approved repository.

No Action Alternative

- Manage identified sites of archaeological and paleontological significance, including Finley, Krmptich, Eden-Farson, and paleosol deposition area to protect scientific value.
- Native American respected places currently protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and American Indian Religious Freedom Act. Surface disturbing activities would be prohibited within 100 feet of all sites.
- Expansion-era roads and early pioneer-era sites would be protected under the NHPA.
- Some historic pastoral sites and campsite locations have been identified and may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), but are not currently protected.
- Important historic and archaeological sites within the context of early Native American – European contact would be identified and protected by provisions of the NHPA.

Alternative 1

- Manage identified sites of archaeological and paleontological significance, including Finley, Krmptich, Eden-Farson, and paleosol deposition area to protect scientific value.
- Tribal leaders would be consulted and surface disturbing activities would be prohibited within ¼ mile of respected places.
- Expansion-era roads and early pioneer-era sites would be protected under the NHPA.
- Sites eligible for the NRHP would be protected from surface-disturbing activities and any area of additional protection would be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Interpretive signs would be placed where development occurs near unprotected early Native American – European contact sites of interest.

Alternative 2

- No surface disturbance would be allowed in the paleosol deposition area. The Greater Sand Dunes area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) would be expanded to include the paleosol deposition area. The area would be managed as a Research Natural Area. Finley and Krmptich sites would be nominated to the NRHP and locations would be kept confidential. Interpretive information would be provided at the BLM field office.

- Tribal leaders would be consulted to determine protective zone (to include viewshed) from surface disturbing activities. The Indian Gap trail would be researched, mapped, and interpreted.
- Surface disturbing activities within ¼ mile of expansion-era roads and early pioneer-era sites that could affect eligibility for the NRHP would be prohibited. These roads and sites would be nominated to NRHP.
- Surface disturbing activities would be restricted within a minimum area of 300 feet of any NRHP-eligible sites.
- Interpretive programs would be developed and NRHP listing or include in Back-country Byways program.

Alternative 3

- Proposed surface disturbance within the paleosol deposition area would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and special subsurface testing would be required. Mitigation may require research-level recovery excavation. The Finley and Krmpotich locations would be kept confidential and interpretive information would be provided at the BLM field office.
- Tribal leaders would be consulted to determine protective zone (to include foreground viewshed) from surface disturbing activities.
- Surface disturbing activities within ¼ mile of expansion-era roads and early pioneer-era sites that could affect eligibility for the NRHP would be prohibited. Contributing portions of these roads and sites would be nominated to NRHP.
- Surface disturbing activities would be restricted within a minimum area of 100 feet of any NRHP-eligible sites.
- Interpretive programs would be developed for important historic and archaeological sites and listing on the NRHP or inclusion to the Back-country Byways program would be obtained.