1990

Great Divide Resource Area Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan

United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

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The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of the public lands and resources and their various values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, a combination of uses that takes into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness and natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.
RECORD OF DECISION and
APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN for the
GREAT DIVIDE RESOURCE AREA

Prepared by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Great Divide Resource Area
Rawlins District
Rawlins, Wyoming

November 1990

Wyoming State Director

11-9-90
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RECORD OF DECISION

This document records the decision made by the Bureau of Land Management for managing approxi-
mately 4 million acres of public land surface and 5 million acres of federal mineral estate adminis-
tered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Great Divide Resource Area.

DECISION

The decision is to approve the attached resource management plan (RMP) for the Great Divide Resource Area. The approved RMP (hereafter called the Great Divide RMP) was prepared under the reg-
ulations for implementing the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 CFR 1600). An environmental impact statement (EIS) was
prepared for this plan in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).
The Great Divide RMP supersedes all previous land-use planning decisions for the Great Divide Re-
source Area.

During the 30-day protest period on the Great Divide proposed RMP/final EIS, one protest was
received. Mr. Thomas Lustig, Mr. Paul Zogg, Mr. Thomas Dougherty, and Mr. John Zelazny, submitted a protest on behalf of the National Wildlife Federation and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation. Their protest related to the following:

- Adequacy of cumulative impact analysis on wildlife in the RMP/EIS
- Adequacy of addressing wildlife and livestock grazing conflicts
- Adequacy of addressing antelope and fencing conflicts
- Adequacy of addressing impacts to bald eagles
- Adequacy of protection for the Shoshone Hills Raptor Concentration Area of Critical Environmental Concern; and
- The failure of the RMP to designate multiple big game overlapping critical winter ranges as ACECs.

In resolving the protest, it was not necessary to make any changes in the proposed RMP/final EIS.

The selection and approval of the Great Divide RMP is based on the proposed RMP described in the
final EIS.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

The BLM's recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on the Encampment River Canyon, Pros-
ppect Mountain, Bennett Mountains, Adobe Town, and Ferris Mountains wilderness study areas
(WSSAs) will be made in the appropriate Wilderness EISs. Wilderness decisions are not part of this Rec-
ord of Decision or the Great Divide RMP. The decisions regarding wilderness are ultimately made by
Congress and will be incorporated into the Great Divide RMP. Until Congress makes decisions on the
WSAs in the Great Divide Resource Area, they will be managed under the interim wilderness manage-
ment guidelines.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS

The following areas are designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

- Jep Canyon (approximately 13,320 acres)
- Como Bluff (approximately 1760 acres)
- Shamrock Hills Raptor Concentration Area (approximately 17,280 acres)
- Sand Hills (approximately 8,300 acres)

Further information regarding these ACEC and other special management area designations is con-
tained in the Great Divide RMP.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

Four alternative plans were considered in detail in the Great Divide RMP/EIS. All alternatives are
multiple-use oriented. Each alternative provides for resource production and environmental protection.

Alternative A is the continuation of current management practices (or the "no action" alternative) on
the basis of existing land use plans.

Alternative B restricts activities that are causing problems with other resources. Resource conflicts
occurring under existing management are resolved through increased restriction of surface-disturbing
activities.
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GREAT DIVIDE RESOURCE AREA

INTRODUCTION

This Resource Management Plan (RMP) provides the management direction for approximately 4 million acres of public land surface and 5 million acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Great Divide Resource Area. This Great Divide RMP supersedes all previous planning decisions for the Great Divide Resource Area.

The resource area administrative boundary includes parts of four counties in south central Wyoming (see Map 1). The RMP planning area includes the larger communities of Rawlins, Cheyenne, Laramie, and Saratoga. Smaller communities within the area are Arlington, Baggs, Bairoil, Dixon, Elk Mountain, Encampment, Hanna, McFadden, Medicine Bow, Riverside, Rock River, Savery, Sinclair, and Wamsutter.

There are about 12.5 million acres within the general administrative boundary of the Great Divide Resource Area. Of this, about four million acres of both federal surface and federal mineral estate and another one million acres of only federal mineral estate (i.e., federal minerals under state and privately owned land surface) are administered by BLM and covered by this RMP.

The remaining 7.5 million acres within the resource area boundary are not covered by this RMP. On approximately one million of these 7.5 million acres, the federal mineral estate is administered by BLM, while the surface acreage is administered by other federal agencies, primarily the Forest Service. These acres are not addressed because the plans of those other agencies provide the basis for BLM’s administration of those minerals resources. The remaining 6.5 million acres of surface and mineral estate are privately owned or owned by the State of Wyoming.

The Great Divide RMP represents a selection of management actions which resolve the planning issues and provide for sustained multiple use management of the public lands and resources. All resource uses in the planning area must conform with the decisions, terms, and conditions of use described in this plan. Detailed decisions for the implementation of specific projects will be made through activity planning and environmental review that will be completed prior to the implementation of the project. Likewise, the authorization of specific uses will be based on conformance with planning decisions and completion of environmental review.

Planning and Management Decisions for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

These decisions apply only to the BLM-administered public lands within the boundaries of the ACECs.

The general management direction for each designated ACEC is described in this section. The only management actions presented here are for the specific resource management programs that directly pertain to the issues for each ACEC. Management actions for other programs in the ACECs will be guided by the general RMP decisions found in the other sections of the RMP. Management actions for ACECs include appropriate application of "The Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing Activities (Appendix II)" and resource program-specific guidelines.

More specific and detailed management prescriptions and monitoring requirements will be identified when activity plans are prepared for each ACEC.

Como Bluff

Designation and Management Objectives

The Como Bluff area (1,760 acres of public land) is designated an ACEC (see Map 2).

The objectives for management of the Como Bluff ACEC are to manage it in a manner that will maintain the integrity of the Como Bluff National Register District/National Natural Landmark, to preserve historically significant sites, and to allow for mineral development. The National Natural Landmark (NNL) will be managed for its paleontological resource and historical values.

Management Actions

An activity plan will be prepared to provide detailed guidance for management of the Como Bluff ACEC.
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cultural and Paleontological Resource Management

Within ¼ mile of exposures of the Morrison Formation (a fossil-bearing formation) surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed. Case-by-case examination of any proposed surface disturbing activity will be made to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects.

Mineral Management

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with intensive management of surface disturbing activities.

Plants of operations will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use), regardless of the number of acres that may be disturbed.

Sand Hills

Designation and Management Objectives

The Sand Hills area (about 8,300 acres of public land) is designated an ACEC (See Map 3).

The objectives for management of the Sand Hills ACEC are to protect the unique vegetation complex, maintain wildlife habitat values, minimize soil erosion, and promote recreational opportunities.

Management Actions

An activity plan will be prepared to provide detailed guidance for management of the Sand Hills ACEC.

Fire Management

The ACEC is designated a full fire suppression area with management options (i.e., restrictions may be placed on the use of standard full suppression firefighting techniques).

Mineral Management

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with intensive management of surface disturbing activities.

Plants of operations will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use), regardless of the number of acres that may be disturbed.

Off Road Vehicle Management

Motor vehicle use will be limited to existing roads and trails. Rehabilitation and mitigation practices will be carried out in specific problem areas.

Vegetation/Soil Management

The unique vegetation complex of the Sand Hills area will be protected from sources of disturbance through intensive management of surface-disturbing activities. Case-by-case examination of any proposed surface disturbing activity will be made to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects.

Developments, uses, and facilities will be managed temporarily (time of year) and spatially (space or distance) to avoid damage to the vegetation.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Inventories will be conducted to identify the location of existing roads and trails, areas that mule deer avoid because of human activities, and areas where soil disturbance and wind erosion are concentrated.

Action plans will be developed to mitigate the effects in identified mule deer behavioral avoidance zones and to rehabilitate concentrated soil disturbance and wind erosion.

Jep Canyon

Designation and Management Objective

The Jep Canyon area (about 13,200 acres of public land) is designated an ACEC (See Map 4).

The objectives for management of the Jep Canyon ACEC are to maintain the integrity of crucial winter habitat for elk, to maintain the productivity of nesting raptor pairs, to allow for development of oil and gas and coal, and to seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

Management Actions

An activity plan will be prepared to provide detailed guidance for management of the Jep Canyon ACEC.

Mineral Management

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with intensive management of surface disturbing activities.
plans of operations will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use), regardless of the number of acres that would be disturbed.

Coal development will be permitted in the Jep Canyon ACEC with application of mitigation and protection requirements developed during the coal screening process (see Appendix II, Atlantic Rim).

**Vegetation/Soils Management**

Surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed to prevent loss of significant habitat. This will entail case-by-case examination of proposals to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Certain times of the year and certain areas will be avoided by special and temporal management of development, facilities, and uses.

**Shamrock Hills Raptor Concentration Area**

**Designation and Management Objectives**

The Shamrock Hills Raptor Concentration Area (RCA) (about 17,280 acres of public land) is designated an ACEC (see Map 5).

The objectives for management of this area are to maintain the productivity of nesting raptor pairs, to allow for development of coal and oil and gas, and to seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of raptor nesting habitat.

**Management Actions**

An activity plan will be prepared to provide detailed guidance for management of the Shamrock Hills ACEC.

**Vegetation/Soils Management**

Surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed to maintain raptor nesting habitat. This will entail case-by-case examination of proposals to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Developments, uses, and facilities will be managed temporally and spatially to avoid certain times of the year and certain areas.

**RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Minerals Management**

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with intensive management of surface disturbing activities.

Coal development will be permitted in the Shamrock Hills ACEC with application of mitigation and protection requirements developed during the coal screening process (see Appendix II, Indian Springs and North Indian Springs).

**Seminoe Raptor Concentration Area**

The Seminoe Raptor Concentration Area (RCA) was originally proposed for ACEC designation because of its historically high concentrations of nesting ferruginous hawks. Review of nesting activity in the Seminoe RCA from 1967 to 1990 determined that only one or two pairs of ferruginous hawks utilized the area for nesting habitat. The decline in ferruginous hawk use is believed to have occurred since the late 1970s following the decline of both prairie dogs and Richardson's ground squirrels inhabiting the area. Ferruginous hawk nests originally located in the 1970s and early 1980s are generally in poor condition. Many of the nests are merely stick remnants now.

For these reasons the Seminoe RCA will not be designated an ACEC. However, the area will continue to be monitored. In the event that populations of hawks and prey rebound in the future, management direction in the area will be reconsidered.

**PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS BY RESOURCE PROGRAM**

The general management actions for each of the following resource programs include application of "The Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing Activities (Appendix I)" and resource program-specific guidelines.
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cultural Resources Management Decisions

General

Management Objectives
To protect and preserve representative samples of the full array of cultural resources for the benefit of scientific and socio-cultural use by present and future generations.
To ensure that cultural resources are given full consideration in all land-use planning and management decisions.
To manage cultural resources so that scientific and socio-cultural values are not diminished, but rather are maintained and enhanced.
To ensure that the BLM's undertakings avoid inadvertent damage to cultural resources both federal and non-federal.

Management Actions
The BLM will conduct Class I, II, or III inventories for actions involving BLM administered public land and/or federal minerals that include surface disturbance as part of the action. The BLM will also evaluate the significance of cultural resources identified during inventory in consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office to determine whether the resources are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Management Actions
To maintain the integrity of existing and proposed NNLS

National Natural Landmarks
Management Objective
To maintain the integrity of existing and proposed NNLS

Management Actions
Lands totaling 180 acres in the Gangplank proposed NNL, 640 acres in the Big Hollow NNL, and 180 acres in the Sand Creek NNl will be considered for disposal to individuals, organizations, agencies, or institutions that would manage these areas in accordance with their NNl status (see Map 6).

Management actions pertaining to the Como Bluff NNl are described in the Como Bluff ACEC section.

Paleontological Resources
Management Decisions

Management Objectives
To maintain the integrity of the scientific value of paleontological resources.

Management Actions
Inventories will be conducted on a case-by-case basis for each proposed surface-disturbing activity to ensure maintenance or integrity of paleontological values.

Other actions pertaining to paleontological resources are described in Appendix II and the Como Bluff ACEC section.
Map 6
GENERAL LOCATIONS OF NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990

Note: Boundaries are illustrated precisely on individual land ownership status maps.
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Fire Management Decisions

Management Objectives

To concentrate fire suppression efforts in areas containing high resource and/or human values and in areas with intermingled landownership patterns, and to use prescribed fire to help meet the objectives of other programs (such as the reduction of fuels or the maintenance and/or improvement of wildlife habitat or range condition).

Management Actions

Portions of the planning area are designated for different levels of fire suppression (see map 7).

Full Suppression: Approximately 60% of the planning area is designated a full suppression area. There are no equipment restrictions.

Full Suppression With Management Options: Approximately 3% of the planning area is designated a full fire suppression area "with management options." Restrictions may be placed on the use of standard full suppression firefighting techniques.

Limited Suppression: Approximately 36% of the planning area is designated a limited fire suppression area.

Limited Suppression With Consultation: Approximately 1% of the planning area is proposed for a limited suppression classification following consultation and agreement with the landowners in the area. If agreement cannot be reached to allow limited suppression of wildfires, the area will be managed under a full suppression classification.

A fire management plan will be prepared containing criteria for protecting high resource values such as significant cultural resources, crucial winter range for big game, high priority watersheds, and high-value scenic areas. The fire management plan will include operational aspects of implementing limited suppression designations. An escaped fire analysis will be conducted to determine the appropriate course of action if fires cannot be contained within the first burning period or if they exceed the criteria established for limited suppression.

Prescribed burning will be used to achieve management objectives such as those for allotment management plans (AMPS) and habitat management plans (HMPs). Prescribed fire proposals will be considered case-by-case to ensure environmental integrity and consistency with multiple resource objectives and activity plans.

Forest Management Decisions

Management Objective

To enhance health and productivity as well as diversity of the forestlands through forest management practices.

Management Actions

The allowable harvest level is 20 million board feet (MMBF) per decade. This will be harvested from the commercial forestlands in the planning area that are available for intensive or restricted management of forest products (about 3,200 acres or 29% of the total forestland in the planning area). Following are the types of actions that will be taken to meet the forest management objectives on these lands.

About 19,200 acres will be intensively managed for forest products. These lands will be managed to achieve a highly productive forest by implementing activities that will enhance tree growth and health. Full consideration will be given to multiple-use values. Timber sales will be concentrated in these areas.

About 6,700 acres will be under restricted management for forest products. Included in this category are areas such as steep slopes and riparian areas with buffer zones around them.

Forest management practices such as timber harvesting, regeneration of disturbed sites, stand replacement and precommercial thinning will be carried out to meet the forest management objectives.

Stands of unmerchantable, nonproductive lodgepole pine will be replaced with young, vigorous trees.

Minor wood products such as fuelwood, posts and poles, Christmas trees, and wildings will be available on demand.

The BLM will pursue opportunities to acquire or maintain legal access to certain areas of public land to support intensive management of commercial forestland (see the Lands Program - Access section for areas of access needs).

Consolidation of landownership on Elk Mountain and Shirley Mountain will be considered as opportunities arise.

About 85,200 acres of other forestlands will be managed only to enhance other uses.
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

per, and other noncommercial tree species are included in this category.

About 300 acres are not available for management of forest products because the timber is not harvestable and because of the small size of the stands, their scattered locations, or terrain limitations.

Lands Program Management Decisions

Management Objectives

To support the goals and objectives of other resource programs for managing the BLM administered public lands and to respond to public demand for land use authorizations.

Management Actions

Utility/Transportation Systems

All BLM administered public lands will be open to consideration for placement of utility/transportation systems, but such systems will be located next to existing facilities whenever possible.

Areas with important resource values identified on Map 8 will be avoided where possible in planning for new facility placement and routes. If it becomes necessary for facilities to be placed within avoidance areas, effects will be intensively mitigated.

Communication Sites

Communication site plans will be developed for all existing and any new sites (see Map 9). New sites may be established, with appropriate analysis, on a case-by-case basis.

Site categories will be established for all communication sites according to the following criteria:

High-power communication sites will be reserved for broadcast television and radio transmitters of 100 watts or more.

Low-power communication sites will be reserved for microwave, mobile telephone/radio, and other transmitters using fewer than 100 watts.

A 2-mile buffer will be maintained around all communication sites to ensure their integrity.

Landownership Adjustments

About 66,000 acres are identified as available for consideration for disposal under the disposal criteria of FLPMA. These lands may be disposed by any appropriate means permitted under the land laws, including desert land patent, exchange, sale, and recreation and public purpose (R&PP) patent. Specific tracts are identified on Maps 10, 11, 12, and 13.

In addition, proposals for disposal of lands not identified as meeting the FLPMA criteria will be considered if they are consistent with the objectives of the RMP.

Before taking any disposal action, consideration will be given to each individual tract and will include public involvement.

The preferred method of disposal or acquisition of lands by BLM will be through exchange.

Access

Consistent with the Wyoming BLM access policy, the BLM will pursue opportunities to acquire or maintain legal access to the following areas:

High Importance

Arlington (forestry)
Atlantic Rim (recreation)
Big Creek (recreation)
Elk Mountain (forestry)
Ferris Mountains (recreation)
Little Medicine (forestry)
Miller Hill (recreation)
Shirley Mountain (forestry, recreation)

Moderate Importance

North Laramie River (forestry)
Pine Mountain-Split Rock (forestry)
Rawlins Uplift (recreation)
Seminole-Pathfinder (recreation)
Toltec (forestry)
White Rock Canyon (recreation)

Low Importance

Seven Mile (forestry)
Sugarloaf (forestry)
Woodedge (forestry)
Continental Divide Trail (recreation)

See Map 14 for areas of access need. Additional access needs will be considered as they are identified or as opportunities arise.

Withdrawals

Reviews of withdrawn lands in the planning area, under section 204(1) of FLPMA, will be completed to
The following areas would be avoided, if possible, when permits are granted for surface-disturbing activities. If avoidance is not possible, each situation would be individually analyzed considering facility features, use, time of year, construction techniques, and human presence. Impacts would be carefully mitigated by intensive reclamation, special construction techniques, etc.

Steep slopes (not shown on map - covers 8% of planning area)
Riparian Areas / Surface Water (only main water bodies shown on map - covers 3% of planning area)
High Priority Habitat (not shown on map - covers 6% of planning area - may overlap other areas)

Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds (Locations on map are approximate. There may be more leks than are shown on the map)
VRM Class I and II Areas, Baggs Elk Crucial Winter Range, Como Bluff Natural History Site, Sand Hills area, Historic Trails, Raptor Concentration areas, and Recreation Areas.
Areas of public lands that may have future potential for disposal or transfer because they are isolated and difficult to manage.

Map 10
LANDS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSAL
ALBANY AND EASTERN CARBON COUNTIES
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1980

Areas of public lands that may have future potential for disposal or transfer because they would meet important objectives such as community expansion or economic development.

Map 11
LANDS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSAL
NORTHERN CARBON AND SWEETWATER COUNTIES
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1980
Map 12
LANDS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSAL
LARAMIE COUNTY
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990

Map 13
LANDS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSAL
SOUTHERN CARBON COUNTY
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990

Areas of public lands that may have future potential for disposal or transfer because they are isolated and difficult to manage.

Areas of public lands that may have future potential for disposal or transfer because they would meet important public objectives such as community expansion or economic development.
determine whether existing withdrawals are serving or needed for their intended purposes. These reviews are not a part of developing the RMP. Thus, no decisions are made on the termination of any withdrawals in this RMP. The existing withdrawals in the planning area will remain in place unless or until it is determined they should be terminated and, if necessary, a plan amendment to the Great Divide RMP is made. Such determination or amendment will be based upon full examination of the issues associated with withdrawal terminations, including the land use, environmental and other factors associated with opening public lands now closed to entry under the public land laws or to mineral location under the mining laws.

The BLM will initiate new withdrawals which would close areas to operation of the public land laws, including disposal, and to mineral location under the mining laws. This includes recreation sites, 660 acres; historic sites, 1,263 acres; and a rare plant population, 10 acres.

Further information on withdrawals is summarized in Table 1.

### TABLE 1

| Type of Withdrawal | Acres
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Withdrawal*</td>
<td>2,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stration Hydrology</td>
<td>2,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Sites (BLM)</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Sites (FS)</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Areas</td>
<td>73,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Refuges (FWS)</td>
<td>3,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Navigation Sites (FAA)</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Water Reservoirs</td>
<td>48,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil Shale</td>
<td>56,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal Withdrawals</td>
<td>610,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Sites</td>
<td>5,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock Driveways</td>
<td>263,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Withdrawal Initiatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encampment Campground</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corral Creek Campground</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett Peak Campground</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teton Reservoir Campground</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pryor Flats Campground</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duckgy Recreation Site</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine-mile Recreation Site</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Washakie Stage Station</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overland Trail</td>
<td>680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Creek Proposed Recreation Site</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospect Creek Proposed Recreation Site</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jelm Mountain Proposed Recreation Site</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Mountain Proposed Campground*</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibbon's Beartounge Site</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

**TABLE 1 (Continued) WITHDRAWAL SUMMARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Due to overlaps, acres are not additive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Except for powerwashes and stock driveways, these withdrawals segregate the land against operation of the public land laws and from mineral location under the 1872 General Mining Law.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 These withdrawals are scheduled for future review. The recommendations from the reviews will be arrived at on a case-by-case basis. It is possible that portions of the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Justice (for the Department of Interior regarding the adjudication of water rights). Withdrawals will be terminated on public water users that do not meet retention requirements.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 These withdrawals are approved against operation of the public land laws but not the 1872 General Mining Law.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 These withdrawal initiatives would replace segregations previously established with C&amp;MU classification.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Classifications**

Classification and Multiple Use Act (C&MU) of 1984

A notice of classification, published in the Federal Register on November 8, 1987, classified 3,050,000 acres in the planning area. New withdrawals and multiple use management. Of this, 3,916 acres of high value recreation lands were also segregated from mineral location. With the expiration of the C&MU Act and the passage of FLPA, C&MU classifications for retention and multiple use were no longer necessary. Thus, except for the 3,916 acres segregated from mineral location, the C&MU classifications in the planning area were terminated.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Under the Great Divide RMP these remaining 3,916 acres of C&MU classifications will be terminated and managed as follows:

For those high value recreation areas, where about 900 acres of the C&MU classifications are to be replaced with withdrawals (see Table 1), the classifications will remain in effect until after the new withdrawals are in place. Withdrawals are not necessary to provide appropriate management for the remaining 3,316 acres. These lands will be managed under the general provisions of the RMP.

2 Other classifications on 4,197 acres for potential recreation And Public purpose (Public) Ranges in the Dividing EIS (1976). These are not longer necessary and will be terminated. Classifications on 15 acres for small tract sales are no longer necessary and will be terminated.

Withdrawals are to be made for the mineral leasing Act of 1920, all prior cost classifications protecting federal coal from mineral location on 671,768 acres are unnecessary and will be terminated.

**Livestock Grazing Management Decisions**

**Introduction**

There are three separate grazing EIS covering the declaration and implementation of the RMP. Two of these EISs (the Divide Grazing EIS and the Seven Lakes Grazing EIS) were completed prior to developing the Great Divide Rangeland Management Plan. The third is the Great Divide Rangeland Management Plan for the Seven Lakes Grazing EIS area (map 15) will continue in effect as outlined in the Divide and Seven Lakes Rangeland Program Summaries (RPS). These two RPSs are incorporated into the Great Divide RMP reference.

The RPS for the Medicine Bow Grazing EIS area (covered in the Great Divide RMP/EIS) will be developed in the near future. In conjunction with this RPS, a single agreement encompassing all three grazing EIS areas will be developed to coordinate the entire rangeland management program for the Great Divide planning area.

**Management Objective**

To enhance livestock grazing while maintaining a balance between economic uses and the enhancement of wildlife habitat, watershed, and riparian areas, and while maintaining or improving range condition over the long term.

**Management Actions**

Livestock grazing use in the planning area will be continued. Livestock grazing will also be managed to provide for protection or enhancement of other resources as necessary.

The total authorized livestock grazing use will not exceed the recognized active preference in the planning area. Currently, this is a maximum of 480,754 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of annual forage use (161,340 AUMs are in the Medicine Bow Grazing EIS area and 240,534 AUMs are in the Seven Lakes Grazing EIS area).

The current amounts, kinds and seasons of livestock grazing use will continue to be authorized until monitoring indicates a grazing use necessary or that a class of livestock or season of use modification can be accomplished.

Requests for changes in seasons of use or kind of livestock will be considered case by case. Requests for permits from sheep to cattle will be considered with management actions to maintain or improve riparian conditions.

Any adjustments in livestock grazing use will be consistent with current policies and procedures and results of inventories, monitoring studies and consultation, coordination or negotiation with grazing permitting. Adjustments may also result from land use planning decisions to change the type and amount of public lands or from transfers of BLM administered public lands to other agency jurisdictions or into non-federal ownership.

The Great Divide rangeland monitoring plan will be reviewed and updated annually. This monitoring plan, which details the type and purpose of monitoring to be done at the allotment level is on file in the Great Divide Resource Area Office. The Wyoming minimum monitoring standards are shown in Table 2.

Grazing systems will be designed to achieve the livestock grazing objective. Existing allotment management plans (AMPs) will be maintained and updated as necessary. New AMPs will be developed for selected grazing allotments as funding allows. "I allotments have first priority.

Existing types and levels of grazing use will be continued in "II" allotments. Proposals to change existing use may require changes in the allotment categorization and level of management attention and monitoring. Maintenance and development of range improvements may be undertaken to enhance
Seven Lakes Grazing EIS Area
Divide Grazing EIS Area
Medicine Bow Grazing EIS Area

Map 15
GRAZING EIS AREAS
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 2
MINIMUM MONITORING STANDARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELEMENT</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Use</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>(Allotment supervision visit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 year in 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilization</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Allotment supervision visit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>as manpower allows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend (Permanent Photo-Point)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend (Other)</td>
<td>Discretion of Area Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allotment Management Plan</td>
<td>Draft AMP by end of 5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 A dash (—) signifies no minimum standard.

Special attention will be given to maintenance of wildlife habitat on 13,140 acres that contain crucial winter range for big game and other important habitats. These areas will also receive special attention in the development and implementation of AMPs and other activity plans (see Maps 16, 17, and 18).

Minerals Management Decisions

Leasable Minerals

Coal

Management Objectives: To provide for both short- and long-range development of federal coal in an orderly and timely manner, consistent with the policies of the federal coal management program, environmental integrity, national energy needs, and related demands; to protect important resources by specifying whether federal coal can be leased for surface, subsurface, or in situ mining methods; and to allow analysis of alternative areas in consideration of future leasing activities.

Management Actions: The federal coal areas with potential for coal development are shown on Map 16.
Livestock grazing could occur on this area with special attention for maintenance of wildlife habitat.

Map 17
IMPORTANT WILDLIFE HABITATS IDENTIFIED FOR SPECIAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT
MIRACLE MILE
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990

Livestock grazing could occur on both areas with special attention for maintenance of wildlife habitat.

Map 18
IMPORTANT WILDLIFE HABITATS IDENTIFIED FOR SPECIAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT
ENCAMPMENT RIVER CANYON
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 19. Those areas acceptable for further consideration for leasing (through lease applications or coal activity planning) are listed below. The mitigation measures developed in the coal screening process will be applied in these areas as described in Appendix II. All other federal coal areas within the planning area are unavailable for leasing consideration.

Federal coal areas acceptable for further leasing consideration:

Hanna Basin—About 29,280 acres of public land and 760 acres of split estate lands containing about 190.6 million tons of Federal coal.

North Indian Springs—About 3,840 acres of public land containing about 25.0 million tons of Federal coal (acceptable for leasing consideration only for in situ coal development).

Indian Springs—About 2,500 acres of public land containing about 25.0 million tons of Federal coal (acceptable for leasing consideration only for in situ coal development).

Red Rim—About 9,720 acres of public land containing about 40.6 million tons of Federal coal.

China Butte—About 6,240 acres of public land containing about 73.9 million tons of Federal coal.

Atlantic Rim—About 2,850 acres of public land and 800 acres of split estate lands containing about 79.1 million tons of Federal coal.

Development Sequence:

A north-to-south coal development sequence will be followed in the entire area west of Rawlins and south of I-80 as needs are identified.

The BLM will process all applications for leasing in areas identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing. For each application, BLM will conduct a site-specific environmental analysis and will consider the development sequence described above and other environmental and socioeconomic factors (see Appendix II).

Savery Preference Right (coal) Lease Applications (PRLAs)—Serial Numbers WYW-0324034, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42

Development of the federal coal in the Savery PRLA area will not be allowed and no further consideration will be given to federal coal leasing in the area.

While the Great Divide proposed RMP/Final EIS was being printed (August 1988), the final showing for the Savery PRLAs, submitted by the applicant, was determined by BLM to be inadequate and the applications were rejected. Lacking any contest of this action by the applicant, the Savery PRLA case files (the only PRLAs in the Great Divide planning area) were closed. Thus, there is no longer any potential for PRLAs to influence the above decided north-to-south coal development sequence in the planning area.

In considering the Savery PRLA area for inclusion in the competitive federal coal leasing process, it was determined that the federal coal in the area has no development potential. The reasons for lacking development potential are the same as those explained in Appendix II (i.e., under the Coal Planning Process, Step 1: Identification of Development Potential Coal). In addition, the Record of Decision for the Savery Coal EIS (BLM, 1985) adopted the no (coal) development alternative for the Savery PRLA area because the significant resource impacts and land use conflicts that would result could not be acceptably mitigated. That situation has not changed and the no development decision is still appropriate for the foreseeable future.

Oil and Gas

Management Objective To provide opportunity for leasing, exploration, and development of oil and gas while protecting other resource values.

Management Actions The entire planning area is open to oil and gas leasing. Leases will be issued with needed restrictions to protect the resources listed in Table 3.

Surface-disturbing activities will be restricted and intensively managed to maintain important resource values in the ACECs, the Baggs Elk Crucial Winter Range, and in overlapping crucial winter ranges for the various big game species. (See the individual ACEC and wildlife sections.)

All lands that are open to oil and gas leasing are also open to geophysical exploration.

In cases where Federal oil and gas leases are or have been issued (1) without stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be necessary; or (2) with stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be insufficient; the needed restrictions or requirements may be included in approving subsequent exploration and development activities. These restrictions or requirements may only be included as reasonable measures or as conditions of approval (COA) in authorizing applications for permit to drill (APD), sundry notices, or plans of development (POD).

Conversely, in cases where leases are or have been issued with stipulated restrictions or require-
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

ACREAGES WITH SEASONAL AND SURFACE DISTURBANCE RESTRICTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF AREA</th>
<th>ESTIMATED ACREAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steep Slopes</td>
<td>320,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riparian areas and/or perennial surface</td>
<td>140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic trails</td>
<td>43,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VRM Class I and Class II areas</td>
<td>194,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing and proposed recreation sites</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Platte River SRMA (¼ mile on either side of the river)</td>
<td>3,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage grouse lets</td>
<td>22,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High priority wildlife habitat</td>
<td>240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raptor concentration areas (see map 8)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big game crucial winter range for elk</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlapping big game crucial winter range</td>
<td>122,880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The above acreages are estimates based on the best available information and may not include all acreage for the restrictions. They are intended to give the reader a concept of the area involved. Some acreages may overlap. Seasonal restrictions, to protect wildlife during critical periods, will be applied to about 1.4 million acres. This acreage includes raptor concentration areas, sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat, and big game crucial winter range and birthing areas. It overlaps with some of the acreages listed above.

Locatable Minerals

Management Objective To provide opportunity for location of mining claims and mineral development while prohibiting such activities on lands that are not compatible with these types of activities.

Management Actions The entire planning area is open to location of mining claims and mineral development except for areas that are closed or to be closed and withdrawn from mineral location. These areas are shown in Table 1. All locatable minerals actions will be reviewed to assure compliance with the BLM bonding policy for surface disturbing activities.

Salable Minerals

Management Objective To provide availability of mineral materials in convenient locations for users while protecting surface resources.

Other Leasable Minerals

Management Objective To provide opportunities for leasing, exploration, and development of oil shale, geothermal resources, and nonenergy leasable minerals while protecting other resource values.

Management Actions The entire planning area is open to leasing of oil shale, geothermal resources, and nonenergy leasable minerals except for resource areas.

Off-Road Vehicle Management

An ORV implementation plan will be prepared for the resource area. More details on off-road vehicle use and management will be developed in this implementation plan. The BLM will coordinate and cooperate with owners of adjacent properties, interested individuals, organizations, and agencies in preparing plans for implementation of the following ORV designations (also see Map 23).

General Planning Area With some exceptions, the planning area is open to use of motorized over-the-snow vehicles, provided that they do not adversely affect wildlife or vegetation. With some exceptions, all other motorized vehicle use in the planning area is limited to existing roads and trails. These exceptions are:

- Penrock Mountain and Wick Wildlife Habitat

These areas are closed to motorized vehicle use, including over-the-snow vehicles, from November 15 to April 30.

- Encampment Canyon crucial big horn winter range (about 6,700 acres)

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE:

The exact trail route will be identified through activity planning, which also will determine where easements or rights-of-way will be needed on private or state-owned land.

North Platte River SRMA: This 3,550-acre SRMA will be managed to provide high-quality recreational opportunities, especially for boating, fishing, camping, and sightseeing.

Management also will be aimed at providing public facilities and continued access.

Surface-disturbing activities within ¼ mile on either side of the river will be restricted to maintain the quality of the visual resources. An activity plan has been written for a portion of this area. That plan will be revised to include the entire SRMA.

Shirley Mountains Canoe SRMA: This 24,800-acre SRMA will be managed to provide for protection and enjoyment of the cave system while other resource uses will be allowed aboveground (see Map 22). Specific recreation management guidelines and surface use guidelines will be developed during activity planning.

The BLM will provide availability of outdoor recreational opportunities, to meet legal requirements for the health and safety of visitors and to mitigate conflicts with other resource uses.

Recreation Resources

The BLM will be managed to provide for protection and enjoyment of the cave system while other resource uses will be allowed aboveground (see Map 22). Specific recreation management guidelines and surface use guidelines will be developed during activity planning.

The BLM will coordinate and cooperate with owners of adjacent properties, interested individuals, organizations, and agencies in preparing plans for implementation of the following ORV designations (also see Map 23).

General Planning Area With some exceptions, the planning area is open to use of motorized over-the-snow vehicles, provided that they do not adversely affect wildlife or vegetation. With some exceptions, all other motorized vehicle use in the planning area is limited to existing roads and trails. These exceptions are:

- Penrock Mountain and Wick Wildlife Habitat

These areas are closed to motorized vehicle use, including over-the-snow vehicles, from November 15 to April 30.

- Encampment Canyon crucial big horn winter range (about 6,700 acres)
DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES
1 Pryor Flat
2 Dugway
3 Teton Reservoir
4 Encampment River
5 Bennett Peak
6 Corral Creek

UNDEVELOPED RECREATION SITE
7 Nine Mile Hill
8 Big Creek

PROPOSED RECREATION SITE
9 Prospect Creek
10 Shirley Mountains
11 Jelm Mountain

Map 20
RECREATION SITES
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990
Map 22
SHIRLEY MOUNTAINS CAVES
SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA
Great Divide Resource Management Area
November, 1990
1. West Seminoe and Dune Ponds
2. Adobe Town (See Adobe Town-Ferris Mtns. Wilderness FEIS)
3. Encampment River Canyon (See Great Divide Wilderness FEIS)
4. Encampment River Trail (See Great Divide Wilderness FEIS)
5. Ferris Mountains (See Adobe Town-Ferris Mtns Wilderness FEIS)
6. Pennock Mountains Wildlife Habitat Area
7. Wick Brothers Wildlife Habitat Area

Map 23
OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

This area is closed to motorized vehicle use, including over-the-snow vehicles, from December 1 to April 30.

- Encampment River Trail
- Those portions of this trail that cross BLM administered public lands are closed to all types of motorized vehicle use, year-round.
- Dune Ponds Cooperative Management Area (3,240 acres)
- Motorized vehicle use is limited to open sand areas west of Carbon County Road 351 and to existing roads and trails in the rest of the area.
- West Seminole Area (99,162 acres)
- Motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails to help resolve resource conflicts and preserve public access.
- Ferris Mountains
- This area is closed to all types of motorized vehicle use, year-round (see Adobe Town/Ferris Mountains Wilderness Final EIS).
- Adobe Town
- Motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails (see Adobe Town/Ferris Mountains Wilderness Final EIS).

Specific Problem Areas Plans for rehabilitation or mitigation of ORV use will be developed and implemented for specific problem areas within the Sand Hills area and the Dune Ponds Cooperative Management Area.

Because of the mixed landownership pattern and multiple resource concerns, completion of an effective ORV implementation plan for the Dune Ponds area is entirely dependent on close coordination with private land owners of adjacent property, the Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and other interested parties. The plan will also be closely coordinated with the wildlife, soils, and livestock grazing programs to ensure multiple resource concerns are addressed.

Access to Recreation Areas

Consistent with the Wyoming BLM access policy, the BLM will pursue opportunities to acquire legal access to certain areas to ensure continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities. See Lands Program - Access section for the areas needing access.

Consolidation of Landownership

Consolidation of landownership will be pursued in the following areas to increase recreational opportunities for the public. The areas in order of priority are: High - Bennett Peak, Dugway, Miracle Mile, North Platte River area; moderate - Dune Ponds, Elk Mountain, Shirley Mountains caves, and low - Bennett Mountains, Encampment River Canyon, Ferris Mountains. The preferred method of consolidation is through exchange.

Sensitive Plants Management Decisions

Gibben's Beardtongue Site (about 10 acres)

Management Objective
To maintain or enhance the population of Gibben's beardtongue (Penstemon gibbensii) in the site area.

Management Actions
The known population of Gibben's beardtongue will be protected from disturbance by maintaining the fencing around the population and by intensively managing surface disturbing activities in adjacent areas that could affect the population. Case by case examination of any proposed surface disturbing activity will be needed to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Development, uses, and facilities will be managed temporarily and spatially to avoid damage to the sensitive plant species.

Established trend studies will be continued. BLM intends to close this area to mineral location. A withdrawal will be initiated to implement this closure.

Muddy Gap Cushion Plant Community (about 100 acres)

Management Objective
To maintain or enhance the population of the Muddy Gap Cushion Plant Community.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Actions

To prevent the deterioration of air quality beyond applicable local, state, or federal standards and to enhance air resources where practicable.

To prevent impairment of important scenic values that may be caused by declining air quality.

To maintain soil cover and productivity where they are adequate and to increase soil cover and productivity where they are in a downward trend.

To maintain riparian areas in good or excellent condition and to improve riparian areas that are in fair or poor condition.

To control flood and sediment damage from natural or human-induced causes.

To reduce salt loading in watersheds that lie within the Colorado River Basin.

To meet or exceed established standards for quality of surface water and groundwater where water quality has been lowered by human-induced causes.

To provide for physical and legal availability of water for use by the public and by federal, state, and local agencies for fisheries and wildlife and for livestock, recreational, municipal, and industrial uses.

Management Actions

The BLM will implement intensive land-use practices to mitigate salt and sediment loading caused by surface-disturbing activities. These practices will be carried out in the following areas in priority order: (1) Muddy Creek, (2) Sage Creek, (3) Second and Third Sand creeks, and (4) the Little Snake River Basin (excluding the Muddy Creek watershed). Watershed or other activity plans will address site-specific problems and will include monitoring for salt and sediment loading.

In other areas, the BLM will carry out watershed management practices designed to meet soils, water, and air resource management objectives. These practices will be included in activity plans such as AMPs and HMPs.

Surface disturbing activities will be prohibited on unstable areas unless it can be demonstrated that the instability can be alleviated. Specific unstable areas, such as cut banks, landslides, and areas exhibiting soil creep will be identified individually.

Visual Resource Management Decisions

Management Objective
To minimize adverse effects on visual resources while maintaining the effectiveness of land-use allocations.

Management Actions

The planning area will be managed according to visual resource management (VRM) classes as follows: Class I, 33,185 acres; Class II, 160,640 acres; Class III, 3,582,195 acres; Class IV, 224,000 acres (See Map 24).
Wild Horse Management

Management Objectives

To protect, maintain, and control a viable, healthy herd of wild horses while retaining their free-roaming nature and to provide adequate habitat for free-roaming wild horses through management consistent with environmental protection and enhancement policies.

Management Actions

There are three wild horse herd management areas (WHHMA) within the resource area. They are the Adobe Town WHHMA, the Flat Top WHHMA, and the Seven Lakes WHHMA (see Map 25). Each of these areas is covered by a herd management area plan (HMAP). Current management levels for these areas are Adobe Town, 300-500; Flat Top, 40-100; and Seven Lakes, 66-135. Monitoring in these areas is ongoing. Herd management levels for each area will be evaluated to determine whether they are at appropriate management levels as soon as sufficient monitoring data are available. At that time, the HMAPs will be revised if necessary.

Wildlife Habitat and Fisheries Management Decisions

Introduction

The 29 standard habitat types in the Great Divide Resource Area have been ranked by management priority into three categories. High priority habitat types, which usually support a large number of wildlife species, are not common in the planning area. Sound management is required to ensure maintenance or improvement of the vegetative composition and structure of moderate priority habitat types, which usually are of lesser importance to wildlife but are in greater supply than high priority types. In low priority habitat types, there is less vegetative diversity. Because of their abundance and lower wildlife value, these types can be more heavily used by conflicting resources without significant wildlife impacts.

Management Objectives - General

To provide habitat quality (food, cover, space, and water) adequate to support a natural diversity of wildlife and fisheries, including big game, upland game, waterfowl, non-game species, game fish, sensitive, threatened, and endangered species, species of special management interest in Wyoming, as well as to assist in meeting goals of recovery plans.

To maintain or improve vegetation condition and/or avoid long-term disturbance in high priority standard habitat sites and fisheries areas.

To maintain or improve overall ecological quality, thus providing good wildlife habitat, within the constraints of multiple-use management in moderate and low priority standard habitat sites (see Table 4).

Management Actions

Habitat Management Areas

There will be 16 habitat management areas:

Six existing HMP areas: Baggs, Encampment/ Bighorn Sheep, Ferris/Seminoe, Red Desert, Sage Creek, and Shirley Mountains.

Five new HMP areas (of which one will be an addition to an existing area): Jelm Mountain, Laramie Peak, Sage Creek (addition), Saratoga Valley, and South Desert.

Five existing cooperative management agreement areas: Laramie Peak, Pennock Mountain, Wick, and Chain Lakes Wildlife Habitat Areas and the Sybille Wildlife Research Unit.

One new cooperative management agreement area: Dune Ponds (See ORV Management under Recreation Management Decisions).

Site specific management actions will be implemented in HMP areas and cooperative management areas to improve wildlife habitat. These site specific management actions will be identified in existing, revised, or proposed Habitat Management Plans (HMPs). These HMPs will also address transplants or augmentations of endemic wildlife species.

Wildlife and wildlife habitat inventory and monitoring will be implemented in all HMP areas, cooperative management areas and other portions of the planning area.

These inventories and monitoring studies will conform to Bureau policy and standards found in Bureau Manuals, Wyoming State Office Supplements and Wyoming Instruction Memorandums.

The estimated areas that will be involved in management actions in HMP areas are: 60 miles of streams (fisheries); 545 acres of reservoirs; 271,000 acres of raptor habitat; 243,000 acres of high priority habitat (including wetlands and riparian zone); and crucial winter range for big game species as follows: antelope, 375,000 acres; bighorn sheep, 23,000 acres; deer, 288,000 acres; elk, 153,000 acres.
**Raptor Concentration Areas**

**Management Objectives** To manage resources so that productivity of nesting raptor pairs is maintained, while allowing for development of coal and oil and gas, and to seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of raptor nesting habitat.

**Management Actions** Surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed in all RCAs to reduce physical disturbance of raptor habitat and disturbance of the birds. This will entail case-by-case examination of proposals to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Certain times of the year and certain areas will be avoided by spatial and temporal management of development, facilities, and uses.

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed in the RCAs. Coal leasing will be allowed in those portions of RCAs found to be acceptable for further leasing consideration.

Most of the Atlantic Rim RCA is included in the Jep Canyon ACEC and the Shamrock Hills RCA is designated an ACEC. Refer to the ACEC section for discussion of management guidelines for these two RCAs.

In the remaining RCAs, a notice will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) for disturbances of five acres or less; a plan of operations will be required for disturbances of more than five acres.

**Baggs Crucial Elk Winter Range**

A portion of the Baggs Crucial Elk Winter Range is included in the Sand Hills and Jep Canyon ACEC. See the ACEC section for details. Objectives and management actions for the remainder of the area follow.

**Management Objectives** The objectives for the Baggs Crucial Elk Winter Range are to maintain the integrity of crucial winter habitat for elk, to allow development of oil and gas and coal, and to seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat (see Map 26).

**Management Actions** Surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed to prevent loss of significant elk winter habitat. This will entail case-by-case examination of proposals to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Certain times of the year and
certain areas will be avoided by spatial and temporal management of development, facilities, and uses.

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with application of surface protection measures as described above.

Plans of operations or notices will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) consistent with regulations. A plan of operations will be required for disturbances of more than 5 acres.

The BLM will cooperate with owners of intermingled or adjacent property to manage the habitat, coordinate efforts with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), and recommend managing elk population objective levels at a number supportable by the habitat.

**White Pelican Island**

**Management Objective** To maintain and enhance nesting habitat for a colony of white pelicans on the 12-acre island.

**Management Actions** The BLM will develop a cooperative agreement with the WGFD and BuRec for management of the pelican habitat on the island. Management actions will be carried out with the concurrence of BuRec.

The white pelican population will be monitored for disturbance and habitat change.

**Other Areas Important to Wildlife**

**Management Actions** Application of the Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing Activities will be used to protect many types of areas of importance to wildlife. In addition, other special management practices will be used as appropriate to focus management emphasis on important resources or to minimize potential conflicts.

When considering needs for protective measures, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) will be consulted concerning proposals involving surface disturbance and other disruptive activities in these important habitats. The BLM will also coordinate and cooperate with intermingled and adjacent landowners in managing these habitats.

Crucial winter ranges for all big game species will be protected. Surface disturbance will be mitigated to restore or replace habitat. In addition, previously depleted habitat in crucial big game winter ranges will be reclaimed to the extent possible.

In areas where crucial winter ranges for more than one species of big game overlap (approximately 122,880 acres of BLM administered public land), habitat quality will be maintained (see Map 27). Previously depleted habitat in these areas will be reclaimed to the extent possible. In addition, the BLM will employ spatial and temporal management of development, facilities, and users to avoid activity in sensitive areas or during sensitive times of the year.

Sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse strutting/dancing grounds and nesting habitat will be protected.

The BLM will consider consolidating public land to obtain important wildlife habitat areas such as (a) perennial streams, lakes and wetlands (USFWS also has identified this as a priority); (b) raptor concentration areas; (c) crucial winter range for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, or antelope; and (d) other high priority habitats.

**Other**

In addition to the actions outlined above, some management actions that will benefit wildlife are included in the discussions on management of ACECs, fire, forests, livestock grazing, coal, oil and gas, locatable minerals, and recreation.

As proposals are submitted, animal damage control (ADC) activities in the planning area, including the use of poisons that are lethal to vertebrate animals, will be considered. These activities are subject to established ADC procedures and policies, including NEPA requirements, as outlined in the national and state level memoranda of understanding between BLM and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), BLM manual 6830, and other directives. These activities are also subject to the Rawlins BLM District ADC Management Plan which is maintained current and consistent with those procedures and policies.
INTRODUCTION

The "Wyoming BLM Standard Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations" were developed in 1968. During their implementation, it was recognized that various land uses, other than those related to oil and gas exploration and development, should be subject to similar kinds of environmental protection requirements. Using the Wyoming BLM standard oil and gas lease stipulations as a basis, the first component of the "Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Measures for Surface-Disturbing Activities" began.

The term "guidelines" better describes the intent and use of these mitigation standards than the terms "stipulations" or "measures." These guidelines are primarily for the purpose of attaining statewide consistency in how requirements are determined for avoiding and mitigating environmental impacts and land use conflicts. Consistency in this sense does not mean that identical requirements would be applied for all similar types of land use activities that may cause similar types of impacts. Nor does it mean that the requirements or guidelines for a single land use activity would be identical in all areas.

There are two ways the standard mitigation guidelines are used in the resource management plan/environmental impact statement (RMP/EIS) process: (1) as part of the planning criteria in developing the RMP alternatives, and (2) in the analytical processes of both developing the alternatives and analyzing the impacts of the alternatives. In the first case, an assumption is made that any one or more of the standard mitigations will be appropriately included as conditions of relevant actions being proposed or considered in each alternative. In the second case, the standard mitigations are used (1) to develop a baseline for measuring and comparing impacts among the alternatives; (2) to identify other actions and alternatives that should be considered, and (3) to help determine whether more stringent or less stringent mitigations should be considered.

Some of the seasonal restrictions in the standard oil and gas lease stipulations contain the statement, "This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells." This statement was included because the stipulations were developed specifically for application to oil and gas leases at the time of issuance, not for activities associated with producing wells. At lease issuance, the only action that can be generally contemplated is the possibility that exploratory drilling may occur somewhere on the lease area. Unfortunately, the provision has been interpreted by some people to mean that the seasonal restriction disappears at the operational stage (i.e., if a producing well is attained). It must be understood that at both the oil and gas exploration stage and the operation or development stages, additional site-specific environmental analyses are conducted and any needed restrictions or mitigations identified become part of the operational or development plan. For example, wells may continue to produce, but related activity may be limited. Thus, it is possible for such seasonal restrictions to continue in effect and be applicable to maintenance and operation of producing wells, if supported by the environmental analyses.

The RMP/EIS does not decide or dictate the exact wording or inclusion of these guidelines. Rather, the standard guidelines are used in the RMP/EIS process as a tool to help develop the RMP alternatives and to provide a baseline for comparative impact analysis in arriving at RMP decisions. These guidelines will be used in the same manner in analyzing activity plans and other site-specific proposals. These guidelines and their wording are matters of policy. As such, specific wording is subject to change primarily through the stipulation process and not through the RMP/EIS process. Any further changes that may be made in the continuing refinement of these guidelines and any development of program-specific standard stipulations will be handled in another forum, including appropriate public involvement and input.

PURPOSE

The purposes of the "Standard Mitigation Guidelines" are (1) to reserve, for the BLM, the right to modify the operations of all surface and other human presence disturbance activities as part of the statutory requirements for environmental protection, and (2) to inform a potential lessee, permittee, or operator of the requirements that must be met when using BLM-administered public lands. These guidelines have been written in a format that will allow for (1) their direct use as stipulations, and (2) the addition of specific or specialized mitigation following the submission of a detailed plan of development or other project proposal, and an environmental analysis.

Those resource activities or programs currently without a standardized set of permit or operation stipulations can use the mitigation guidelines as stipulations or as conditions of approval, or as a baseline for developing specific stipulations for a given activity or program.

Because use of the mitigation guidelines was integrated into the RMP/EIS process and will be integrated into the site-specific environmental analysis process, the application of stipulations or mitigation requirements derived through the guidelines will provide more consistency with planning decisions and planning implementation than has occurred in the past. Application of the standard mitigation guidelines to all surface and other human presence disturbance activities concerning BLM-administered public lands and resources will provide more uniformity in mitigation than has occurred in the past.

STANDARD MITIGATION GUIDELINES

1. Surface Disturbance Mitigation Guideline

Surface disturbance will be prohibited in any of the following conditions. Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

a. Slopes in excess of 25 percent.

b. Within important scenic areas (Class I and II Visual Resource Management Areas).

c. Within 500 feet of surface water and/or riparian areas.

d. Within either one-quarter mile or the visual horizon (whichever is closer) of historic trails.

e. Construction with frozen material or during periods when the soil material is saturated or when watershed damage is likely to occur.

Guidance

The intent of the SURFACE DISTURBANCE MITIGATION GUIDELINE is to inform interested parties (potential lessees, permittees, or operators) that when one or more of the five (1a through 1e) conditions exist, the disturbance activity will be prohibited unless or until a permittee or his designated representative and the surface management agency (BLM) arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of anticipated impacts. This negotiation will occur prior to development.

Specific criteria (e.g., 500 feet from water) have been established to provide information as to the best mitigation available. However, such items as geographical areas and seasons must be delineated at the field level.

Exception, waiver, or modification of requirements developed from this guideline must be based upon environmental analysis of proposals (e.g., activity plans, development plans, project plans, application for permit to drill), and if necessary, an adjustment for other mitigation to be applied on a site-specific basis.

2. Wildlife Mitigation Guideline

a. To protect important big game winter habitat, activities or surface use will not be allowed from November 15 to April 30 within certain areas encompassed by the authorization. The same criteria apply for big game birthing areas from May 1 to June 30.

b. Application of this limitation to operation and maintenance of a developed project must be based on environmental analysis of the operational or production aspects.

c. Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

d. To protect important raptor and/or sage and sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat, activities or surface use will not be allowed from February 1 to July 31 within certain areas encompassed by the authorization. The same criteria apply to defined raptor and game bird winter concentration areas from November 15 to April 30.

Application of this limitation to operation and maintenance of a developed project must be based on environmental analysis of the operational or production aspects.

Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

e. No activities or surface use will be allowed on that portion of the authorization area identified
within (legal description) for the purpose of protecting (e.g., sage/sharp-tailed grouse breeding grounds, and/or other species/activities) habitat.

Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any area delineated as in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

d. Portions of the authorized use area legally described as (legal description), are known or suspected to be essential habitat for (name) which is a threatened or endangered species. Prior to conducting any onsite activities, the lessee/permittee will be required to conduct inventories or studies in accordance with BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines to verify the presence or absence of this species.

In the event that (name) occurrence is identified, the lessee/permittee will be required to modify operational plans to include the protection requirements of this species and its habitat (e.g., seasonal use restrictions, occupancy limitations, facility design modifications).

Guidance

The WILDLIFE MITIGATION GUIDELINE is intended to provide two basic types of protection: seasonal restriction (2a and 2b) and prohibition of activities or surface use (2c). Items 2b is specific to situations involving threatened or endangered species. Legal descriptions will ultimately be required and should be measurable and legally definable.

There are no minimum subdivision requirements at this time. The area delineated may be used and should be measurable, based upon current biological data, prior to the time of processing an application and issuance of use permits. Once the legal description is established, it must eventually become a part of the condition for approval of the permit, plan of development, and/or other use authorization.

The seasonal restriction section identifies three example groups of species and delineates three similar time frame restrictions for those same groups, including elk, moose, antelope, and bighorn sheep, all require protection of crucial winter range between November 15 through April 30. Elk and bighorn sheep also require protection from disturbance from May 1, to June 30, when they typically occupy distinct calving and lambing areas. Raptors include eagles, hawks, owls. Other birds require protection from disturbance from February 1 and July 31. The same birds often require protection from disturbance from November 15 through April 30 while they occupy winter concentration areas.

Item 2c, the prohibition of activity or surface use, is intended for protection of specific wildlife habitat areas or values within the use area that cannot be protected by using seasonal restrictions. These areas or values must be factors that limit life cycle activities (e.g., sage grouse strutting ground, known threats, or values of habitat).

Exception, waiver, or modification of requirements developed from this guideline must be based upon environmental analysis of proposals (e.g., activity plans, plans of development, plans of operation, applications for permit to drill), and, if necessary, must allow for other mitigation to be applied on a site-specific basis.

3. Cultural Resource Mitigation Guideline

When a proposed discretionary land use has potential for affecting the characteristics which qualify a cultural property for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), mitigation will be considered. In accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, procedures specified in 36 CFR 800 will be used in consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in arriving at determinations regarding the need and type of mitigation to be required.

Guidance

The preferred strategy for treating potential adverse effects on cultural properties is avoidance. If avoidance involves project relocation, the new project area may also require cultural resource inventory. If avoidance is imprudent or unacceptable, appropriate mitigation may include excavation (data recovery), stabilization, monitoring, protection barriers or signs, or other physical and administrative measures.

Reports documenting results of cultural resource inventory, evaluation, and the establishment of mitigation alternatives (if necessary) shall be written according to standards contained in BLM Manuals, the cultural resource policy issued by the National Register, and other policy issued by the BLM. These reports must provide sufficient information for Section 106 consultation. Reports shall be reviewed for adequacy by the appropriate BLM cultural resource specialist. If cultural properties on, or eligible for, the National Register are located within these areas of potential impact and cannot be avoided, the Authorized Officer shall begin the Section 106 consultation process in accordance with the procedures contained in 36 CFR 800.

Mitigation measures shall be implemented according to the mitigation plan approved by the BLM Authorized Officer. Such plans are usually prepared by the land use applicant according to BLM specifications. Mitigation plans will be reviewed as part of Section 106 consultation for National Register eligible or listed properties. The extent and nature of recommended mitigation shall be commensurate with the significance of the cultural resource involved and the anticipated extent of damage. Reasonable costs for mitigation will be borne by the land use applicant. Mitigation must be cost effective and realistic. It must consider project requirements and limitations, input from concerned parties, and be BLM approved or BLM formulated.

Mitigation of paleontological and natural history sites will be treated on a case-by-case basis. Factors such as site significance, economics, safety, and project urgency must be taken into account when making a decision to mitigate. Authority to protect (plan for mitigation) such values is provided for in FLPMA, Section 102(a)(8). When avoidance is not possible, appropriate mitigation may include excavation (data recovery), stabilization, monitoring, protection barriers and signs, or other physical and administrative protection measures.

4. Special Resource Mitigation Guideline

To protect (resource value), activities or surface use (when applicable i.e., with specific distance of the resource value or between date to date) in (legal description).

Application of this limitation to resource specific mitigation must be based on environmental analysis of the operational or production aspects.

Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

Example Resource Categories (Select or identify category and specific resource value):

a. Recreation Areas (e.g., campgrounds, historic trails, national monuments).b. Important agricultural land use (e.g., cropland, pasturage, grazing, etc.)c. Special management area (e.g., areas of critical environmental concern, known threatened or endangered species habitat, wild and scenic rivers d. Other (specify).

Guidance

The SPECIAL RESOURCE MITIGATION GUIDELINE is intended for use only in site-specific situations where one of the three first general mitigation guidelines will not adequately address the concern. The reason for the site-specific conditions must be clearly identified. A detailed plan addressing site-specific mitigation and special restrictions will be required prior to disturbance or development and will become a condition for approval of the permit, plan of development, or other use authorization.

Exception, waiver, or modification of requirements developed from this guideline must be based upon environmental analysis of proposals (e.g., activity plans, plans of development, plans of operation, applications for permit to drill) and, if necessary, must allow for other mitigation to be applied on a site-specific basis.

5. No Surface Occupancy Guideline

No Surface Occupancy will be allowed on the following described lands (legal description) because of (resource value).

Example Resource Categories (Select or identify category and specific resource value):

a. Recreation Areas (e.g., campgrounds, historic trails, national monuments).b. Important agricultural land use (e.g., cropland, pasturage, grazing, etc.)c. Special management area (e.g., areas of critical environmental concern, known threatened or endangered species habitat, wild and scenic rivers d. Other (specify).

Guidance

The NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY (NSO) MITIGATION GUIDELINE is intended for use only when other mitigation is determined insufficient to adequately protect the public interest and is the only alternative to "no development" or "no leasing." The legal description and resource value of concern must be identified and be tied to an NSO land use planning decision.

Waiver of, or exception(s) to, the NSO requirement will be subject to the same test used to initially justify its imposition. If, upon evaluation of a site-specific proposal, it is found that less restrictive mitigation would adequately protect the public interest...
or value of concern, then a waiver or exception to the NSO requirement is possible. The record must show that because conditions or uses have changed, less restrictive requirements will protect the public interest. An environmental analysis must be conducted and documented (e.g., environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, etc., as necessary) in order to provide the basis for a waiver or exception to an NSO planning decision. Modification of the NSO requirement will pertain only to refinement or correction of the location(s) to which it applied. If the waiver, exception, or modification is found to be consistent with the intent of the planning decision, it may be granted. If found inconsistent with the intent of the planning decision, a plan amendment would be required before the waiver, exception, or modification could be granted.

When considering the “no development” or “no leasing” option, a rigorous test must be met and fully documented in the record. This test must be based upon stringent standards described in the land use planning document. Since rejection of all development rights is more severe than the most restrictive mitigation requirement, the record must show that consideration was given to development subject to reasonable mitigation, including “no surface occupancy.” The record must also show that other mitigation was determined to be insufficient to adequately protect the public interest. A “no development” or “no leasing” decision should not be made solely because it appears that conventional methods of development would be unfeasible, especially where an NSO restriction may be acceptable to a potential permittee. In such cases, the potential permittee should have the opportunity to decide whether or not to go ahead with the proposal (or accept the use authorization), recognizing that an NSO restriction is involved.
This appendix summarizes the final federal coal management decisions for the planning area. The process used to arrive at these decisions is briefly explained. This summary is intended to help the public to understand the federal coal management program as it applies to the planning area and to show the requirements that must be met under 43 CFR 3400. These planning decisions will guide the development of the federal coal resource in this area during the remainder of the 1990s and afterward.

To implement competitive coal leasing under regulations contained in 43 CFR 3420, on November 9, 1987, the Secretary of the Interior directed the eight federal coal production regions, including the Green River-Hams Fork Region. That coal region includes the following counties: in Wyoming, Albany, Carbon, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta; in Colorado, Grand, Jackson, Moffatt, Rio Blanco, and Routt. It was estimated that the coal production region contained sufficient federal coal deposits to justify offering coal leases through the competitive leasing process set out in 43 CFR 3420.3 through 3420.6. Much of the planning area is within this coal region.

During its October 9, 1987, meeting in Denver, the Green River-Hams Fork Region, Eastern Team discussed the proposal to operate in a lease-by-application mode. As a result of that meeting, the regional coal team decided to offer an additional opportunity for public comment, with the comments received considered as input to the decision that the BLM makes a final decision on the subject.

A decision document on lease-by-application was published in the Federal Register of December 28, 1987, along with a request for public comments. Two comments were received, both of which supported leasing-by-application in the Green River-Hams Fork Region. Therefore, since there is limited industry interest in additional development coal in this region, coal leasing in the counties listed above will be handled on a lease-by-application basis under 43 CFR 3425. (The governors of Colorado and Wyoming concur in the recommendation.) The regional coal team will continue to be involved in the lease-by-application process as described in section 6c of its charter.

It is expected that this action will result in substantial savings in administrative costs to the federal government in the Colorado and Wyoming area. While a responsive leasing process is retained for the coal industry.

APPENDIX II

COAL

INTRODUCTION

Whether coal is leased through leasing-by-application, activity planning, or coal lease exchange, decisions to lease must be made within the area identified in this document for further consideration for coal leasing.

The objectives in managing the federal coal resource in this planning area are (a) to provide for both short- and long-range development of federal coal in an orderly and timely manner, consistent with the federal coal management program, policies, environmental integrity, national energy needs, and related demands; (b) to identify federal coal that is acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing; (c) to identify appropriate mitigation for sensitive areas.

REQUIREMENTS AND MITIGATION

Introduction

Lessees will be required to develop their federal leases in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. These will be considered in-place constraints on a lessee's activities.

All areas identified in this document as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing are subject to the following mitigation requirements:

Cultural Resources

a. Before undertaking any activities that may disturb the surface of the leased lands, the lessees shall conduct a cultural resource intensive field inventory in a manner specified by the authorized officer of BLM on portions of the mine plan area, or exploration plan area, that may be adversely affected by lease-related activities and which were not previously inventoried at such a level of intensity. The inventory shall be conducted by a qualified professional cultural resource specialist (i.e., archaeologist, historian, or historical architect, as appropriate) approved by the Authorized Officer of the surface managing agency (BLM if the surface is privately owned), and a report of the inventory and recommendations for protecting any cultural resources identified shall be submitted to the Regional Director of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the Authorized Officer of BLM (or only to the authorized officer of BLM if activities are associated with coal exploration outside an approved mining permit area), to protect cultural resources on the leased land. The lessee shall undertake measures, in accordance with instructions from the Regional Director or Authorized Officer to protect cultural resources on the leased land.

b. The lessee shall not commence the surface-disturbance activities until permission to proceed is given by the Regional Director or Authorized Officer. Where equipment that may impact the cultural resources is to be used, the lessee must have a cultural resource assessing team that will be able to assess the impact of the disturbance activities on the cultural resources. The assessment team will provide a statement to the lessee that the activities will not result in the destruction of the cultural resources.

c. The cost of conducting the inventory, preparing reports, and implementing any mitigation measures shall be borne by the lessee.

APPENDIX II

COAL

INTRODUCTION

The lessee shall not commence the surface-disturbance activities until permission to proceed is given by the Regional Director or Authorized Officer. Where equipment that may impact the cultural resources is to be used, the lessee must have a cultural resource assessing team that will be able to assess the impact of the disturbance activities on the cultural resources. The assessment team will provide a statement to the lessee that the activities will not result in the destruction of the cultural resources.

b. The lessee shall protect all known cultural resource properly located within the lease area from lease-related activities until the cultural resource management measures can be implemented as part of an approved mining and reclamation plan or exploration plan.

c. The cost of conducting the inventory, preparing reports, and implementing any mitigation measures shall be borne by the lessee.

d. If cultural resources are discovered during operations under a mining or reclamation plan, the lessee shall report to the attention of the Regional Director or authorized officer, or the authorized officer of the surface managing agency if the Regional Director is not available. The lessee shall not disturb such resources except as may be subsequently authorized by the Regional Director or authorized officer. Within 60 days of notification, the Regional Director or authorized officer will evaluate the lessee's data or have evaluated any cultural resources discovered and will determine if any action may be necessary to protect the cultural resources. The cost of data recovery for cultural resources discovered during this process will be borne by the BLM. The Authorized Officer of the surface managing agency unless otherwise specified by the Authorized Officer of BLM or of the surface managing agency (if different).

e. All cultural resources shall remain under the jurisdiction of the United States until ownership is determined under applicable law.

Paleontological Resources

If paleontological resources, either large and conspicuous and/or of significant value are discovered during mining, the Authorized Officer will immediately report the discovery to the OSM. Construction will be suspended within 250 feet of said find. An exploration and paleontological discovery report will be prepared by a BLM-provided professional paleontologist within five (5) working days after the discovery or if a determination is made that the area is not suitable for lease development or to the Authorized Officer of BLM or of the surface managing agency (if different).

f. All cultural resources shall remain under the jurisdiction of the United States until ownership is determined under applicable law.

Black-footed Ferret Habitat

The lessee will be required to monitor and inventory the lease area for establishment of potential black-footed ferret habitat (i.e., prairie dog towns) and, if any such habitat is determined to be present, the lessee shall conduct ferret inventories, all in accordance with the guidelines below. When such occurrence is identified, the lessee shall notify the BLM and USFWS. The Authorized Officer of BLM and Authorized Officer of USFWS will coordinate the modifications in the mining operation provided by the USFWS to ensure that the BLM protects the endangered species.

The following Black-footed Ferret Inventory Guidelines will be followed. Proposed developments such as coal lease lands, power plant sites, well fields, dam sites, and facilities relating to these developments should be surveyed for prairie dogs before the project is approved. If prairie dogs are found on the proposed site, colonies should be mapped on topographic maps and each colony photographed. A letter of Agreement and an USFWS Black-footed Ferret Survey Procedures. Ferret surveys should be scheduled as close to actual construction as possible and not more than 1 year prior to disturbance to minimize the possibility of missing ferrets that might move into the area during the period between completion of surveys and the start of construction. Where prairie dog disturbance occurs over a long period of time, such as on a coal strip mining or exploration, all black-footed ferrets are recommended. Results of these surveys will be submitted to USFWS and BLM. In addition, any burrowing owl nests will be noted and reported to BLM and USFWS.

THE COAL PLANNING PROCESS

Introduction

The federal coal management program established four major steps to be used in the identification of federal coal areas that are acceptable for coal development. The final step in the development of coal development potential, including a call for coal resource information (43 CFR 3420.1-2), (2) application of the coal unsuitability criteria; (3) multiple-use conflict evaluation; and (4) surface owner consultation. Collectively, these steps, which are called the "coal screening process" (43 CFR 3420.1-4), are applied in sequence to the review area.

The four major steps and how they were applied to the review area are described in the following sections.

Step 1: Identification of Development Potential Coal

In step 1, areas of coal with potential for development are identified with the use of government drill hole data, data collected through exploration licenses, geological and economic data submitted by coal companies, and interpretations of available geological data from various other sources. Expressions of interest from the coal industry also are used to guide this identification process. Expressions of interest are required for existing transportation and/or potential areas with no known interest in development are excluded from further consideration. The areas found to have development potential are closer to existing transportation and/or contain better quality coal than the areas excluded from further consideration.

Table COAL-AP presents the coal quality and quantity data on all areas in the planning area that were determined to have coal with development potential. These areas are shown on map 19.
APPENDIX II

TABLE COAL-AP-1
COAL RESOURCES IN THE PLANNING AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coal Area</th>
<th>Federal Acreage</th>
<th>Federal Tonnage (in place)</th>
<th>Average Proximate Analysis</th>
<th>BTU/lb.</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Volatiles</th>
<th>Carbon</th>
<th>Ash</th>
<th>Sulfur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Rim</td>
<td>9,720</td>
<td>40.5 x 10^6</td>
<td>8,560</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Horse Draw</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>1.7 x 10^6</td>
<td>10,818</td>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>7.57</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Butte</td>
<td>6,240</td>
<td>73.8 x 10^6</td>
<td>8,800</td>
<td>25.57</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>7.33</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Springs</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>25.0 x 10^6</td>
<td>9,626</td>
<td>14.75</td>
<td>34.00</td>
<td>42.52</td>
<td>8.24</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Indian Springs</td>
<td>3,940</td>
<td>25.0 x 10^6</td>
<td>9,015</td>
<td>17.14</td>
<td>37.42</td>
<td>37.75</td>
<td>7.69</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Rim</td>
<td>3,850</td>
<td>79.1 x 10^6</td>
<td>10,277</td>
<td>13.41</td>
<td>34.47</td>
<td>43.32</td>
<td>8.79</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE Cow Creek</td>
<td>7,325</td>
<td>201.8 x 10^6</td>
<td>10,656</td>
<td>15.97</td>
<td>34.40</td>
<td>46.70</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanna Basin</td>
<td>30,040</td>
<td>191.0 x 10^6</td>
<td>10,140-10,420</td>
<td>12.56-12.76</td>
<td>34.30-36.68</td>
<td>41.82-45.19</td>
<td>7.93-8.75</td>
<td>0.46-1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* BTU/lb. = British thermal units per pound.

The Atlantic Rim, China Butte, and Red Rim areas have potential for surface mining only (see maps 29, 29, and 30). The Indian Springs and North Indian Springs areas have potential only for in situ development of coal resources (see maps 31 and 32). There is potential for both surface and subsurface mining in the Hanna Basin area. The Hanna Basin area contains coal with development potential for surface mining (86 million tons) and subsurface mining (105 million tons). Coal in the Wild Horse Draw and North­west Cow Creek has been determined to have no potential for development.

The remaining three screening steps are applied to the coal areas identified in step 1. They are applied in sequence and only to the lands identified as acceptable for coal development in each preceding step.

Step 2: Application of Coal Unsuitability Criteria

Introduction

As required by 43 CFR 3461, the 20 coal unsuitability criteria were applied to the areas identified in step 1. These criteria involve consideration of existing resource values such as scenic areas, natural and historical values, wildlife, floodplains, alluvial valley floors, and other important features. The purposes of this step are (a) to identify areas with key features or environmental sensitivity that would make them unsuitable for surface coal mining or for subsurface coal mining where there would be surface operations and impacts associated with subsurface coal mining, and (b) to identify any appropriate mitigative measures resulting from the application of the unsuitability criteria and exceptions.

The results of the application of the unsuitability criteria to each coal area are described in the following sections. After an expression of interest is filed and prior to tract delineation, the BLM will reinventory a proposed tract area and adjacent land to refine the unsuitability application. If the inventory reveals the presence of species or habitats covered under criterion 9 to 15, the BLM will coordinate with the USFWS and WGFD to determine if any federal coal lands within the proposed tract area should be declared unsuitable.

Red Rim

Introduction

No unsuitable areas were identified for the Red Rim area under coal unsuitability criteria 1, 3 through 8, 10, 12, or 17 through 20.

Criterion 2—Rights-of-Way and Easements

In the Red Rim area, most of the rights-of-way crossing the coal areas can be relocated to accommodate coal mining and related activities. Thus, the BLM made a general determination that right-of-way areas are acceptable for coal development, subject to valid existing rights and negotiations for relocating if necessary. Any unforeseen conflicts in these areas should be identified and resolved during the coal activity planning process or during development of mining and reclamation plans.

Criterion 9—Federafly Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat

No areas in the Red Rim area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 9; however, some potential habitat areas for black-footed ferrets have not yet been searched to determine whether or not ferrets are present. The necessary searches and consultation with USFWS will be conducted during coal activity planning.

This completes the application of the unsuitability criteria to each coal area and is described in the following sections.
Coal Area Boundary

Federally Owned Coal

Buffer Zones for Eagles and Prairie Falcons

Map 29
CHINA BUTTE COAL AREA
Great Divide Resource Management Area
November, 1990

Map 30
R&D RIM COAL AREA
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990
Map 31
INDIAN SPRINGS COAL AREA
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990

Map 32
NORTH INDIAN SPRINGS COAL AREA
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990
Appendix II

Criteron 11 and 13—Bald and Golden Eagle Nests and Falcon Cliff Nesting Sites

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 11 or 13. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

For the protection of nesting eagles and prairie falcons and their associated buffer zones, no surface operations will be allowed in such areas or on or within 1 mile of the area, the buffer zone, and the associated buffer zone.

Criteron 15—Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife and Plants

On September 27, 1982, the National Wildlife Federation and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation filed a petition with the OSMRE to designate approximately 9,000 acres as unsuitable. On May 19, 1986, the OSMRE published its decision in the Federal Register. In part, the notice reads as follows:

Reconsideration of the petition is denied in this instance. The OSMRE believes the petition is without merit since the area is being leased to the USFW in a manner consistent with the requirements of the applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

Criteron 9—Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat

No areas in the China Butte area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 9. However, some potential habitat areas for black-footed ferrets have not yet been searched to determine whether or not ferrets are present. The necessary searches and consultation with USFWS will be conducted during the coal activity planning.

Criteron 14—Migratory Bird Habitat

No areas in the Red Rim area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 14. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

Surface disturbance and occupancy restrictions may be required to protect migratory bird habitat within the area. The lease shall be subject to the following:

1. The USFWS, in consultation with theBLM, the USFWS, the OSMRE, and the USFWS, will be provided with a timeline for implementation of the habitat recovery or replacement plan in relation to the overall mining plan. Since these and other bird species may move onto or off a given area or elsewhere in the project area, their activities must be monitored and the necessary protection requirements informed. If any new migratory bird species should become established on or within 1 mile of the lease area during the course of mining, the lessee will consult with the USFWS to determine mitigation measures that may be required to protect migratory birds.

Criteron 16—Floodplains

It was determined that the floodplain area of Sep­ aration Creek in the Red Rim area can be mined by all or certain stipulations with respect to coal mining, without substantial threat of loss to people or property and to the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain, either on a coal lease tract or down­

stream. Examples of mitigation may include relocation of channels during mining and restoration of channel location after mining, controlling yields and prohibitions on mining coal mining activities. Therefore, no areas in the Red Rim area were found unsuitable under criterion 16.

China Butte

Introduction

No unsuitable areas were identified in the China Butte area under unsuitability criteria 1 through 10, 12, or 17 through 20.

Criteron 9—Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat

No areas in the China Butte area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 9. However, some potential habitat areas for black-footed ferrets have not yet been searched to determine whether or not ferrets are present. The necessary searches and consultation with USFWS will be conducted during coal activity planning.

Criteron 14—Migratory Bird Habitat

No areas in the China Butte area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 14. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

Surface disturbance and occupancy restrictions may be required to protect migratory bird habitat within the area. The lease shall be subject to the following:

1. The USFWS, in consultation with the BLM, the USFWS, the OSMRE, and the USFWS, will be provided with a timeline for implementation of the habitat recovery or replacement plan in relation to the overall mining plan. Since these and other bird species may move onto or off a given area or elsewhere in the project area, their activities must be monitored and the necessary protection requirements informed. If any new migratory bird species should become established on or within 1 mile of the lease area during the course of mining, the lessee will consult with the USFWS to determine mitigation measures that may be required to protect migratory birds.

Criteron 16—Floodplains

It was determined that the floodplain area of Sep­ aration Creek in the Red Rim area can be mined by all or certain stipulations with respect to coal mining, without substantial threat of loss to people or property and to the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain, either on a coal lease tract or down­

stream. Examples of mitigation may include relocation of channels during mining and restoration of channel location after mining, controlling yields and prohibitions on mining coal mining activities. Therefore, no areas in the Red Rim area were found unsuitable under criterion 16.

China Butte

Introduction

No unsuitable areas were identified in the China Butte area under unsuitability criteria 1 through 10, 12, or 17 through 20.

Criteron 9—Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat

No areas in the China Butte area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 9. However, some potential habitat areas for black-footed ferrets have not yet been searched to determine whether or not ferrets are present. The necessary searches and consultation with USFWS will be conducted during coal activity planning.

Criteron 14—Migratory Bird Habitat

No areas in the China Butte area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 14. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

Surface disturbance and occupancy restrictions may be required to protect migratory bird habitat within the area. The lease shall be subject to the following:

1. The USFWS, in consultation with the BLM, the USFWS, the OSMRE, and the USFWS, will be provided with a timeline for implementation of the habitat recovery or replacement plan in relation to the overall mining plan. Since these and other bird species may move onto or off a given area or elsewhere in the project area, their activities must be monitored and the necessary protection requirements informed. If any new migratory bird species should become established on or within 1 mile of the lease area during the course of mining, the lessee will consult with the USFWS to determine mitigation measures that may be required to protect migratory birds.

Criteron 16—Floodplains

It was determined that the floodplain area of Sep­ aration Creek in the Red Rim area can be mined by all or certain stipulations with respect to coal mining, without substantial threat of loss to people or property and to the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain, either on a coal lease tract or down­

stream. Examples of mitigation may include relocation of channels during mining and restoration of channel location after mining, controlling yields and prohibitions on mining coal mining activities. Therefore, no areas in the Red Rim area were found unsuitable under criterion 16.

China Butte

Introduction

No unsuitable areas were identified in the China Butte area under unsuitability criteria 1 through 10, 12, or 17 through 20.

Criteron 9—Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat

No areas in the China Butte area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 9. However, some potential habitat areas for black-footed ferrets have not yet been searched to determine whether or not ferrets are present. The necessary searches and consultation with USFWS will be conducted during coal activity planning.

Criteron 14—Migratory Bird Habitat

No areas in the China Butte area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 14. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

Surface disturbance and occupancy restrictions may be required to protect migratory bird habitat within the area. The lease shall be subject to the following:

1. The USFWS, in consultation with the BLM, the USFWS, the OSMRE, and the USFWS, will be provided with a timeline for implementation of the habitat recovery or replacement plan in relation to the overall mining plan. Since these and other bird species may move onto or off a given area or elsewhere in the project area, their activities must be monitored and the necessary protection requirements informed. If any new migratory bird species should become established on or within 1 mile of the lease area during the course of mining, the lessee will consult with the USFWS to determine mitigation measures that may be required to protect migratory birds.

Criteron 16—Floodplains

It was determined that the floodplain area of Sep­ aration Creek in the Red Rim area can be mined by all or certain stipulations with respect to coal mining, without substantial threat of loss to people or property and to the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain, either on a coal lease tract or down­

stream. Examples of mitigation may include relocation of channels during mining and restoration of channel location after mining, controlling yields and prohibitions on mining coal mining activities. Therefore, no areas in the Red Rim area were found unsuitable under criterion 16.

China Butte

Introduction

No unsuitable areas were identified in the China Butte area under unsuitability criteria 1 through 10, 12, or 17 through 20.

Criteron 9—Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat

No areas in the China Butte area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 9. However, some potential habitat areas for black-footed ferrets have not yet been searched to determine whether or not ferrets are present. The necessary searches and consultation with USFWS will be conducted during coal activity planning.

Criteron 14—Migratory Bird Habitat

No areas in the China Butte area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 14. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

Surface disturbance and occupancy restrictions may be required to protect migratory bird habitat within the area. The lease shall be subject to the following:

1. The USFWS, in consultation with the BLM, the USFWS, the OSMRE, and the USFWS, will be provided with a timeline for implementation of the habitat recovery or replacement plan in relation to the overall mining plan. Since these and other bird species may move onto or off a given area or elsewhere in the project area, their activities must be monitored and the necessary protection requirements informed. If any new migratory bird species should become established on or within 1 mile of the lease area during the course of mining, the lessee will consult with the USFWS to determine mitigation measures that may be required to protect migratory birds.

Criteron 16—Floodplains

It was determined that the floodplain area of Sep­ aration Creek in the Red Rim area can be mined by all or certain stipulations with respect to coal mining, without substantial threat of loss to people or property and to the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain, either on a coal lease tract or down­

stream. Examples of mitigation may include relocation of channels during mining and restoration of channel location after mining, controlling yields and prohibitions on mining coal mining activities. Therefore, no areas in the Red Rim area were found unsuitable under criterion 16.
mining during one time span, there probably would be significant long-term impacts on the survival of the herds. However, in the exceptions to the criterion, the BLM determined that there will not be significant long-term impacts on the species being protected under certain stipulated methods of mining (such as habitat recovery, limited surface occupancy, or other mitigation requirements) or under sequential mining over a long period of time to maintain a proper mix and balance between areas disturbed by mining and undisturbed areas.

Further, mitigative measures will be combined with appropriate mining methods to temper the impacts of mining in crucial winter range for big game. Sufficient forage will be provided to maintain WGFĐD target populations for wintering antelope and deer in the area. Therefore, these areas were determined to be acceptable for coal development with certain stipulated methods of mining and mitigation requirements under a concept of long-range leasing and development.

It was determined that grousé habitat areas are acceptable for coal development with stipulations and mitigation requirements for habitat improvement, development, and reclamation.

The Chama Butte coal area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

The lease shall not disturb the range within 6 miles of the center of sage grouse nesting/nesting complexes except on areas that are to be mined. Any proposed for surface facilities or activities within a 2-mile radius of the center of sage grouse nesting/nesting complexes shall be subject to seasonal occupancy restrictions as determined by the authorized officer of the BLM. This measure may partially mitigate losses of sage grouse.

The lease holder shall attempt to locate sage grouse nesting/nesting complexes or areas managed for this purpose and avoid the area where the complex is located. If the area is located, the lease holder shall avoid activities that may disturb sage grouse population.

Citation 11—Bald and Golden Eagle Nests and Falcon Cliff Nestling Sites

No areas were determined to be unacceptable under citation 11 or 13. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

For the protection of nesting eagles and peregrine falcons and their associated buffer zones, no surface operations will be allowed in such areas as long as the USFS determines that the nests are in use (see maps 31 and 32).

Further, mitigative measures for supported facilities such as telephone lines, power lines, pipelines, and service road surface facilities, no surface activities will be permitted in such areas during breeding and nesting seasons (peregrine falcons, March 15 through July; golden eagles, February 15 through July). In addition, such areas will be subject to restrictions on location, type, or design of facilities, and season of occupancy, and they may be allowed only with prior written permission of the authorized officer of the BLM after concurrence of USFS and consultation with WGFD.

Larger disturbances such as upgrading of existing roads or construction of new roads, buildings, or railroad facilities within the buffer zone will not be permitted. Since these areas and other bird species may move onto or off a given area or elsewhere in the project area, their activities must be monitored to determine changes in requirements. If any new nests should become established on or within 1 mile of the lease area during the course of mining, the lessee will consult with the USFS to determine mitigative measures that may be needed to protect breeding birds.

Citation 14—Migratory Bird Habitat

No areas in the Indian Springs and North Indian Springs areas were determined to be unacceptable under citation 14. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

Surface disturbance and occupancy on about 6,000 acres will be limited to very small-scale and seasonal uses because active ferrous hawks are present. This area includes all of the Indian Springs area and all of the North Indian Springs area except for areas within 100 feet of WGFĐD, WIS, and in 28, 29, SW5. Small surface disturbances such as pipelines, restricted use roads, and power line right-of-ways (100 feet wide) in the area so long as they are consistent with all current planning and management with the USFS and BLM. Any non-habitat or surface disturbance occurs during the nesting season (March 15 through July), the area that the nest will be recovered by in situ conservation methods.

Larger disturbances like upgrading of existing roads or construction of new roads, buildings, or railroad facilities within nest buffer zones will not be permitted.

A lease would be subject to the following mitigation:

a. Any federal coal recovered from the Indian Springs Tack will be managed by siting and development methods only.

b. The lessee must submit to the BLM, the USFS, the OSMRE, and the state of Wyoming (WGFĐD and DEQ) a habitat recovery and replacement plan for protection or enhancement of the ferrous hawk population affected by habitat loss or displacement. The state of Wyoming will be responsible for protecting the ferrous hawk population within the Leanto.

The habitat recovery and replacement plan shall be developed in consultation with the BLM, the OSMRE, the state of Wyoming (WGFĐD and DEQ), and the USFS. It may be submitted before or concurrently with the filing completion. The mining would be delayed until the plan is approved by the agencies.

Citation 15—Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife and Plants

No areas in Indian Springs or North Indian Springs have been identified as high interest habitat areas under current coal development methods under citation 15. However, surface disturbances and occupancy on approximately 3,800 acres of pronghorn cranial winter range will be limited to very small-scale and seasonal uses (see maps 31 and 32 and the wildlife habitat portion of the multiple-use conflict evaluation in this appendix for reclamation requirements).

Citation 16—Floodplains

It was determined that the floodplain area of Filmore Creek can be mined by allowing certain stipulated methods of coal mining without substantial threat of loss to people or property and to the natural and biological resources within the floodplain areas during mining, control of sediment yields and prohibition of spoil dumping in channels, lining channel bottoms, revegetation, and general mined-land reclamation. Therefore, no areas in the Chama Butte area were found unsuitable under citation 16.

Indian Springs and North Indian Springs

Introduction

No unsuitable areas were identified in the Indian Springs and North Indian Springs areas under coal unsuitability criteria 1, 3 through 6, 10, 12, or 17 through 20.

Citation 2—Rights-of-Way and Easements

Most of the rights-of-way crossing the coal areas in Indian Springs and North Indian Springs can be relocated to accommodate coal mining and related activities. Thus, the BLM made a general determination that right-of-way areas are acceptable for coal development, subject to valid existing rights and negotiations for relocating if necessary. Any unforeseen conflicts in these areas shall be identified and resolved during the coal activity planning process or during development of mining and reclamation plans.

Citation 9—Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat

No areas in Indian Springs and North Indian Springs were determined to be unacceptable under citation 9; however, some potential habitat areas for black-footed ferrets have not yet been searched to determine whether or not ferrets are present. The necessary searches and consultation with USFS will be conducted during coal activity planning.

Citation 11 and 13—Bald and Golden Eagle Nests and Falcon Cliff Nestling Sites

No areas were determined to be unacceptable under citation 11 or 13. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

For the protection of nesting eagles and peregrine falcons and their associated buffer zones, no surface operations will be allowed in such areas as long as the USFS determines that the nests are in use (see maps 31 and 32). If the areas are occupied by supported facilities such as telephone lines, power lines, pipelines, and service road surface facilities, no surface activities will be permitted in such areas during breeding and nesting seasons (peregrine falcons, March 15 through July; golden eagles, February 15 through July). In addition, such areas will be subject to restrictions on location, type, or design of facilities, and season of occupancy, and they may be allowed only with prior written permission of the authorized officer of the BLM after concurrence of USFS and consultation with WGFD.

Larger disturbances such as upgrading of existing roads or construction of new roads, buildings, or railroad facilities within the buffer zone will not be permitted. Since these areas and other bird species may move onto or off a given area or elsewhere in the project area, their activities must be monitored to determine changes in requirements. If any new nests should become established on or within 1 mile of the lease area during the course of mining, the lessee will consult with the USFS to determine mitigative measures that may be needed to protect breeding birds.

Citation 14—Migratory Bird Habitat

No areas in the Indian Springs and North Indian Springs areas were determined to be unacceptable under citation 14. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

Surface disturbance and occupancy on about 6,000 acres will be limited to very small-scale and seasonal uses because active ferrous hawks are present. This area includes all of the Indian Springs area and all of the North Indian Springs area except for areas within 100 feet of WGFĐD, WIS, and in 28, 29, SW5. Small surface disturbances such as pipelines, restricted use roads, and power line right-of-ways (100 feet wide) in the area so long as they are consistent with all current planning and management with the USFS and BLM. Any non-habitat or surface disturbance occurs during the nesting season (March 15 through July), the area that the nest will be recovered by in situ conservation methods.

Larger disturbances like upgrading of existing roads or construction of new roads, buildings, or railroad facilities within nest buffer zones will not be permitted.

A lease would be subject to the following mitigation:

a. Any federal coal recovered from the Indian Springs Tack will be managed by siting and development methods only.

b. The lessee must submit to the BLM, the USFS, the OSMRE, and the state of Wyoming (WGFĐD and DEQ) a habitat recovery and replacement plan for protection or enhancement of the ferrous hawk population affected by habitat loss or displacement. The state of Wyoming will be responsible for protecting the ferrous hawk population within the Leanto.

The habitat recovery and replacement plan shall be developed in consultation with the BLM, the OSMRE, the state of Wyoming (WGFĐD and DEQ), and the USFS. It may be submitted before or concurrently with the filing completion. The mining would be delayed until the plan is approved by the agencies.

Citation 15—Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife and Plants

No areas in Indian Springs or North Indian Springs have been identified as high interest habitat areas under current coal development methods under citation 15. However, surface disturbances and occupancy on approximately 3,800 acres of pronghorn cranial winter range will be limited to very small-scale and seasonal uses (see maps 31 and 32 and the wildlife habitat portion of the multiple-use conflict evaluation in this appendix for reclamation requirements).

Citation 16—Floodplains

It was determined that in situ coal development of Indian Springs and North Indian Springs could be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property. Therefore, no areas were found unsuitable under Citation 15 (floodplains).

Atlantic Rim

Introduction

No unsuitable areas were identified in the Atlantic Rim area under coal unsuitability criteria 1 through 8, 10, 12, 16 through 18, or 20.

Citation 9—Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat

No areas in the Atlantic Rim area were determined to be unacceptable under citation 9; however, some potential habitat areas for black-footed ferrets have not yet been searched to determine whether or not ferrets are present. The necessary searches and consultation with USFS will be conducted during coal activity planning.
Criteria 11, 13, and 14—Bald and Golden Eagle Nests, Falcon Cliff Nesting Sites, and Migratory Bird Habitat

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 11, 13, or 14. The area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

For the protection of nesting eagles, prairie falcons, and heronlike birds and the buffer zone associated with the nests of these species, no surface coal mining operations will be allowed in such areas (see map 28). If any exceptions are granted for support facilities such as telephone lines, power lines, pipelines, or small scale surface facilities, no surface disturbing activities will be permitted in nesting areas or buffer zones during breeding and nesting seasons (eggs, February 15 through July 15, other raptors, March 15 through July 15). Such exceptions may be made only on the recommendation of the authorized officer of the BLM after consultation of the USFWS and the Western各单位. Such exceptions will be subject to restrictions on locations, type and design of facilities, and any other conditions.

Since these and other bird species may move onto or off a given area or elsewhere in the project area, their activities must be monitored to determine changing protection requirements. If any new nests should be established on or within 1 mile of the lease area during the course of mining, the lessee will consult with the USFWS to determine mitigative measures that may be needed to protect nesting birds.

**Criterion 15—Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife and Plants**

No areas in the Atlantic Rim area were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 15. The primary habitat consideration in the coal area is crucial winter and yearlong range for elk. The elk rely on a total yearlong range of 1 mile, of which about 32,000 acres is winter range and about 131,000 acres (17% of the total range) is crucial habitat, as defined under criterion 15. Approximately 3,556 federal acres of this crucial habitat lie within this coal area.

The Atlantic Rim area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

The area will be subject to mitigation and reclamation measures for the protection of wintering and yearlong resident elk. Any proposals of the lessee to conduct mining operations or construct mining-related facilities in the Atlantic Rim coal area will be subject to stipulations for specific placement, design, and construction of facilities, management of elk forage, and restrictions on the level of mining and human activity. These stipulations and restrictions will be developed in consultation with the USFWS and in conference with the WSGF and the Wyoming Wildlife Commission.

The stipulations and restrictions will address the following situations:

- Elk need to get to the north end of the Atlantic Rim during severe winters. Mining activity will be confined to west-facing slopes, and no activity will be permitted east of the line indicated on map 28. This will keep in people and mining activity out of sight of elk moving north to the east side. Impacts on resident elk will be minimized throughout the year.

- Aspen patches are the primary thermal and hiding cover for resident elk. These patches are primarily in and along the major drainages of the Atlantic Rim area. The mining activity will be located on the elk hard can be minimized and the hydrologic integrity of the drainages in which these patches may be maintained, aspen patches in the major drainages will be protected from disturbance by mining or road or rail facilities (see map 28).

- Routes for access to Atlantic Rim and for transportation of coal from the area will be restricted to those found acceptable through consultation with the WSGF and other interested parties. This will minimize effects on wildlife while allowing consideration of the coal market and any foreseeable coal development in the area. Given present knowledge, the Twenty-Mile Road from Rawlins to the west side of the Atlantic Rim coal area appears to be the least environmentally sensitive route.

- Considerable amounts of winter forage would be unutilizable to elk because of mineralization and contamination. Sufficient forage would be provided to maintain WSGF target populations for wintering elk in the Atlantic Rim portion of the Bighorn Elk Winter Range. The degree of overlap of foraging areas, and thus the degree to which the elk can use agricultural land and cattle, will be determined, and adjustments in livestock management will be made if necessary. Other mechanisms for replacement of forage, such as fertilization or vegetation manipulation, will also be considered. Artificial feeding will not be considered for forage replacement.

- Since the potential pit sites are part of the crucial elk winter range, human activity should be restricted to the mine site as much as possible. A threshold level of mining activity will be identified beyond which the area would be displaced from the winter range. Among other items, this threshold level of activity may address human activity, or a level of human activity, that is operated simultaneously, the total amount of acreage from which mining will occur at any given time.

- Application of this unsuitability criterion was done in consultation and coordination with other governmental agencies and public groups, as discussed in chapter 5 of this document.

**Criterion 19—Alluvial Valley Floors**

When the coal unsuitability review for the project area was conducted, possible alluvial valley floor areas were identified in two drainages that are in or near the project area—Separation Creek (in Jep Caney) and Muddy Creek.

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 19. No areas were determined to be acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the following conditions:

- In identified possible alluvial valley floor areas or in other areas near them where the proposed coal mining could interrupt or intercept water flow and alter water flow, and therefore, flood protection will be performed only with mitigative measures for alluvial valley floor protection that are made a part of an approved mine plan. The state of Wyoming usually identifies alluvial valley floor areas and mitigative measures (if possible) during the mining plan approval and mine permitting stage.

**Hanna Basin**

**Introduction**

Coal unsuitability criteria were applied to the unleased federal coal with development potential in the Hanna area. No unsuitable areas were identified under coal unsuitability criteria 1, 4 through 8, 10, 12, or 17 through 20.

**Criterion 2—Rights-of-Way and Easements**

Most of the rights-of-way crossing the coal areas in Hanna Basin can be relocated to accommodate coal mining and related activities. Thus, the BLM made a general determination that right-of-ways areas acceptable for coal development, subject to valid existing rights and negotiations for relocating those areas, along with appropriate stipulations and consistency with current planning and management decisions. Any unforeseen conflicts in these areas should be identified and resolved during the coal activity planning process or during development of mining and reclamation plans.

**Criterion 3—Public Roads, Cemeteries, Buildings, and Occupied Dwellings**

Spill storage land in T. 22 N., R. 81 W., section 18, W1/4 NW1/4, were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 3 because of occupied dwelling on the parcel. Approximately 20 acres containing 400,000 tons of coal are unsuitable.

**Criterion 4—Federaly Listed Threatened or Endangered Species or Habitats**

No areas in Hanna Basin were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 4. Some potential habitat areas for black-footed ferrets have not yet been searched to determine whether or not ferrets inhabit the areas. The necessary searches and consultation with the USFWS will be conducted during coal activity planning.

Some survey of bald eagle wintering areas and areas used during migration has been conducted. The identified a bald eagle wintering area along the Medicine Bow River adjacent to the Hanna Basin area, but additional fieldwork is required to document the size of the area and its importance. Data from BLM surveys during 1978 and 1979 indicate that eagles made little use of this area. A possible additional area has been identified along the North Platte River. No bald eagle nests have been identified.

No recent sightings of peregrine falcons have been documented for this area. Some limited poten-

**APPENDIX II**

Criteria 11, 13, and 14—Bald and Golden Eagle Nests, Falcon Cliff Nesting Sites, and Migratory Bird Habitat

No areas were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 11, 13, and 14. If the inventory should reveal the presence of species or habitats involving these criteria, the BLM would coordinate with the USFWS and the WSGF to determine if any federal coal lands within the proposed tract area should be declared unsuitable.

**Criterion 5—Habitat for State High-Interest Wildlife and Plants**

No areas in Hanna Basin were determined to be unsuitable under criterion 15. The primary habitat considerations in the Hanna Basin coal area are sage grouse leks and crucial winter range for antelope and deer.

If all or a significant portion of the crucial winter range for one or more big game species were to be mined or made available for mining during one time span, there probably would be significant long-term impacts on the survival of the herds. However, in considering the exceptions to the criterion, the BLM determines, of which there will not be significant long-term impacts on the species being protected under certain stipulated methods of mining (such as habitat related to surface mining and other activities), or under sequential mining over a long period to maintain a proper mix and balance between areas disturbed by mining and undis
turbed areas.

Further, mitigative measures will be combined with appropriate mining methods to temper the impacts of mining in crucial winter range for big game. Therefore, these areas were determined to be acceptable for coal development under certain stipulated methods of mining and mitigation requirements under a concept of long-range leasing and development.

It was determined that grous habitat areas are acceptable for coal development with stipulations and mitigation requirements for habitat improve-
tment, development, and reclamation.

The Hanna Basin coal area is acceptable for further consideration for leasing subject to the follow-

- Improve Private streets
- Improve streets
- Improve streets
- Improve streets
The lessee shall not disturb the area within a 6 mile radius of the center of each source area and each source area complex; mining or other activities that are not to be mined. Any proposals for surface facilities or activities at these areas shall be subject to seasonal occupancy restrictions as determined by the BLM and the WFGS. This measure may partially mitigate losses of surface water flow from replaced overburden, water quality changes from spoil material leaching and mixing between aquifers, and subsidence and/or fracturing of overlying rocks.

No areas are unacceptable; however, the following mitigation requirements will be imposed:

The lessee shall prepare and submit to the BLM, concurrently with the filing of a permit application package, a hydrologic mitigation impact statement. The study must include a factual statement of the following:

a. Identification of all affected surface water, water table (unconfined), and artesian (confined) waters, including the location and direction of movement of all groundwater.

b. Appropriate characteristics of the waters, which might include yield or flow; conductance; pH; temperature; alkalinity; total dissolved solids; dissolved amounts of such elements as sulfates, chlorides, iron, manganese, mercury, lead, copper, zinc, and radioactivity, turbidity; and total dissolved oxygen.

c. Identification of development activities that would affect the above waters, and the probable impact on such waters from each activity.

d. A discussion of the interrelationships between surface water and groundwater in the project area and the likely effects on this relationship from development of the Federal coal.

e. Identification of proposed mitigation measures to reduce the impacts (a) through (d) above.

A plan for monitoring surface water and groundwater conditions in the project area and downstream from the project. The water quality standard of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Public Health Service shall be used where applicable.

In addition, the following mitigation requirement will be applied in the Indian Springs and North Indian Springs areas.

In accordance with state law and regulation, the permit application package submittal shall include a detailed description of the effects of proposed mining lease development and the included the proposed measures to be taken to prevent or minimize the effects of subsidence and faulting and procedures that will be taken in terms of backfilling, plugging, etc., in the event that any subsidence or faulting occurs.

Wildlife Habitat

Loss of wildlife habitat for varying lengths of time on surface-mined areas, the loss of important riparian and wetlands areas, and the dislocation of wildlife is unavoidable. In addition to the loss of habitat, some areas will become unusable by animals that are intolerant of human activity. No additional action has been determined to be unacceptable; however, the following mitigation requirements will be imposed in the Indian Springs, North Indian Springs, Atalntic Rim, Red Rim, China Butte, and Hanna basins and areas:

A. Recovery of wildlife habitat on the project area will be required. The issues will be considered to mitigate habitat losses caused by surface coal mining operations in the project area. Where such habitat is disturbed, mitigation will ensure replacement of that habitat in kind. Mitigation methods may require the lessee to employ artificial or manipulative or intensive wildlife habitat management.

Note: The lessee shall determine the nature and extent of proposed mitigation for wildlife habitat loss in accordance with the following guidelines:

a. Distribution of important wildlife species (game, non-game, sensitive species, species of high federal interest, etc.)
b. Distribution of important standard habitat types

Fisheries, Water Quality, and Recreation

Proposed coal development could cause significant adverse impacts at the Seminoe Reservoir, which is managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Adverse impacts that could result from coal development are (a) interruption or interception of ground- and surface water systems; (b) water transfer between the reservoir and mining pits, which could degrade water quality by introducing nutrients, sediments, and recreational activities, and downstream water uses; and (c) impairment of scenic quality through visual intrusion of surface mining and adverse impacts on natural vegetation and recreational activities. Further analysis is available in the "Amendment to the Baseline Hanna Basin Management Framework Plan and Draft Environmental Assessment" (USD1, BLM and USDI, GS 1984).

For the protection of the water values of Seminole Reservoir, the BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation have jointly determined that no surface occupancy will be allowed within a 200-foot buffer zone between the upgradient edge of the surface mining operations and the high-water design elevation of 6,363.7 feet. Approximately 3,460 acres containing 22.4 million tons of coal are within this buffer zone.

Producing Oil and Gas Areas

As of this date, a draft policy addressing development conflicts between coal/oil and gas is being considered for adoption. The final policy will guide actions involving coal/oil and gas conflicts.

Lands Near Populated Areas

Federal coal lands in T. 22 N., R. 81 W., section 16, NW1/4, and section 13, SW1/4, are near the towns of Hanna and Elmo. The impacts of coal development on the residents of Hanna and Elmo are a concern. In addition, there are structures on federal land in section 18 related to Hanna's water system.

These lands have been determined to be acceptable for further consideration subject to the following:

Specific mitigative measures to protect the quality of life and provide for improvements on the land would have to be acceptable to the residents of Hanna and Elmo. These measures should be worked out in coordination with state and local residents as soon as the BLM receives any possible lease proposal.

Surface Owner Consultation

Section 714 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) requires that the BLM consult with certain "qualified" owners of "split sale" lands (privately owned surface over federally owned coal) when surface mining of the federal coal is being considered. In step 4 of the coal planning process, surface owners who may be "qualified" under section 714 of...
SMCRA are asked to state their opinion for or against surface coal mining on their land. Areas where a significant number of qualified owners oppose surface mining of federal coal are eliminated from consideration for this method.

This step does not apply to areas where only subsurface mining methods are concerned. It involves only split estate lands within competitive federal coal areas that remain acceptable for development by surface mining methods after the multiple-use conflict evaluation has been conducted.

The Red Rim, Indian Springs, North Indian Springs, and China Butte areas do not contain split estate lands as defined in this section.

Split estate lands in the Atlantic Rim coal area are as follows:

T. 18 N., R. 90 W., section 28, W1/2NW1/2, NE1/4SW1/4
T. 19 N., R. 89 W., section 31.

Split estate lands in the Hanna Basin coal area are as follows:

T. 21 N., R. 82 W., section 4, lots 1 and 2, SW1/4NE1/4
T. 22 N., R. 81 W., section 18, NE1/4NW1/4
T. 23 N., R. 80 W., section 4, lots 3 and 4, E1/2SW1/2, SW1/4, W1/4SE1/4
T. 23 N., R. 84 W., section 23, W1/4SE1/4, section 25, NW1/4NE1/4

These split estate lands are owned by four qualified surface owners, all of whom were contacted by letter. Replies from three of the qualified surface owners indicated that they were not against surface mining. The fourth qualified surface owner did not reply. The letter sent by the BLM stated that if no reply was received, we would assume the surface owner had no preference against surface mining. Therefore, no lands were eliminated from further consideration on the basis of surface owner consultation.
ACTIVITY PLANNING. Site-specific planning that precedes development. This is the most detailed level of BLM planning. An activity plan details management of one or more resources on a specific site. Examples are allotment management plans and recreation area management plans. Activity plans implement decisions made in the RMP.

ACTUAL USE. The number of livestock actually grazing on a given allotment. The use made of forage by livestock or wildlife without reference to permitted or recommended use.

ALLOTMENT. An area allocated for the use of the livestock of one or more qualified grazing lessees. It generally consists of BLM-managed lands but may include parcels of private or state-owned lands. The number and kind of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of several pastures or may be only one pasture.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN. A concisely written program of livestock grazing management, including supporting measures, if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment. An AMP is prepared in consultation with the permittee(s), lessee(s), and other affected interests. Livestock grazing is considered in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources such as watershed, vegetation, and wildlife. An AMP establishes seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted, the range improvements needed, and the grazing system.

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL. The control of animals that are causing economic losses to agriculture, damage to property, or causing hazards to human health. This control usually results in killing the offending animal(s).

ANIMAL UNIT. A standardized unit of measurement for range livestock or wildlife. Generally, one mature (1,000-pound) cow or its equivalent, based on an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH. A standardized unit of measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one animal unit for one month; also, a unit of measurement that represents the privilege of grazing one animal unit for one month.

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN. An area within the public lands designated for special management attention to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

BOARD FOOT. A unit of solid wood 1 foot square and 1 inch thick.

CASUAL USE. Activities ordinarily resulting in no appreciable disturbance of public lands, resources, or improvements; for example, activities that do not involve the use of mechanical equipment or explosives or, in areas designated as closed to ORVs, do not involve the use of motorized vehicles.

CATEGORY 1, 2, or 3 CANDIDATE SPECIES. Classification by the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, of taxonomic groups or species of plants or animals that are being considered for listing as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Category 2 refers to species or taxonomic groups for which information in possession of the USFWS indicates that listing them as endangered or threatened species is possibly appropriate, but for which substantial data on biological vulnerability and threat(s) are not known or on file. Further research and field study usually will be necessary to ascertain the status of category 2 species, and some will not warrant listing while others will be found to be in greater danger of extinction than some listed in category 1.

Category 3 refers to species or taxonomic groups that are no longer being considered for listing as threatened or endangered, some because there is persuasive evidence of extinction, some because they do not meet the act's definition of "species," and some because they have proven to be more abundant or widespread than was previously believed.

CLASSIFICATION AND MULTIPLE USE. Refers to both the Classification and Multiple Use Act of 1964 and the classifications that were placed on the lands pursuant to that act. The objective of the C&MU act was to provide an opportunity for the BLM to categorize lands for multiple use management and for disposal. The act provided four years for the BLM to classify lands for multiple use management by prohibiting disposal or entry under various public land laws to be specified in the particular classification document.

The C&MU classifications referred to in this document prohibited disposal under the Isolated Tracts Act (Revised Statutes 2455) and entry under the agricultural entry laws (Homestead Act, Desert Land Act, and others); portions of the C&MUs also prohibited entry under the General Mining Law of 1872. Today, the multiple use provisions of FLPMA fulfill the purpose and objectives of the C&MU classifications.

"CLOSED" DESIGNATION (ORV). Vehicle travel is prohibited yearlong with no exceptions other than for emergency vehicles in emergency situations. Access by means other than motorized vehicles is permitted.

COMMERCIAL FORESTLAND. Forestland that is now producing or is capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood fiber per acre per year from commercial coniferous tree species, and which has met certain economic, environmental, or multiple use criteria for inclusion in the commercial forestland base.

CRUCIAL HABITAT. Habitat on which a species depends for survival because there are no alternative ranges or habitats available.

CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE. The portion of the winter range to which a wildlife species is confined during periods of heaviest snow cover.

CULTURAL RESOURCE. A fragile and nonrenewable remnant of human activity, occupation, or endeavor reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, or natural features.

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY. A descriptive listing and documentation, including photographs and maps, of cultural resources. Processes involved are locating, identifying and recording of sites, structures, buildings, objects, and districts through library and archival research; collecting information from persons knowledgeable about cultural resources; and conducting on-the-ground field surveys of varying levels of intensity. Also see Cultural Resource Inventory Classes.

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY CLASSES. A Class I inventory of a defined area provides a narrative overview derived from existing information and a compilation of existing data on which to base the development of the BLM's site record system. A Class II inventory is a sample-oriented field inventory designed to locate and record, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites.
within a portion of a defined area to make possible an objective estimate of the value and distribution of cultural resources in the entire defined area. A Class III inventory is an intensive investigation and recording of all cultural resource sites within a specified area. Upon completion of a survey, the documentation of cultural resource inventory work is normally needed in that area.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. A plan designed to identify, preserve, and make beneficial use of cultural resources and the natural resources that figure significantly in the cultural resources. The objectives of such plans are the conservation, preservation, and understanding of cultural values and the scientific study of those values.

CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE (cultural property). A physical location of past human activities or events. Cultural properties are extremely variable in size, ranging from the location of a single cultural feature to a cluster of cultural resources structured with associated objects.

DISPOSAL. Transfer of ownership of a tract of public land from the United States to an individual, tribe, exchange, or transfer under the Recreation and transfer Act of 1975.

ENDANGERED SPECIES. A plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its habitat or geographic range. Includes acts under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. A record of the environmental consequences of a land management action.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT. A written analysis of the impacts of a proposed project and alternatives.

FEDERAL LANDS. As used in this document, lands owned by the United States, or through the possession of the lands by any other public agency, including Indian Indian reservations, Alaska, or Eskimos. Also see Public Land.

FIre MANAGEMENT. The integration of knowledge of fire protection, fire suppression, and multiple use planning, decision-making, and land management activities. Fire management includes fire management in perspective with overall land management objectives.

FIre MANAGEMENT PLAN. An activity plan developed to support and accomplish resource management objectives and land-use decisions authorized in BLM resource management plans. A fire management plan includes a fire management plan's fire management plan's, identification, priorities, and determines levels of fire resources (personnel, engines, aircraft, and support facilities).

FIre SUPPRESSION. All activities connected with fire exting — uishing, containing, or extinguishing fires with discovery and continuing until the fire is complete.

FORESTLAND. Land that is now, or is capable of becoming, at least in part, forested, timberland, which has been developed for nonindustrial use.

FULL SUPPRESSION. A fire suppression strategy requiring immediate and continuous aggression as close as possible to attain the sup- pression objectives with the least damage of property or loss of life or other resources. This strategy is used in the wildland area. Such actions may include control, containment, or confinement of fire to allow land management objectives.

GRAZING PREFERENCE. The total number of AUMs on public land apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a lessee.

GRAZING SYSTEM. A systematic sequence of grazing use and rotation of an established multiple use goals or objectives.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN. An officially approved activity plan for a specific area or activity that identifies habitat wildlife and related objectives, defines the sequence of actions to be taken over any type of natural terrain. Exclusions from (Executive Order 11644, as amended), are nonconiferous forested lands that are noninhabited by humans, permanent motorized, any military, fire, emergency, or law en- forcement vehicle while being used for emergency pur- poses, any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorizing officer or otherwise specifically approved, vehicles in official use, and any combat support vehicle in times of national defense emergencies.

OPEN DESIGNATION (ORV). Vehicle travel is permitted in the area (both on and off roads) if the vehicle is operated responsibly in a manner that will not cause significant undue damage to the soil, wildlife, vegetation, cultural resources, or other resources within 2 miles of the public lands.

PERENNIAL STREAM. A stream that flows throughout the year.

PREFERENCE. Grazing privileges established following the passage of Public Law 89-424 and in the exercise of the prefer- ence power under the Public Lands Act of 1950. The public preference is the maximum amount of grazing permissible on public lands.

PRESCRIBED FIRE. The application of fire in a controlled manner to a specified area under specific weather condi- tions (a prescription) to achieve predetermined resource management objectives; the use of fire as a resource man- agement tool.

PUBLIC LAND. As used in this document, federally-owned sur- face lands not otherwise administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Also see Federal Lands.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT. Any activity or program on or relating to rangelands that is designed to improve production of for- age, change vegetation composition, control patterns of use, and restore and improve rangeland conditions. Included are conditions that result in a moveable or nonmoveable forage base.

RANGE MANAGEMENT. The use of a specified range of resources to manage forage on public lands in a way that is consistent with a vegetation management program. Range management may include the establishment, improvement, and enhancement of forage, and livestock (wild) carrying capacity, the maintenance of wildlife, and the production of other range species.


RANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN. A land management plan for a specific area that includes a land management plan's land management plan's, identification, priorities, and determines levels of land resources (personnel, engines, aircraft, and support facilities).

RANGELAND MONITORING PROGRAM. A program designed to measure changes in plant composition, ground cover, animal populations, and human use and development of rangelands.

RECREATION AND PUBLIC USES. P.R.R.P. refers to both the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (43 USCS 168 et seq.) and the uses to be made of public land transferred under the act. The objective of the R.R.R.P. Act is to meet the needs of State and local government agencies and nonprofit orga- nizations in conveying public land required for recreation and public purposes. Examples of uses made of R.R.R.P. Act lands include: greenbelts, sanitary landfill, schools, religious facilities, and camps for youth groups. This Act provides for federal cost-sharing for a land acquisi- tion and provides for recreation facilities or historical monu- ments at no cost.

RIGHT-OF-WAY. The legal right of use, occupancy, or access across land or water areas for a specified purpose or pur- poses. Also, the lands covered by such legal rights.

RIPARIAN. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally used to refer to plants of all types that grow rooted to the water table of streams, ponds, and springs.

RIPARIAN COMMUNITIES. Communities of vegetation associ- ated with specific riparian conditions and defined either by specific conditions or the plants growing there. Examples are meadows, aspen, and other trees and shrubs typically associated with fresh water.
GLOSSARY

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES. Visual resource management classes are the degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A class is based on the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogeneous area and serves as a management objective. The four classes are described below:

Class I provides for natural ecological changes only. This class includes primitive areas, some natural areas, some wild and scenic rivers, and other similar areas where landscape modification activities should be restricted.

Class II areas are those where changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color, or texture) caused by management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape.

Class III includes areas where changes in the basic elements (form, line, color, or texture) caused by a management activity may be evident in the characteristic landscape. However, the changes should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the existing character.

Class IV applies to areas where changes may subordinate the original composition and character; however, they should reflect what could be a natural occurrence within the characteristic landscape.

WATERSHED. A total area of land above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at that point. Sensitive watershed is an area with fragile geologic, soil, or vegetative conditions, where small changes in the intensity of land use can cause large changes in erosion rates.

WETLANDS. Permanently wet or intermittently flooded areas where the water table (fresh, saline, or brackish) is at, near, or above the soil surface for extended intervals, where hydric wet soil conditions are normally exhibited, and where water depths generally do not exceed two meters.

WILDFIRE. A free-burning fire requiring a suppression response.

WITHDRAWAL. An action that restricts the use of described public lands from operation of certain laws, which are also described in the withdrawal order. Withdrawal also may be used to transfer jurisdiction or management to other federal agencies.