

Trapper surface control available for grazing. Range site A was found to have a mean of .51 AUM's per acre based on 1980 production data. Based on a six months grazing season, range site A has 190 AUM's available for use per month (Table 2.3-23). Converted to sheep use, 817 sheep could graze this range site for six months without excessive use.

The other mountain shrub range site (B), comprises only 955 acres of the lands presently under Trapper surface control for grazing use. Mean AUM's per acre available for grazing within this range site is .34 based on 1980 production data (Table 2.3-23). Based on a six months grazing season, 55 AUM's are available per month within this range site. Converted to sheep use, 235 sheep could graze range site B without excessive use.

2.3.5 Potential Impact to Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

Those plant species listed as threatened or endangered and known to occur in Moffat County at elevations between 6500 feet and 8000 feet are listed in Table 2.3-24. The list of threatened or endangered species is based upon documents received from the Bureau of Land Management District office, Craig, Colorado (Appendix D) and the Plant Information Network (PIN) developed at Colorado State University.

Of the seven total species thought to occur in Moffat County, only three could occur within the elevation range which bounds the proposed mine plan area. None of these have been encountered to date. If future vegetation analysis reveals that any such species are present, they will be reported to the appropriate State and Federal agencies.

Based on inventories conducted by Ecology Consultants, Inc. in 1972 and Trapper Mine in 1979 and 1980 no threatened or endangered plant species occur or will be impacted by mining activities within the proposed mine plan area boundary.

In June 2022 Trapper Mine personnel conducted a thorough search of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Colorado Natural Heritage Program (administered through Colorado State University) data bases. That search showed that the range of no Colorado endangered plant species is within the Trapper Mine permit or adjacent areas. Only one plant species of Colorado "special interest," Wetherill Milkvetch (*Astragalus wetherillii*), is potentially found within the range of Trapper's permit area. However, this species is not expected to be found at Trapper because its habitat—steep slopes, canyon benches, and talus under cliffs in association with sagebrush and juniper—does not exist within Trapper's permit boundary.